

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD  
IN THE MEETING ROOM OF CHRIST CHURCH, GENTLESHAW, ON  
TUESDAY, JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> 2008

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

Also present were the Clerk, County Councillor F. W. Lewis, MBE,  
and three members of the public – Mr. N. Whitehouse, representing  
Mrs. Maureen Dewell, of Trout Lodge, Beaudesert Park,  
and Mrs. Jean Parker and Mrs. Margaret Woollard, representing Longdon  
Women's Institute.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett; Cllr. A. J. Juxon ; and Cllr. N. J. Roberts,  
of Lichfield District Council.  
Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons was also absent.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, were,  
on a motion proposed by Cllr. Andrews and seconded by Cllr. Welch, approved and  
signed.

3. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Whitehouse, Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Woollard to the  
meeting and asked if any of them wished to address the Council.

*Mr. Whitehouse* said that, following a visit to Trout Lodge by a member of  
Lichfield District Council's Enforcement team, he had come to the meeting to assure  
the Parish Council that all the developments about which the Council had enquired  
had been carried out with planning approval, where it had been necessary.

The boathouse had received planning permission in 1991, while planning  
permission had not been required for the tarmac drive, which was replacing an  
existing gravel drive, nor for the concrete section, which had been needed to shore up  
a crumbling bank.

However, upon being questioned, he conceded that planning permission had not  
been sought for the wooden building behind the boathouse, which might need to be  
applied for retrospectively.

It was also pointed out that, while it was understandable that the owners of Trout  
Lodge might like, for reasons of personal protection, to surround their property with  
razor wire, it should, for health and safety reasons, not be lower than eight feet,  
a height which the present fence did not appear to reach.

Mr. Whitehouse promised that he would look into these matters.

He asked that, in future, the Parish Council, at least initially, direct any future  
enquiries concerning development at this site to him on 07971 274718.

There was some surprise that it had been thought necessary for a planning officer to  
visit the site before responding to the Parish Council's letter, since the information it  
had sought should have been readily obtainable from the District Council's own  
records.

*Mrs. Woollard* then spoke of the W. I.'s concern over a proposal to build a bungalow and garage on land at the rear of the W. I. Hall. Hitherto, the landowner had allowed access to the back of the Hall so that the condition of the brickwork could be monitored, and there was now a fear that, once the land became the site of a dwelling, this access might be denied, since no legally-recorded right to access seemed to exist.

However, there was a feeling amongst Councillors that access simply in order to maintain an adjoining property might well exist as a basic legal right.

The W. I. was seeking a meeting with the landowner to clarify the position; in the meantime, the Clerk would check to see whether the District Council could impose or had imposed a planning condition allowing access.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Whitehouse, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Woollard for their attendance and assured them that their concerns would be given serious consideration by the Council.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

##### (i) Play Area or Playing Facilities for Longdon Children

The Clerk reported that he had, as instructed, written to Mr. Chris Wardle, Chairman of Governors, St. James C. E. (V. C.) school, Longdon, expressing the Council's disappointment at the negative response which the Council had received to its request for a meeting with the Governors to discuss the possibility of using the play area at the School as a recreational area for local children during out-of-school hours.

#### 5. PLANNING

##### (i) Report of Planning Group

Cllr. Stanfield reported, since the last meeting of the Council, the Planning Working Group had considered the following planning applications:

07/01289/FUL (Amended): Mr. and Mrs. S. Davies: Erection of stable block consisting of three stables and tackroom/store: Greensleves, Lower Way, Upper Longdon

It was considered that the minor amendments being proposed were not significant when viewed in the context of the Council's previous comments and concerns.

08/00484/FUL: Mr. Richard Burt: Demolition of existing utility room and erection of a single-storey kitchen and utility room: Rookery Farm, Giddywell Lane, Longdon

There had been no objection to this proposal.

08/00506/FUL: Mr. Newman: Conservatory: Cross Ash Cottage, Thorleys Hill, Longdon

There would be no objection to this proposal provided that the extension did not contravene the District Council's policies for extensions to properties in the Green Belt.

The District Council had been asked to note that this property had been extended some years ago.

08/00576/REM (Removal of Reserved Matters): Ms. Sue Boston: Erection of a three-bedroom detached bungalow and detached double garage: 38 Brook End, Longdon

It had been noted that outline planning permission had been granted on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008 for a single-storey building and access.

The Parish Council had had no objection in principle provided that any future planning application was proportionate and sympathetic to the area and surrounding buildings.

Moreover, any future building should not impair or impede necessary maintenance of the adjacent building, and the present access, which is intended to be used for the proposed development, should be set back (possibly with a splay incorporated) so as to avoid congestion in a frequently-used single lane.

08/00580/COU: Mr. T. Cox: Change of use of stables/workshop to offices, welfare area and small tools storeroom: Holly Farm, Chorley

The Parish Council had objected to the previous application (07/00978/COU), which the District Council refused on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007, listing a number of infringements of its policies.

It was noted that the revised plan had reduced the extent of the alteration of the building, but had not otherwise addressed previous objections or reasons for refusal.

08/00581/LBC: Mr. and Mrs. K. Phillips: Various internal and external works, including demolition of small single-storey extension: Grand Lodge, Horsey Lane, Longdon

There had been no objection to this application provided that the proposed development conformed to the strict criteria for Listed Buildings, though there was some concern that no provision for a kitchen was shown on the plan.

08/00644/FUL: Mr. R. Barton: Single-storey oak-framed orangery to rear: Sundown, Lower Way, Upper Longdon

No reason had been seen to object to this application.

(ii) For Consideration

There were no further planning applications to consider.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

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

08/00362/FUL Mr. and Mrs. C. Turbill: Demolition of existing extension and erection of single-storey garden room: Thatched Cottage, Hill Top, Longdon Green

(iv) 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:

08/00390/COU: William Tyler Developments: Retention of equestrian use including storage container and field shelter: Land adjacent to "Giddies", Hay Lane, Longdon Green

REASONS FOR REFUSAL

1. The proposed stable/equestrian building, due to its siting in a visually-prominent and isolated location in the open countryside (unrelated to any existing buildings), would have had a detrimental impact on the character and openness of the Green Belt.
2. The proposed metal storage container, due to its size, materials used in construction and in its siting in a visually-prominent isolated location in the open countryside, was considered inappropriate development within the Green Belt to the detriment of the character and openness of the Green Belt. There were no very special circumstances which justified such inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Holly Farm, Chorley

The Clerk reported that he had received from John Brown, Land and Property Manager, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008, confirming that the sale of that part of Gentleshaw Common incorporated into his swimming pool by Mr. Cox had been completed with effect from 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

It was agreed that the Clerk should now write to the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council, asking whether an application to de-register this part of Gentleshaw Common had been received from Mr. Cox.

(b) Stables in Borough Lane, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Mrs. Chris Hibbs, Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement), Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, in which she explained that, where field shelters were placed on land to shelter animals in relation to agricultural use or in relation to an authorised use where there is no restrictive condition to prohibit them being placed on the land, then, in general, planning permission would not be required, provided that they were not physically attached to the ground, were not excessively large and were not kept permanently in the same place.

(c) Red Hill Barn, Upper Longdon – Result of Appeal

The Clerk reported that the appeal of Mr. S. Willows against the enforcement notice served by Lichfield District Council requiring him to cease the use of the land and building at the above site for commercial use (as a pest control business) and permanently remove the portable toilet from the land had been allowed by the Inspector, the enforcement notice quashed and deemed planning permission granted, subject to conditions, namely, that the planning permission be limited to this use and be made personal to the Appellant; that there be a limit on operating hours, together with the installation of an agreed scheme of external illumination for the building and associated yard; that the toilet block be removed to the rear of

the main building; and that a scheme and programme for the provision of bat and bird boxes be submitted within a short timescale and agreed with the Local Planning Authority.

(d) Business Rated Properties in Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Alan Tooth, Revenues Manager, Revenue and Benefit Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008, informing the Council that he would request the Valuation Office Agency to visit Red Hill Barn to assess the level of business activity being conducted and then to notify him of any applicable rateable value.

He had added that, when he received notification of this determination or of any other property, he was required by regulations to collect all business rates as a result.

All current assessments could be viewed by postcode on [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk).

Cllr. Stanfield said that he would carry out research into which properties in Longdon were rated for business purposes.

(e) Hawcroft Grange, Hood Lane, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Ros. Robb, Principal Planning Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, in which she enclosed, as requested, a copy of the approved plan in relation to the storage of caravans and a copy of the planning permission.

(f) Holly Farm, Chorley

The Clerk also reported that, in the same letter, Mrs. Robb had confirmed that Council records did not show the granting of permission for the use of land indicated by the Parish Council for the storage of building materials and that, if the land was being used for such purposes, the owner of the land would be required to submit a planning application.

The District Council's Enforcement Team would commence investigations into the use.

She had added that the Parish Council had been consulted on proposed amendments to an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development in relation to Application 07/001131/CLE, but had not responded.

However, the Parish Council had no record of having been consulted, and the Clerk was instructed to ask for a copy of the District Council's letter.

(g) Land off Stafford Road, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Chris Hibbs, Principal Planning Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, an email dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, informing the Council that she had so far received no response to letters sent to the land-owner, who lived down south, and the District Council's Solicitor was considering what steps should now be taken.

No development had taken place since the initial levelling of the previously sloping field.

(h) Section 78 Appeal by Mr. T. Cox, Holly Farm, Chorley:  
Application No. 07/00978/COU.

The Clerk reported that he had received from Jeff Upton, Development Control Manager, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008, advising the Council that the above appeal had been withdrawn and that the Planning Inspectorate had closed the file.

(i) North Lodge, Startley Lane, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Chris Hibbs, Principal Planning Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, an email dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, in which she informed the Council that she had visited the above site, which was still unoccupied.

Moreover, she had been unable to find an address or contact number for the builder and consequently would welcome any help from the Parish Council in arranging a meeting.

Councillors believed that there was usually someone on the premises on Sundays and that there might even be someone living above the garage.

It had also been observed that the site was being used for power-washing lorries.

## 6. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) Lichfield District Parish Forum: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The Clerk gave a short report on a meeting of the Lichfield District Parish Forum which had taken place in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008, and at which Jane Bax, Community Safety Co-ordinator, Homezone Housing Ltd., and David Whittaker, Housing Options Manager, Lichfield District Council, had given presentations on how anti-social behaviour was dealt with from a housing perspective.

Steve McQuade, Performance, Policy and Procurement Manager, Lichfield District Council, had then introduced a review of parish priorities.

The Clerk had pointed out that, of the fourteen issues listed, in only one – enforcement – had no action been taken, yet it was clear that this was an area of planning which had, in the past, generated most concern amongst parish councils.

The Chairman of the Forum, Cllr. Colin Ablitt, had conceded that the District Council had not been sufficiently active in this area, but was able to inform the meeting that a fourth Enforcement Officer had just been appointed, which he hoped would accelerate proceedings.

Other topics of discussion included communication between District and Parish Councils, and the sharing of best practice.

Cllr. Mrs. Shirley Barnett, a member of Colton Parish Council and chair of the SPCA Lichfield Area Committee, expressed her regret that the majority of parish councils in the District did not support the Committee, pointing out that its meetings gave parish councillors the opportunity to identify and share their concerns with councillors from other parishes.

Cllr. Ablitt also asked for feedback from parish councils on what to do with the District Council garden at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas which recorded on stone plaques every parish council in the District but in which parish councils had shown no interest.

(ii) Governors' Meeting – Gentleshaw County Primary School

Cllr. Hemmingsley gave a short report on a meeting of the Governors of Gentleshaw County Primary School which had taken place the previous evening, Monday, July 7th.

There had been continuing concern over traffic outside the school and a desire to see the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit.

The school had been visited by members of the County Council's Road Safety Team, accompanied by County Councillor Frank Lewis, and a speed-and-volume survey had been carried out in front of the school. Depending on the results of this survey, this might be followed by the presence of a safety camera van.

The perceived volume and speed of passing traffic did not justify employing a road-crossing warden, however.

A more suitable location would be sought for the bus stop at present situated close to the corner of Buds Road.

The Governors also heard that a new system of control on running the school was being put in place; instead of divisional inspectors there would be independent performance assessors.

Work on the interior alterations would begin next year; these would provide for a community room.

Attendance at the school continued to be good

7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

- (i) Lichfield and Cannock Cruse Bereavement Care Annual General Meeting: Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at St. Mary's Centre, Market Place, Lichfield, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.
- (ii) Lichfield District Council Chairman's Civic Service: Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008. at Lichfield Cathedral, commencing at 10. 30 a.m.
- (iii) Best Kept Village Competition 2008 – Announcement of Results: Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at Coven Memorial Hall, Brewood Road, Coven, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.
- (iv) Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Beauty 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Friends of Cannock Chase 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fete and Barn Dance: Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, at Cannock Chase Visitor Centre, Marquis Drive, Hednesford, from 11. 00 a.m. till 4. 00 p.m., and at Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall from 8. 00 p.m. till 12 midnight (Tickets £10 for adults, £5. 00 for children).

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Report of Site Meeting at Catmeadow Lane, Upper Longdon: July 7th

The Clerk reported on a site meeting which had taken place at the junction of Stockings Lane and Catmeadow Lane the previous day and at which he, County Councillor Lewis and Ken Owen, the Divisional Highway Manager, had been present.

It had been confirmed that some of the width of the road had been lost at this junction and agreed that the Parish Council should employ the Village Lengthsman

to clear the mud from the surface of the road and also clear the nearby roadside sign of the vegetation which presently obscured it.

This work would be paid for out of the Highway Maintenance Agreement.

Mr. Owen also agreed to the inclusion of the verge on either side of the junction of High Street and the A51 in the Parish Council's Mowing Contract.

(ii) Surfacing of Footpath across Glebe Field

The Clerk reported that he had received from Barry Toothill, Secretary, Diocesan Glebe Committee, Diocese of Lichfield, a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008, informing the Council that there was a meeting of the Glebe Committee on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>., and he would put the above matter before the Committee then.

Once the Committee had considered the matter, he would respond.

(iii) AONB Signage

The Clerk reported that he had received from Mark Keeling, Local Traffic Management Officer (Gailey Area Highway Office), Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008, informing the Council that he would arrange for the erection of the above signs ordered by the Parish Council as soon as possible.

(iv) Footpath No. 73 (Brook End to Handsacre)

The Clerk reported that he had received from Mr. Will Rose, of The Croft, Longdon, co-ordinator of the parish footpaths survey, an email dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2008, in which he had informed the Council that he had that day walked the full length of this footpath and had found the brook silted up and flooding permanently over the footpath as it proceeded up to the stile in the field.

From this he concluded that the brook clearly needed digging out.

He had sent as an attachment to his email a survey form to forward to the Principal Rights of way Officer at Stafford.

He had added that the practice by the occupants of Berkeley Way and Beech Walk who backed onto the footpath of disposing of their garden waste, hedge trimmings and grass cuttings onto the bank of the brook was reprehensible and clearly added to the problem; and he suggested that a letter be sent to each pointing out that fly-tipping was illegal.

It was agreed that Mr. Rose's report should be referred to the Highways and Footpaths Committee, which would be meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

(v) Unauthorised Roadside Advertising

The Clerk reported that he had removed and returned a roadside sign advertising an Open Morning to St. Bede's Preparatory School, Bishton Hall, together with a letter explaining that such signs were unlawful.

He had subsequently received a letter from the Headmaster, dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008, in which he said that the Clerk's comments regarding the placing of such signs had been noted.

