

LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024 at 7.00pm at The Latchen Rooms, Longhope

Present:

Parish Councillors: Jackie Barker (Chairman), Geoff Bick, Rob Seabrook, Mike Phelps,
Peter Mc Coy, John Farman, Roger Acland, and Sian Wyman
District Councillor John Francis

Also present: 11 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor Dave Tradgett
County Councillor Phillip Robinson

2. Members of the public issues (15 minutes Standing Orders suspended)

A member of the public questioned why Phillip Robinson has not attended especially since we have had lots of problems within the village it would be good to have his support. Councillor Robinson did appear after the meeting and gave his apologies. Unfortunately he had been at another Council meeting which had over run.

A Resident commented on the noise from the old Richard Read site which has now been converted into industrial units.. This is not just heard by close neighbours but as far as Velthouse Lane the sound occurs between 11pm and after midnight and in the early morning it is a loud droning noise.This wakes people up.On Sunday night it started at 25 past 11 going on for 15 mins and then again at 6.15am .The Council agreed to make enquiries.

A Resident asked if there were any plans to reinstate the fence around the tennis court. The Chair informed them that this was a matter for the recreation ground to discuss and not the Parish Council.Geoff Bick stated he will bring it up at meeting on Wednesday at the recreation ground.

3. County & District Councillor Reports

John Francis reported the following;

The Budget had been approved. Electrification of waste collection vehicles are being trialed and centralising some of waste services going to another provider

There has been an ongoing review of planning services and the efficiency of the department-findings to be received soon to see how they have been performing and how they can be improved.

All services are being bought back into the FoD -John will be chairing the second meeting at the end of March to ensure that there is more localised input to forest services .

Decision on 18 houses in Longhope recommending refusal of development.

Any issues feel free to email John Francis.

4. Declarations of Interests

None

5. Requests for Dispensations

None

6. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th February 2024

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting which was held on 19th February 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting and was signed by the Chairman.

7. Planning matters

a) P1710/23/FUL – Land to the east of Church Road, Longhope – Erection of 18 dwellings and associated works including the creation of a new access, open space, landscaping, and drainage infrastructure.

This was discussed at the February meeting and Council decision still stands by its decision.

Decision: The Parish Council strongly objects to this proposed development. It is not an exception site and does not comply with NDP or Council Policy.

b) APP/P1615/W/23/3329616 appeal by: Mrs Lizzie Whyte

Site: Wild Oak Farm, Little London, Longhope, Gloucestershire, GL17 0PH

Development: Erect a new dwelling house.

Decision: This is outside the development and settlement area and was turned down previously by the Council 2 years ago and Council still stands by previous decision

8. To approve the Direct Debits and Standing Orders that are issued from the Council's Bank Account

Payee	Details	Method	Amount	Power	Budget
99 Web	Monthly Website maintenance	SO (01/03/24)	£30.00	LGA 1972 s142	Communications
April Seabrook	February Salary	BACS (07/03/24)	£489.32	LGA 1972 s112(2)	Staff Costs
		TOTAL	£549.31		

Approved transactions

9. To note the resignation of the Councils Clerk/RFO

The resignation of Parish Clerk April Seabrook was accepted and she was thanked for her hard work with the Council in supporting it to recover especially with ref to the frozen bank account.

There is an advert out for a Parish Clerk. We do not want a member of the Council to be Clerk as it did not work before.

10. To note the election of two new Parish Councillors

The new Councillors Peter McCoy and John Farman were welcomed on to the Council

11. To discuss the maintenance of memorial benches

One bench was found to be derelict on Mayhill (Rosemary Henry) Sian Wyman stated the need for a policy relating to their up keep. It was suggested to look at District who should have policies relating to this. Decision had been made by previous Councils that there would only be four benches on the summit of the hill. We need to discover who has placed these benches .A member of the public is on Mayhill society and will enquire.

12. Councillor Reports

Roger Acland reported that an allotment holder had cancelled their tenancy so this will be publicised as there is no-one on the waiting list.

He also attended a course on being a good Councillor which he found to be very informative.

Councillor Acland also stressed that the public should not interrupt the Council meeting unless invited . The Public contribution should be at the seat of the meeting and last for 15 minutes.

Peter McCoy has been examining and mending the 2 defibs- in the village the one outside the Latchen has no battery. One by Brook house is now operating.

Geoff Bick stated that the drains at Station Lane are now unblocked.

M Phelps stated he regularly checks the culvert behind Rectory Meadow so preventing further flooding.

Sian Wyman commented on correspondence from Dene Magna School requesting funding for students to go on visits or have extra curriculum activities. As the PC cannot access their funding at this moment she has asked Phil Cameron and his fund to support such students but as yet has no reply.A member of the public stated that this letter for funding had gone everywhere .

Chair report

The Chair brought the Council and public up to date on the frozen bank account which the Chair has been investigating;

1)Financial Ombudsman will not assist -financial regs state they cannot be the only complainant. Other signatories 4 still have not signed they were ex Councillors. Unfortunately cannot name the ex Councillors

There are two schools of thought PC should be open or are signatories just between bank and Councillors them selves.

2) Response from Police- Mr Nicholas will be offered a caution for using an ex Councillor's signature without their permission and Mr Nicholas will need to repay a cheque for £142 .50 to the PC.

Unfortunately the bank account remains frozen a small recompense.

A Resident asked if as Parishioners they could do a petition to the bank to release the money. It was stated that the Ombudsman would not budge.

Chair stated she cannot do anything else.

13. Clerk's Report

No Report provided

14. Accounts/Finance

a) Council agreed the following payments and receipts:

Payments to be agreed at meeting.

Payee	Details	Method	Amount	Power	Budget
		TOTAL	£14.34		

Receipts

09/02/24 Interest	£2.81
09/02/24 Interest	£34.23
14/02/24 Balance of defib monies	£135.85

Prior to the closure of the meeting Sian Wyman on behalf of all the Councillors and the village once again thanked the Chair for all her hard work in trying to sort the mess left by the previous Chair. We know it has taken up a lot of her time and is a thankless unpaid task.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19.41pm
The next meeting will be on the 15th April it will be after the Annual Parish Meeting Tina Coull offered to provide coffee and cake.

SIGNED:

DATE: