

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD
IN THE W. I. HALL, LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2005

Present: Cllr. S. K. Welch (Chairman); Cllr. The Rev. J. R. Andrews; Cllr. B. J. Butler;
Cllr. R. C. Hemmingsley; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons;
Cllr. H. C. M. Reynolds; and Cllr. N. Stanfield.

Also present were the Clerk; Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District Council;
and four members of the public – Mr. Neil Vyse, Chairman of the Longdon Village
Hall Management Committee, and Mrs. Gina Duckett, Treasurer;
and Mrs. Chris Wilson and Mrs. Elaine Perrins, representing Longdon Pre-School.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. A. J. Juxon; Mrs. M. G. Nichols; and County Councillor
F. W. Lewis.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Andrews, the minutes
of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, September 13th, 2005,
were approved and signed.

3. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and invited them to
address the Council.

Mr. Vyse said that he had come to the meeting to make the Council aware of the
grave concern felt by his Committee over the proposal to set up a Foundation Unit at the local
school, which, if adopted, would have serious implications for the viability of both Longdon
Pre-School, which might face closure as a consequence, and Longdon Village Hall, whose
own viability would be thrown into doubt if it lost the revenue it received from Longdon
Pre-school.

At this point, *Cllr. Andrews* declared an interest as a member of the School
Organisation Committee; however, for the information of those present, he explained that the
Committee was not part of the County Council's Education Department, from which it was
totally independent, adding that the Committee was obliged to reach a unanimous decision, in
the absence of which the decision would be referred to an independent adjudicator.

Cllr. Roberts said that, as District Councillor, he was aware of the degree of unease
felt by village hall committees and of the contribution made by pre-school groups in making
village halls financially viable. He urged both the Village Hall Management Committee and
the Pre-School to provide him with a copy of any submission they should make so that Helen
Spearey, the District Council's Corporate Director – Community, Housing and Health, could
make an informed submission on behalf of Lichfield District Council.

He felt that there was no room for compromise; the proposal had to be fought if the
Village Hall and the Pre-School were to survive.

Mrs. Wilson pointed out that Longdon Pre-School was run on a ratio of 1:4 by a staff
trained in child development and qualified in childcare, whereas, at the school, where the ratio
would only be 1:11, the teaching staff at the school, while qualified in educational terms,

would not necessarily have qualifications which related directly to early childhood development.

She also pointed out that, whereas, in the Village Hall, Longdon Pre-School operated in a relaxed and re-assuring environment, a nursery class at the School would share premises with much older children whose presence three-year-olds might find intimidating.

The very fact that, in order to make room for a nursery class, six-year-olds would have to be taught in the School Hall also suggested that the School did not have sufficient space for such an extension.

At the end of Mrs. Wilson's submission, the Chairman thanked Mr. Vyse, Mrs. Duckett, Mrs. Perrins and Mrs. Wilson for their attendance and promised that their views and concerns would be given serious consideration when the Council addressed the issue later in the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Presentation by Stephen Hill and Christine Hibbs

The Clerk reported that he had written to both Mr. Hill and Mrs. Hibbs, thanking them for their presentation at the last meeting.

(ii) Community Paths Initiative

Cllr. Mrs. Meere said that she hoped to be in a position to finalise the details of this project as soon as Cllr. Bird had returned from holiday.

(iii) Flooding in Shaw Lane, Gentleshaw

It was reported that there was still flooding in this lane in spite of the assurance that the problem was receiving attention. It was agreed that the Council should continue to monitor the situation.

(iv) Management of Land between Berkeley Way and Beech Walk

The Clerk reported that he had written to Alan Johnson, of Aqua Jet Services, asking him for a quotation for carrying out this work.

(v) Damaged Roadside Sign at Junction of A51 and Borough Lane

The Clerk reported that he had written to Tracey Bengier, of the Development Services Directorate of Staffordshire County Council, asking her to arrange for the replacement of the two directional signs pointing the way to Longdon Post Office.

(vi) Parish Website

Cllr. Hemmingsley reported that there had been 384 'hits' on the Parish Website in the last month and had included visits from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Israel, Mexico, The Netherlands, Norway and Portugal

The Guest Book had been used by a lady from Australia researching her family history.

Cllr. Hemmingsley asked Councillors to provide him with material for inclusion in the message box on the front page of the Website.

(vii) Grass Verge in front of Car Park at “The Chetwynd Arms”, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had written to Ken Owen, Area Highways Manager, asking him if he was able to confirm that this verge was part of the highway and not within the cartilage of the pub.

(viii) Blocked Drains in Borough Lane

The Clerk had been informed that these had now been inspected and would be jettied.

5. DECLARATION OF COUNCILLORS’ PERSONAL, PREJUDICIAL AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Cllr. Andrews had declared his membership of the Schools Organisation Committee prior to the discussion which had taken place at the beginning of the meeting.

6. PLANNING

(i) For Consideration

05/01056/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Freeman: Repair of existing flat roofs by replacement with ‘tiled’ roofs: New House Farm, Batesway, Upper Longdon

The Council felt that this proposal would enhance the appearance of the property and therefore had no objection to the application.

05/01060/COU: Ocean View Properties: Change of use, alterations and extensions of coach house to offices: Coach House at Longdon Hall, Longdon

The Council had no objection to this application.

(ii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, Lichfield District Council had issued the following Notices of Approval of Planning Permission:

05/00473/FUL: Mr. D. Harrison: Erection of chalet bungalow and vehicular access: Land adjacent to 23 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

05/00827/FUL: Mrs. K. Eddows: Provision of new chimney to fireplace: Chancery House, Bradley Lakes, Longdon

(iii) Refused by Lichfield District Council

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, Lichfield District Council had issued the following Notice of Refusal of Planning Permission:

05/00759/OUT: Mr. and Mrs. Bate: Proposed residential dwelling (outline): Land adjacent to “Pine Ridge”, Brereton Hill Lane, Upper Longdon

(iv) Other Planning Matters

(a) Proposed Conservation Area – Brook End

Cllr. Stanfield reported that the Working Group appointed by the Council at its last meeting had walked round Brook End with a view to identifying features which were particularly attractive.

The Group would be meeting Dan Roberts, the District Council's Conservation Officer, on November 3rd, when it would be established whether an application from the Parish Council to designate part of Brook End a Conservation Area would be viable.

(b) New Vehicular Access – Borough Lane

The Clerk reported that he had received from Christine Hibbs, Principal Planning Officer, Development Services Department, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 27th September 2005, in which she stated that, since Borough Lane was not a classified road, planning permission had not been required for the new vehicular access.

(c) Development Works to Rear of "Churchfields", Smithy Lane, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had also received from Mrs. Hibbs a letter dated 29th September 2005, informing him that this matter was being investigated by the Department's Enforcement Officer and promising to inform the Council of the outcome of his enquiries.

7. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) Lichfield District Parish Forum: September 15th

Neither Cllr. Mrs. Nichols nor Cllr. Stanfield had been able to attend this meeting.

However, the minutes of the meeting had since been issued, summarising the business of the evening. This had focussed on a presentation on the Lichfield District Safer Community Partnership, to which the Lichfield District Area Commander of the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, a member of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team, a representative of Staffordshire Trading Standards, the Co-ordinator of the Burntwood Community Warden Scheme and the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer had all contributed.

A briefing note providing a synopsis of the current position in connection with the Local Development Framework had been circulated.

An information pack giving information about proposals to merge six Primary Care Trusts into a single Trust and the Staffordshire Ambulance Service with those covering Shropshire and the West Midlands was also distributed.

(ii) Longdon Village Hall Management Committee: October 4th

Cllr. Reynolds reported that he had attended a meeting of the Management Committee of Longdon Village Hall, on October 4th, at which Cllr. Bird had also been present.

The Committee had two concerns, the first of which – the threat to its financial viability if Longdon Pre-School were to close – had already been discussed. The second was the need to apply for a renewal of its entertainments licence as the result of its failure to exercise 'grandfather rights'.

The Committee's application had been opposed by a number of residents, fearful that an extension in the hours would lead to late-night disturbance; however, these fears had been allayed at a meeting of the licensing authority, at which agreement had been reached and the licence granted.

As a consequence of this agreement, entertainment between Monday and Thursday would end at 11. 00 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday at 12 midnight.

Other conditions imposed were that sound monitoring equipment should be installed; windows should be closed at 10. 30 p.m.; the hirers of the Hall should begin clearing up within thirty minutes of cessation; and outdoor activities should end at 10. 30 p.m.

The Committee had, of its own volition, decided that the Hall would not be available for private celebrations such as 18th birthday parties unless they were family-controlled.

(iii) Lichfield Area Committee: October 6th

The Clerk presented a written report on a meeting of the Lichfield Area Committee of the Staffordshire Parish Council's Association which had taken place in the Council Chamber at District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, on Thursday, October 6th, 2005, which he and Cllr. Andrews had attended.

The guest speaker had been Clive Thomson, Area Highway Manager (East), of the Development Services Directorate of Staffordshire County Council, who had given a presentation on the management of the rural road network.

In it, he had covered such issues as network management, routine and cyclical maintenance and rural highway issues such as the maintenance of grips, gullies and ditches, hedge-cutting, and speeding vehicles.

He also outlined ways in which parish councils could become involved in maintaining their own highways through a highways maintenance agreement with the County Council.

Cllr. Andrews informed Councillors that Mr. Thomson would be speaking at the next meeting of the Lichfield District Parish Forum in January, when there would be a further opportunity to question him on his Department's policies and practices.

8. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that he had received notice of the following meetings:

(i) Staffordshire Play Strategy: Wednesday, October 12th, 2005, at St. John's Community Church, High Street, Chase Terrace, from 1. 00 p.m. to 2. 30 p.m.

(ii) Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership – Parish Councils' Meeting: Monday, October 17th, 2005, in the Parish Rooms, Hatherton, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.

The Chairman expected to attend this meeting.

(iii) Sustainable Staffordshire Annual Forum: Wednesday, November 2nd, 2005, at the County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford, from 9. 30 a.m. to 3. 00 p.m.

The Chairman hoped to attend this meeting.

(iv) Staffordshire Wildlife Trust: An Evening with Nick Baker, TV Naturalist and Vice-President of Wildlife Witch, junior arm of The Wildlife Trusts: Thursday, November 24th, 2005, at the County Showground, Stafford.

Arrive 7. 30 p.m. for dinner at 8. 00 p.m. Tickets: £25. 00 per person.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Public Bridleway No. 15 – Parish of Chorley

The Clerk reported that he had received no further information concerning action being taken in this matter.

He was instructed to speak to Mrs. Cheeseman, the Highways Officer dealing with it, before the next meeting if no further communication were forthcoming by that time.

(ii) Condition of Ford Lane

The Clerk reported that he had been asked to draw the Council's attention to the deteriorating condition of the road surface in Ford Lane.

It was agreed that this should be referred to the District Highway Manager.

(iii) Present condition and future management of highway verge in Brook End opposite junction of A51 and High Street

The Clerk reported that he had been asked to refer this matter to the Council by Cllr. Bird, who had told him that this verge had hitherto been maintained by a parishioner who no longer felt able, for reasons of health, to continue the task.

It was agreed that this should be considered at the next meeting of the Council, when similar problems could also be identified and appropriate action decided.

(iv) Speed of traffic in Malthouse Road, Gentleshaw

The Clerk reported that, while in the village recently, Cllr. Brown had been approached by a resident of Malthouse Road, who had complained to him about the speed of traffic down this steep lane.

However, Councillors agreed that the Highways Authority had felt that it had done everything in its power to reduce the extent of the problem.

(v) Commonside, Gentleshaw

Cllr. Hemmingsley said that a similar problem of speed existed along Commonside, particularly in the late evening.

It was thought that a suggestion that white lines be painted at bends was unlikely to be viewed favourably because of the width of the road, though "Slow" signs might be considered.

Cllr. Hemmingsley was also concerned at the poor standard of the mowing of the verges at the side of Commonside, which, he felt, was carried out at too great a speed, thus leaving much of the surface untouched.

The Clerk was instructed to refer these matters to the District Highways Manager.

(vi) Damage to tree canopy by HCV vehicle

The Clerk reported that, while returning from Longdon at mid-day on September 21st, he had found himself following a trail of fallen leaves and broken branches, brought down shortly before by a Heavy Commercial Vehicle making its way from the A51 to Marshall's Depot on the Cannock Wood Industrial Estate.

Because some of the branches were likely to cause damage to vehicles, he had phoned the Lichfield Highways Depot asking that clearance be treated as a matter of urgency. As a consequence of his call the lanes had been cleared within the next two hours.

He had subsequently written to the Company's Site Logistics Manager, Vincent Maxted, asking him to ensure that the drivers of HCVs to and from his site did not use these lanes. The Manager had, on receipt of his letter, immediately telephoned to reassure him that such drivers were routinely advised to use routes which avoided local rural lanes, adding that, in this instance, the driver, unfamiliar with the area, had been lost. He had subsequently, in a letter dated 27th September 2005, confirmed this by enclosing copies of route maps sent to incoming drivers.

The Council was relieved to find that a major operator such as Marshall's took the protection of rural lanes so seriously and instructed the Clerk to write to Mr. Maxted thanking him for his sympathetic responding and commending his Company for its environmentally-friendly policy.

(vii) Bradley Lakes

(a) Re-location of post box

Cllr. Butler reported that, while all the residents to whom he had spoken had agreed that the post box should be removed, none wanted it re-located outside his or her property, principally because it was frequently used by passing motorists.

A likely place to re-locate the box seemed to be at the Rugeley end of the service road, against the hedge.

(b) Overnight parking in service road

Cllr. Butler said that more parking space was available following the reduction in the number of cars being parked there.

(c) Re-lettering of street name -plate

It was suggested that Alan Johnson, of Aqua Jet Services, be asked to re-paint this sign.

(viii) Lack of pavement from High Street and the A51

Cllr. Parsons said that he understood the problem of providing space for a pavement between High Street and the A51, but asked whether a coloured strip similar to the one proposed in Upper Way might be painted at the side of the road.

However, it was uncertain whether there would be sufficient width even for this, and the Chairman suggested that the Council might wait to see how effectively this measure worked in Upper Way.

(ix) Cast-iron roadside signs

The Clerk reported that he had received a call from Leander Architectural, asking what wording the Council wanted put on the ring finials on top of these signs.

It was agreed that this should read "Longdon Parish Council".

10. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Improvement of concreted area in front of Gentleshaw notice-board

Cllr. Hemmingsley drew the Council's attention to the state of the area of concrete in front of the notice-board opposite Gentleshaw School, which was uneven and weed-ridden.

It was agreed that this would be included amongst the items for the Council's consideration at the next meeting.

(ii) Tree-work

The Clerk reported that, in his report of 22nd September 2005, Graham McCulloch had said that there was scope for day's work in the autumn tidying leaves and cutting back the lower branches of some trees.

It was agreed that Mr. McCulloch should be asked to specify the work which he was recommending.

11. CHURCHYARDS

(i) Longdon Churchyard

The Councillor received a report prepared by Cllr. Juxon following his meeting with the Rev. Michael Jefferson at which the maintenance of the churchyard had been discussed.

It was agreed that this report should be studied by Councillors and brought forward for consideration at the next meeting.

12. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2005 – JUDGES’ COMMENTS

The Clerk reported that the judges’ comments on this year’s entries, which he had now received, had been as follows:

(i) Longdon and Longdon Green (placed second)

A high standard of BKV posters was seen throughout the village, and there was a host of interesting local information. Recycling and dog-fouling notices were visible in all areas, and the absence of litter was excellent. Private gardens were also excellent, as were the two public houses.

However, all the notice-boards required attention, and the church car park needed a full clean-up.

Overall, though, the village was of a high standard throughout.

(ii) Upper Longdon (Highly Recommended)

Few BKV posters were seen, but these were laminated and of good quality, as were the few children’s posters. There was a considerable amount of local information on the notice-boards, though none regarding re-cycling.

The village was generally litter-free, though some rubbish was seen outside the telephone-kiosk.

New trees and planted tubs were noted, though the grassed area at the top of Shavers Lane had been only roughly strimmed.

The public house car park was good,

The map was clear but would have benefited from clear directions on how to reach the village from the A51.

It was agreed that these comments provided clear guide-lines for improving both entries next year, though displaying a sufficient number of posters in Upper Longdon would continue to be a problem, particularly since parish councils would themselves be responsible for suppressing fly-posting from April 2006!

13. EDUCATION

(i) St. James School, Longdon

(a) Application to extend age range

In weighing up the pros and cons of a successful application, the Council concluded that, while the School might benefit from increased funding, the children themselves would lose a specially-created environment in which their development was already being nurtured by a trained and dedicated staff, while the consequent loss of revenue would threaten the financial viability of the Village Hall and jeopardise the future of a village amenity in which the Parish Council had a close interest and had already made a substantial investment.

The Council therefore instructed the Clerk to write to the School Organisation Committee, opposing the application.

(b) Appointment of Community Governor

The Clerk reported that he had not received the expected letter from the Head Teacher of St. James School, inviting the Council to submit a nomination for one of the existing vacancies on the Governing Body.

He had spoken to Anne Williams, Administrative Officer, of the School Effectiveness Unit, at the County Council's Education Department, who had reminded him that minor authorities now shared representation on governing bodies with local education authorities.

She had advised him that there were two vacancies on the Governing Body of St. James School, one for a parent governor and another for a community governor, the latter to be filled by the Governing Body itself, and she had suggested that the Parish Council might consider taking the initiative and write to the Chair of Governors making a recommendation.

The Chairman, himself a community governor, was neither a local resident nor the parent of a pupil at the School, but he had, when Chair of the School's Parent-Teacher Association, been very supportive of the School.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Hemmingsley and seconded by Cllr. Stanfield, the Clerk was instructed to write to the Chair of Governors, recommending Cllr. Reynolds for the vacancy of community governor.

(ii) Gentleshaw Primary School

The Clerk reported that he had received a phone call from PC Andrew Brown, the Community Beat Officer, confirming that he had visited Gentleshaw School to assess the problem of parking at the beginning and end of the school day.

He had agreed with Andrew Oakley, of the County Council's Development Services Directorate, that the existing double white lines should be extended into Buds Road and Chapel Lane.

Once this was done, he would monitor its effectiveness.

The Clerk further reported that he had spoken to Kevin Yates, the District Council's Parks Manager, who had promised to inspect the trees planted on the grassed area opposite the School and take any action he thought necessary. He had explained that the actual siting of the trees had been agreed with the County Council and been chosen so that the shrubs would not, when fully mature, overhang the pavement.

A suggestion that obstacles be placed in front of the trees, close to the pavement, to deter persistent parking was rejected when it was pointed out that this area was part of Gentleshaw Common and therefore within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

14. HOUSING(i) Homezone – Local Letting Policy

The Clerk reported that he had received from Julie Walker, Director of Housing Services, Homezone, a letter dated 30th September 2005, in answer to his own letter of September 19th, to which he had attached the letter from Russell Cowdell, of Beech Walk, Handsacre, asking the Council to support his application to be re-located in Longdon.

Ms. Walker had explained that, demand across the district for family accommodation being high, under-occupation of three-bedroom houses was not allowed. Local connection was given preference in allocation only when there were two applicants with an identical need. The local lettings policy at Kings Bromley was agreed for a specific new-build scheme.

Currently, there was one empty three-bedroom property in Bradley Lakes, vacant only since September 12th, and this would be allocated to an applicant with a need for three bedrooms.

It was agreed that a copy of Ms. Walker's letter should be sent to Mr. Cowdell.

15. FINANCIAL MATTERS(i) Accounts for Payment

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Hemmingsley, payment of the following accounts, received since the last meeting, was agreed:

Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall on October 4 th and October 11 th , 2005	£ 24. 00
Graham McCulloch	Mowing – September	£200. 00
Staffordshire County Council	Providing and Erecting Direction Signs for Longdon Post Office	£182. 67

(ii) Payment Received

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, the following payments had been received:

Staffordshire County Council	Highway Maintenance Agreement - Half-Yearly Payment	£520. 00
HM Customs and Excise	VAT Repayment	£435. 42
Inland Revenue	Tax Repayment	£ 4. 92

(iii) Current Balances

The Clerk reported that, currently, the Council's balances stood as follows:

NatWest c/a: £1220. 59 The Halifax s/a: £15357. 91

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

The Clerk reported that none had been received.

(v) Report of Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Chairman gave a report on the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee which had taken place in the W. I. Hall, Longdon on Tuesday, October 4th, 2005.

In addition to himself, there had been present Cllr. Andrews, Cllr. Hemmingsley, Cllr. Juxon and the Clerk.

Cllr. Mrs. Meere had been unable to attend for family reasons.

(a) Current Income and Expenditure against Budget

The Clerk had prepared a financial statement showing income and expenditure for the first six months of the current financial year. Copies of this statement were distributed to Councillor who had not been present at the meeting of the Committee. For comparison, the statement had also shown income and expenditure for the corresponding period for the previous financial year.

It had been concluded that income and expenditure were close to budget.

(b) Standing Orders

Cllr. Hemmingsley was preparing a draft based on the model provided by The National Association of Local Councils, which would be considered at another meeting of the Committee, to be convened shortly.

The Committee would then be in a position to place the final draft before the full Council for its consideration and adoption.

(c) Clerk's Salary

It had been agreed that this should be set at a more realistic level, which had been calculated as being at least £3200. 00, if it were to be brought in line with the national standard; it would then be left to the Clerk to decide what proportion of the increased salary he was prepared to accept.

A letter of appointment was also being drafted and would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

(vi) Arrangements for External Audit

The Clerk reported that the Annual Return had been sent to the Audit Commission at Bolton on September 30th to meet the requirement that it should be available to the Commission by October 3rd.

The period of inspection by members of the public had been between September 2nd and September 30th, but there had been no request for an inspection.

(vii) Reconciliation Statement

The Clerk presented a Reconciliation Statement for the six months from 1st April 2005 to 30th September 2005 which showed a balance of income over expenditure of £16366. 50.

The balance in the Council's NatWest current account was £1220. 59 and in its Halifax savings account £15357. 91, making a total of £16578. 50.

When two uncleared cheques amounting to £212. 00 were taken into account, this too amounted to £16366. 50.

(viii) Funding Rural Social Issues

Cllr. Roberts drew the Council's attention to a new scheme being launched by DEFRA to fund rural social issues.

£8m. had been set aside, of which £125,000 had been allocated to Staffordshire.

The Community Council of Staffordshire had been invited to write out a business case for creating a community chest to which parish councils and other organisations could apply to fund small social schemes.

The money would be available from next April, and grants would be between £500. 00 and £1000. 00.

The Council accepted his recommendation to write to the Community Council's Chief Executive asking for details, and instructed the Clerk so to do.

16. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Anne Walker, Office Manager, Cannock Chase AONB Partnership, Shugborough Park Farm, Milford, a letter dated 28th September 2005, informing the Council of a proposal to compile a directory of venues for meetings and teaching events in the Cannock Chase AONB area and asking for details of any such venues in the Longdon area.

It was agreed that details of Longdon Village Hall and Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall should be provided for inclusion in the proposed directory.

17. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk reported that, in addition to the above correspondence, he had, since the last meeting, received the following communications:

- (i) From The Corporate Director – Democratic and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Report of the Corporate Director – Development Services for meeting of Council on Monday, September 26th, 2005;
Executive Arrangements – Forward Plan 2005/2006 – September – Version 2 (to take effect on 1st October 2005);
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 16th October 2005 (by e-mail).

- (ii) From The Transport and Planning Policy Unit, Staffordshire County Council:

Public Transport News – October 2005 (2 copies).

- (iii) From The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service:

“from Time 2 Time”: Issue No. 10, Autumn 2005.

- (iv) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

CiCLA Portfolio and “Working with your Council” – Mentoring Evenings, Autumn Semester 2005.

(v) From The Community Council of Staffordshire:

Annual Report 2005-2006;
SCIO Questionnaire on Voluntary and Community Sector Activity
in Rural Areas.

(vi) From St. Giles Hospice, Whittington:

St. Giles Hospice News: Autumn 1005;
Leaflets – Credit Card; Christmas Cards; Christmas Draw;
Leaflet: “Light Up A Life 2005”.

(vii) From Kevin John Pearson, Walsall:

Notice of Intention to Apply for Transfer of Justices’ Licence in respect of
“The Red Lion”, Longdon Green.

(viii) From The Open Spaces Society:

“Open Space”: Autumn 2005, Volume 28, No. 4.

(ix) From Wicksteed Leisure. Kettering, Northants.:

Catalogue: “Doing sport differently”.

18. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Parsons expressed concern over the presence of a row of wooden stakes lining the highway verge outside No. 114 Upper Way, which he thought could inflict injury on a horse-rider, were he or she to be flung onto the stakes from a horse startled by passing traffic at this point.

The Chairman thought that the stakes had been put there to protect the newly-seeded verge, and he thought such an accident highly unlikely, anyway.

However, he agreed to look for an opportunity to approach the householder and ask him when he proposed removing the stakes.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 8th, 2005, in The Meeting Room at Christ Church, Gentleshaw, commencing at 7.30 p.m.