

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD
IN THE MEETING ROOM OF CHRIST CHURCH, GENTLESHAW, ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2005

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

Also present were the Clerk; Mrs, Pauline Chapman, a member of the Friends of Gentleshaw Common; Mr. and Mrs. John Leedham, of Upper Way, Upper Longdon; and Mr. John Smith, Countryside Officer, Lichfield District Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; Cllr. H. C. M. Reynolds; Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District Council; and County Councillor F. W. Lewis.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, October 11th, 2005, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Andrews and seconded by Cllr. Hemmingsley, approved and signed.

3. TALK BY JOHN SMITH

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Smith to the meeting and invited him to address the Council.

Mr. Smith reminded the meeting that his was a temporary, twelve-month appointment to cover the absence of Marieke Tomlin, who had taken maternity leave. For the previous eight years, he had been working for the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, liaising with parish councils and responding to planning applications when they were submitted to the Trust by development control officers.

Gentleshaw Common was a Site of Special Scientific Importance for which Lichfield District had a statutory responsibility to administer according to national and European legislation.

It was an extensive site with many issues which needed addressing, notably the encroachment of scrub and bracken. Of the latter there was approximately eighty-five hectares, which was currently being cleared at the rate of four hectares each year.

A decision to graze cattle or ponies within fenced areas had not yet been taken. The District Council needed to look at all possible options, but had four or five years in which to do this, since the present management scheme ran until 2011.

Referring to the misleading petition received by both the District Council and Parish Council, Mr. Smith said that, where possible, signatories had been contacted and the true situation explained to them. He agreed that access should remain as open as possible.

Turning to other areas for which he had responsibility, Mr. Smith said that a management plan had been prepared for the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and presented for consultation to all major interests, though not yet to smaller landowners and residents.

An application had been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant for the regeneration of Beaudesert Park.

He was pursuing the issue of the proper management of the Area of Biological Importance outside Longdon Hall with its owners, Ocean View Properties.

He had spoken to Mr. Tony Cox, at Holly Farm, Chorley, and agreed a partnership over the management of the disputed area of land, which Mr. Cox had planted; the issue of

the bridleway lay outside his remit and would have to be resolved by the County Council's Rights of Way Officer.

Finally, Mr. Smith listed a number of agencies to which parish councils could apply for funding for schemes to improve the ecology of their parishes; while district councils could not apply, they could give written support to any application made by a parish council.

He ended by responding to a number of questions and comments which followed his talk and pledged to improve communication with local communities.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Smith for attending the meeting, adding, to general agreement, that he was certain that the Council had been re-assured by much of what Mr. Smith had said.

4. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Chairman then invited Mr. and Mrs. Leedham to address the Council.

Mr. Leedham said that he and his wife were greatly disturbed by a planning application which their neighbour had submitted for extensions to his property, which they felt would have a detrimental effect on their own.

He presented plans showing the proposals, which he and his wife thought would impede the access between the front and rear of their bungalow which they already enjoyed, lead to loss of light and prospect, and even threaten the foundation of their property by re-directing the flow of rain water from the roof of the garage next-door.

The Chairman thanked Mr. and Mrs. Leedham for sharing their concerns with the Council and assured them that they would be given due consideration when the Council came to consider the application later in the meeting.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Public Bridleway No.15 - Chorley

The Clerk reported that he had received a telephone call from Chris Cheeseman, Rights of Way Technical Assistant at the Development Services Directorate of Staffordshire County Council, in which she had acknowledged the Council's request for a copy of the Ranger's report on the above bridleway, which she promised to send, and further informed him that, while a side gate had now been provided, permission to gate a bridleway was normally given only if it were needed to keep stock in.

(ii) Condition of Ford Lane

The Clerk reported that he had, as instructed, written to the District Highways Manager, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, asking him whether Ford Lane could be re-surfaced.

(iii) "Slow" Signs along Commonsides

The Clerk reported that, as instructed, he had written to the District Highways Manager asking whether "Slow" signs could be painted on the surface of Commonsides at points where there were bends in the road.

(iv) Damage to Tree Canopy by Heavy Commercial Vehicle

The Clerk reported that he had written to the District Highways Manager thanking him for the promptness with which his staff had cleared away the fallen branches brought down by a HCV making its way through the lanes between Borough Lane and School Lane while on its way to the Marshalls depot in Cannock Wood on September 21st.

(v) Relocation of Post Box at Bradley Lakes

Cllr. Butler said that he thought it unlikely that any action would be taken to relocate this post box because of the difficulty of finding somewhere to re-locate it to everyone's satisfaction.

(vi) Homezone- Local Letting Policy

The Clerk reported that he had received from Russell Cowdell, of Beech Close, Handsacre, a letter dated 28th October 2005, in which he confirmed that it had already been made clear to him by Homezone that he was not eligible for a three-bedroom house in Bradley Lakes.

The Clerk explained that, in his letter to Homezone, he had referred to such a house in Bradley Lakes which, he had been told, had been empty for a number of months, but this had proved not to be the case.

(vii) Funding Social Issues

The Clerk reported that he had received from Andrew Halden, Chief Executive of the Community Council of Staffordshire, a letter dated 3rd November 2005, in which he had replied to the Clerk's letter of 28th October 2005 regarding new funding for rural social issues.

He confirmed that DEFRA would be setting up a new Rural Social and Community Programme in 2006, which was now at the consultation stage, but at present it was not clear how much would be available, what it could be used for or who would be able to apply for it.

(viii) Roadside Stakes in Upper Way

The Chairman confirmed that these had now been removed.

6. DECLARATION OF COUNCILLORS' PERSONAL, PREJUDICIAL AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS

Cllr. Stanfield declared an interest as an applicant in Planning Application No. 05/00821/FUL, while Cllr. Juxon declared an interest as a neighbour in Planning Application No. 05/01111/COU, notice of which he had already received from the District Council.

7. PLANNING

(i) Report of Planning Working Group

Cllr. Hemmingsley reported that, since the last meeting, the Planning Working Group had considered the following applications:

05/01111/COU: Mrs. L. M. Mullan: Change of use of agricultural land to grazing of horses and erection of stable block: Land east of "Olde Croft", Borough Lane, Longdon

The Parish Council had objected to this application, which would result in the erection of a substantial building in open countryside and the Green Belt and would significantly detract from the views from the public footpath which crossed the adjoining land.

Moreover, the District Council's own policy mitigated against the erection of stables on open land not in close proximity to residential development.

The Clerk reported that he had received copies of letters of objection sent to the Development Control Manager of Lichfield District Council by Mr. and Mrs. David Shanahan, of Lulworth Cottage, Borough Lane, and Russell Fox, of Claughton Cottage, Borough Lane.

05/01118/COU: Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Freeman: Change of use of agricultural building to two-bedroom dwelling: New House Farm, Batesway, Upper Longdon

The Parish Council had objected to this application, which would involve the change of use of an isolated building in the open countryside where no clear need for a dwelling in connection with a use appropriate to the countryside had been demonstrated.

Moreover, the provision of a new access driveway across agricultural land and the formation of a residential curtilage would have a significant impact on the openness of the Green Belt.

05/00821/FUL: Mr. N. Stanfield: Proposed retention of existing building and conversion to domestic garage and agricultural store: Hawthorne Cottage, Chapel Lane, Gentleshaw

The Council had had no objection to this application.

(ii) For Consideration

The Council then considered the following applications:

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.

05/01141/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. R. Allatt: Proposed front and rear extension and pitch roof over garage: 8 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

The Council objected to this application; the proposed development was excessive in relation to the size of the curtilage, particularly in width, and it raised concerns over the neighbour's loss of access to the rear of his property from the front, the loss of light and the fear of erosion and consequent subsidence as the result of a change of direction in the flow of storm water.

It was also pointed out that what was described in the application as a garage was, in fact, a roofed corridor.

05/01144/FUL: Mr. R. Tyler: Extension to entrance hall and new canopy tiled roof: 4, The Grange, Upper Longdon

The Council had no objection to this application.

(iii) 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:

05/00764/FUL: Mr. & Mrs. Deeley: Demolition of part of existing stable/storage block and convert to storage, stable and garage for domestic purposes: The Bungalow, Dark Lane, Longdon.

05/00979/FUL: Neil Stevenson: Demolition of garage, removal of roof and upper floor and replace with new two-storey rear extension and first floor to form two-car garage, five bedrooms, bathroom, study and en suites: 61 Upper Way, Upper Longdon.

(iv) Refused by Lichfield District Council

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, Lichfield District Council had issued no Notices of Refusal of Planning Permission relating to Longdon.

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Proposed Conservation Area – Brook End

Cllr. Juxon reported that the working group had met Dan Roberts, the District Council's Conservation Officer, in Brook End, as arranged, and they had walked the intended area, but had not found Mr. Roberts favourably inclined to the proposal.

However, he had acknowledged that Brook End offered a pleasant vista and suggested that it might benefit from an alternative scheme, The Village Enhancement Scheme.

(b) Lichfield District Local Development Framework: Core Strategy, Development Control Policies and Allocations of Land and Site Development Policies (Submission Development Plan Documents)

Cllr. Stanfield gave a summary and review of the above documents which formed part of the Lichfield District Local Development Framework, which he had studied on behalf of the Council.

No new large-scale housing development was being planned, he said, but sites for industry and leisure had been identified.

There had been a tightening of village boundaries which had brought areas of open space within the Green Belt.

He saw no reason for the Council to object to the Plan in any form, which would run from 2011 till 2021.

(c) Appeal by Mr. E. W. F. Morrall

The Clerk reported that he had received notice of an appeal by Mr. E. W. F. Morrall against the decision of Lichfield District Council to refuse planning permission for a single-storey lounge extension at Horsey Lane Lodge, Horsey Lane, Upper Longdon.

The appeal would be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements by the parties and a site visit by an Inspector.

It was agreed that the Council had nothing further to add to its initial comments.

(d) Development at "Churchfields", Smithy Lane, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Christine Hibbs, Principal Planning Officer, Development Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 11th October 2005, in which she informed the Council that a site visit had been carried out on October 5th, which revealed that the alleged development works at the rear of the above premises were, in fact, landscape works to the garden, which did not require planning approval.

(e) Planning Application No. 05/00979/FUL: Proposal to demolish garage, remove roof, and upper floor and replace with new two-storey rear extension and first floor to form two-car garage, five bedrooms, bathroom, study and en suites: 61 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Stephen Hill, Development Control Manager, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 31st October 2005, responding to the concerns expressed by the Parish Council over the above planning application and explaining that approval had nonetheless been given for the development because it had been felt that it would be in keeping with the scale and character of the immediate surrounding area and would preserve the character of the Area of Outstanding Beauty.

8. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) Cannock Chase AONB Unit – Parish Councils’ Meeting: October 17th

The Chairman gave a report on a meeting of the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit for Parish Councils which had taken place in the Parish Rooms at Hatherton on Thursday, October 17th, 2005, at which he had been present.

Unfortunately, the meeting had not been well attended, only five out of thirteen parish councils being represented.

Judith Moore had left for a new job in the Lake District, and her replacement as AONB Officer, Ruth Hytch, had been introduced.

Concern had been expressed over the use of land fringing the AONB for stabling and for caravan sites, and there had been a determination to exercise greater influence over the planning process.

(ii) SPCA AGM and Conference: November 5th

The Clerk gave a report on the Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association, which had taken place in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Stafford, on Saturday, November 5th, 2005.

The principal speaker had been Roger Thayne, Chief Executive of the Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust, who had voiced his concern over proposals to merge the Staffordshire Ambulance Service with those of the West Midlands and Shropshire.

He pointed out that the Staffordshire Ambulance Service was the best in the country, and consequently the County would lose out as the result of merging with lesser-performing services, since it could not expect to continue to enjoy a superior service.

Indeed, Mr. Thayne went so far as to suggest that merging with lower-performing services would cost Staffordshire two hundred lives, and he went on to argue that a merger should not take place until the other two services reached the same high standard as Staffordshire.

There was a strong feeling amongst Mr. Thayne’s audience that, taken in conjunction with proposals to merge primary care trusts and county police authorities, this was an attempt by the Government to force through its programme of regionalism in spite of its rejection in the only referendum so far held.

A resolution tabled by Lichfield District Council and seconded by the SPCA Executive calling on the Association to oppose plans to abolish the Trust was later carried, and, at the end of his report, the Clerk was instructed to make the Parish Council’s objection to the proposal known to Michael Fabricant, the constituency M. P.

The Conference also supported a resolution proposed by Penkrige Parish Council to seek much stricter regulations to control the erection of telecom masts, but rejected a resolution proposed by Kings Bromley Parish Council in which its delegate expressed concern over the high level of fees being charged for SPCA training programmes.

9. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

(i) Policy Authority Community Consultation: Tuesday, 8th November 2005, at Armitage Village Hall, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.

(ii) Lichfield District Parish Forum: Wednesday, 9th November 2005, in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.

Both Cllr. Mrs. Nichols and Cllr. Stanfield expected to attend.

(iii) Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit: Arson/Crimestoppers Initiative: Tuesday, 11th November 2005, at the John O'Leary Education Centre, Cannock Chase Visitors' Centre, Marquis Drive, commencing at 10.00 a.m.

(iv) West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase One Revision: The Black Country Study – Consultation Report, “Ask the Leaders” Event: Wednesday, 23rd November 2005, at Dunstall Park, Wolverhampton, from 12 noon till 2.00 p.m.

10. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Cast-Iron Roadside Signs

The Clerk reported that he had received from Ted McAvoy, of Leander Architectural, Buxton, a letter dated 18th October 2005, confirming that his firm had collected the existing columns and fingers but adding that five of the remaining fingers had been broken by the County Council staff during removal.

As Leander Architectural already had patterns and lettering suitable for replacements, the cost of the new fingers to appropriate designs would be the same as quoted previously, namely, £135.00, plus VAT.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Hemmingsley, it was agreed that Leander Architectural should proceed with this extra work.

(ii) Community Paths Initiative 2005/06

Cllr. Bird confirmed that he and Mr. Richard Meere would be walking the footpaths concerned on November 27th and asked the Clerk to provide him with a copy of the Definitive Footpath Map.

(iii) Community Paths Initiative 2006/07

The Clerk reported that he had received from Paul Rochfort, Rights of Way Assistant, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 1st November 2005, advising the Council that the County Council was inviting bids for paths projects to be supported under the Community Paths Initiative Scheme for 2006/2007, the deadline for bids being 31st January 2006.

However, it seemed unlikely that the Council would be able to identify a project and submit a bid by that date.

11. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Recognition and Maintenance of De Facto vehicular Access across Longdon Green

The Clerk reported that, following recent heavy rain, the potholes in the track in front of “The Red Lion”, on Longdon Green, had become noticeably larger and deeper and could no longer be ignored, particularly as their continuing deterioration might create a situation when the pub car park would no longer be acceptable as an ambulance station.

Consequently, he had, after consulting the Chairman, written to both John Brown, Chief Assistant (Democratic and Legal Services), Lichfield District Council, and Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary of The Open Spaces Society, asking them whether the Council could legally recognise the track and thereby proceed with repairing it.

He added that the Staffordshire Ambulance Service had withdrawn its offer to fill the potholes, having concluded that they needed professional attention.

It was suggested that, while waiting for a reply, the Clerk might seek the advice of the District Area Manager.

(ii) Status and Maintenance of Banks on Either Side of Grange Hill, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Mrs, Christine White, of 3 The Grange, Upper Longdon, a letter dated 23rd October 2005, in which she informed the Council that five mature Scots pines on the bank above Lower Way at its junction with Grange Hill appeared to be diseased and a sixth already dead and in danger of being blown down.

He had referred Mrs. White's letter to Gareth Hare, the District Council's Arboricultural Officer, who had, for reasons of insurance, been able to inspect them only at a distance and had therefore, because of screening, been unable to draw a conclusion as to the state of the trees.

However, he had advised the Parish Council, as a first step, to write to the Land Registry Office to establish the ownership of the land on which the trees stood.

The Council accepted Mr. Hare's advice and instructed the Clerk to write to the Land Registry Office.

(iii) Maintenance of Strip of Land at Side of Footpath between Berkeley Way and Beech Walk

The Clerk reported that he had received from Alan Johnson, of Aqua Jet Services, a letter dated 17th October 2005, in which he had quoted £142. 00 to dig out and redistribute the top soil along this strip of land, lay a membrane and cover it with bark.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Nichols and seconded by Cllr. Stanfield, it was agreed that the Council should accept this quotation and ask Mr. Johnson to carry out this work.

(iv) Repair of Gentleshaw Notice-Board

The Clerk further reported that, in the same letter, Mr. Johnson had quoted £119. 00 to replace the board of the above notice-board, re-instate the existing header and coat the posts and framework with a wood preservative.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Nichols, it was agreed to accept Mr. Johnson's quotation and ask him to carry out this work.

(v) Highway Verges – Upper Way

The Clerk reported that he had received from Tim Buxton, Highway Inspector, Lichfield Highway Office, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 25th October 2005, confirming that the verge outside "The Chetwynd Arms", in Upper Way, was the responsibility of the County Council and asking the Parish Council to add it to its grass-cutting schedule.

Mr. Buxton had also advised the Council that the fronting landowner had been contacted and had made some attempt to cut back the hedge outside "Sunny Corner", but he would be contacting him again with a view to more being cut back to allow better visibility round the corner.

(vi) Treework on Brook End Green

The Chairman reported that he had met Graham McCulloch on site and had identified with him the essential treework which needed carrying out.

This would involve removing lower branches and lifting the crown of a number of trees.

It had also been provisionally agreed that similar work should be carried out on the field maples on the grassed area outside "Kosi-Kot", at the Junction of Brook End and the A51.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Butler and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, it was agreed that Mr. McCulloch should be invited to carry out this work.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Accounts for Payment

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Juxon and seconded by Cllr. Andrews, payment of the following accounts. Received since the last meeting, were approved and signed:

Christ Church, Gentleshaw	Hire of Room	£ 10. 00
G. C. McCulloch	Mowing – October	£200. 00

(ii) Payments Received

The Clerk reported that, since the previous meeting, the following payment had been received:

Lynn Marshall	Advertisement: “Longdon Life”	£ 15. 00
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(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest: £630. 84; The Halifax d/a: £15357. 91

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

None had been received

(v) Completion of Audit

The Clerk reported that the Annual Audit for 2004/2005 had been completed and the Annual Return certified and returned.

The External Auditor’s only comment had been that the Council needed to satisfy itself regarding the Clerk’s taxation status.

At the request of the Clerk, the Council confirmed that it had approved the Statement of Assurance at its meeting of July 12th, 2005.

13. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Lorraine Reddington, Customer Liaison Officer, Central Networks, a letter dated 24th October 2005, inviting the Parish Council to put itself forward for a chance to win one of eight grants of £2500. 00 to pay for Christmas lights and decorations, an invitation which the Council declined to accept.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Helen Kennedy, Assistant AONB Officer, Cannock Chase AONB Unit, a letter dated 28th October 2005, informing the Council that the Unit was able to offer small-scale grants towards projects that help implement the AONB Management Plan by enhancing the landscape, wildlife, local and visitor experience and awareness or quality of the AONB that could be completed by March 2006.

The Chairman explained awards could be up to £1000, but had to be match-funded.

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Nuala Stewart, Regeneration Manager, Community, Housing and Health, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 1st November 2005 enclosing details of a recently-announced fund from the Big Lottery which would support village halls and other local community venues.

The fund was due to open next summer.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Ade Turner, Communications Officer, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 2nd November 2005, asking the Parish Council to help out with a County-wide public consultation on climate change.

Enclosed with the letter were a poster, which he had posted on the Brook End notice-board, and a number of leaflets, which he had distributed amongst Councillors.

Councillors were urged to complete and return the questionnaire attached to the leaflet.

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Alan Wallis, Deputy Corporate Director (Law and Administration), Resources Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 3rd November 2005, in answer to his letter of October 5th, in which he had complained of lack of communication between the County Council and the Parish Council over actions related to or affecting the Parish, particularly road closures.

Mr. Wallis had expressed concern over these failures in communication with the Parish Council and given detailed explanations of why action had been taken in each case in an apparently precipitate manner.

Since one of these referred to the work which had been carried out on the footway and kerbs in Brook End, it was agreed that Mr. Wallis's explanation should be made known to Mrs. Maureen Piper, who had raised the original objection.

Mr. Wallis had concluded his letter by assuring the Council that the County Council valued the close working arrangements which it had with the Parish Council, and the Clerk added that, since, in future, all information regarding the activities of the County Highway Department would be sent out from the Lichfield Highway Depot, it was likely that communication would be improved and information more readily forthcoming.

(vi) The Clerk reported that he had received from Mike Price, Chairman, Cannock Chase AONB Officers Working Group, a letter dated 4th November 2005, enclosing a copy of the recently-agreed Planning Protocol between Constituent Local Planning Authorities and the Cannock Chase AONB Joint Committee 2005.

14. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

Executive Arrangements – Forward Planning 2005/2006 – October – Version 1
(to take effect on 1st November 2005).

(ii) From The Principal Planning Officer, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council:

Staffordshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework: Submission Statement of Community Involvement
(Comments to be received no later than 9th December 2005).

(iii) From The Head of Transport & Planning Policy, Staffordshire County Council:

Annual Progress Report;
Provisional Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.

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

Public Transport News – November 2005 (2 copies).

(v) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Annual General Meeting and Conference Programme;
Annual Report and Accounts 2004-2005;
Booking form for free seminar on Quality Parish Status – Monday, 21st November 2005, at the County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford, from 7. 30 p.m. to 9. 30 p.m.;
Booking form for workshop on Local Council Finance and V. A. T. – Wednesday, 23rd November 2005, at Acton Trussell Village Hall, from 2. 00 p.m. to 4. 30 p.m. (Fee: £18. 00 per person, including background papers and refreshments);
Report of meeting with Dr. Stephen Ladysmith, M. P., Minister of State for Transport, at the Department of Transport, London, on Thursday, 15th September 2005;
Notice of Vacancies for Responsible Development Officers for West Midlands Region and Yorkshire & Humber Regions;
Booking form: "What's on the Agenda?" – Friday, 9th December 2005, at the Avon Business and Leisure Centre, Avon Road, Cannock, 1. 30 - 4. 00 p.m. (Fee: £18. 00 per person, including background papers and drinks);
CiCLA Portfolio and 'Working with your Council' booking forms – mentoring Events: Finance, 15th November (Penkridge); Planning, 30th November (Stafford);
Community Action, 15th December (Stafford);
Staffordshire County Council Telephone Directory.

(vi) From The Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service:

Annual Report 2004-2005.

(vii) From Staffordshire Police:

"saferstaffs".

(viii) From The Sustainable Staffordshire Forum:

"Sustainable Staffordshire": Issue 16, Autumn 2005.

(ix) From the Cannock Chase AONB Forum:

AONB News: Autumn 2005.

(x) From The East Midlands Regional Assembly:

Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan to 2006: Options for Change Consultation.

(xi) From Komplan, Milton Keynes:

Notice of free seminar on 'Play Choices' on Tuesday, 8th November 2005, at The Bromsgrove Hotel, Kidderminster Road, Bromsgrove, from 10. 00 a.m. to 4. 00 p.m.

(xii) From The National Association of Local Councils:

Local Council Review: Volume 57, No. 4 – November 2005.

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Mrs. Nichols suggested that, to avoid late finishes, meetings to be addressed by invited speakers should begin at 7. 00 p.m.

Alternatively, separate meetings could be convened.

(ii) Cllr. Butler reported that the Upper Longdon Speedwatch had met for the first time that morning, when it had been noted that the majority of motorists exceeding the speed limit had been female!

A report would appear in the next issue of "Longdon Life".

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 13th, 2005, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.