(vi) Malthouse Road and Dollymakers Hill, Gentleshaw

The Clerk reported that he had received from Ken Owen, Divisional Highway Manager, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter



dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008, confirming that an inspection of this junction had been carried out and work programmed.

(vii) 40 mph Speed Limits through Cannock Chase

The Clerk reported that he had received from P. G. Davies, Clerk to Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council, a letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008, in which Mr. Davies had said that he was enclosing a copy of a letter sent to the County Council in respect of Colliery Road.

Unfortunately, no copy had been enclosed.

(viii) Junction of High Street and A51

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Cllr. Mrs. Duckett dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 in which she reported that several parishioners had complained to her about the lack of visibility when leaving High Street to come across the A51.

However, the area of grass which had been obstructing visibility at this junction had now been cut.

9. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Grassed Area opposite Gentleshaw School

The Clerk reported that he had received from Tamara Kabat, Biodiversity Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008, in which she had informed the Council that the District Council's Countryside Team would be pleased to see Longdon Parish Council take over the management of this area of Gentleshaw Common.

However, she had added that, if the Council wished to take over the day-to-day management of the area, it should contact Kevin Yates, the District Council's Parks Manager, and obtain his approval, since he had the overall responsibility for parks management for Lichfield District.

She invited the Council to contact her if it wished to discuss with her the management of the area regarding biodiversity issues and possible funding.

The Chairman expressed annoyance that the Council's original letter, addressed to the Chief Executive, had not been forwarded to Mr. Yates in the first instance, and he said that he would draft a letter to Mrs. Dawes complaining of the tardiness with which the Parish Council's offer had been dealt.

(ii) Play Areas – Playbuilder Application Pack

The Clerk reported that he had received from Renee Hardman, Project Management Support Manager, Direct Services – Children and Lifelong Learning, Staffordshire County Council (via emails from Judy Magill, Administrative Assistant, Policy and Performance, Lichfield District Council, and Mary Cooke, Play Development Manager, Lichfield District Council, both dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008), an undated email advising that Staffordshire County Council had successfully secured approximately £1.1m. from the Government for the development of twenty-five play area across the county.

An introductory letter and application pack had been attached.

However, the deadline for applications was July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008, so the Parish Council was in no position to take advantage of this programme.

(iii) Bleak House Wind Farm

The Clerk reported that he received from the Bleak House Wind Farm Action Group an unsigned letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008 setting out its objections to the proposal to erect three wind turbines on the site of the abandoned open cast mine at Bleak House and giving details of two forthcoming meetings.

These would be at the Scout Hut, Ironstone Road, Chase Terrace, on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, at 8. 15 p.m. and the other at Heath Hayes Library on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7. 00 p.m.

However, it was unlikely that a member of Longdon Parish Council would attend either of these meetings.

(iv) Fourth Report from Mowing Contractor

The Clerk reported that he had received from Graham McCulloch, the Council's mowing contractor, a letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008, confirming that he had applied herbicide to the car park outside St. James Church.

He would check on its effectiveness on his next visit.

10. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

(i) Planter at Bus Stop, Church Hill, Longdon Green

The Clerk reported that he had received from Colin Thomas, Ocean View Properties, Longdon Hall, a letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008, informing him that the planter next to the bus stop at the top of Church Hill, Longdon Green, had been fitted with a new inner lining and the exterior re-clad and filled with soil.

It would be planted with fresh plants before the end of the week.

The Clerk explained that this letter had been sent in reply to a letter which he had written drawing Mr. Thomas's attention to the planter's poor condition and asking him if it could be either repaired or removed.

11. LAW AND ORDER

The Clerk reported that he had received the minutes of a meeting of the Joint Operations Group which had taken place on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2008.

There had been no direct reference to criminal activity in the parish of Longdon.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Accounts for Payment

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Welch, payment of the following accounts was approved:

#* Mrs. A. Anson	Bedding Plants	£ 19. 90
Christ Church, Gentleshaw	Hire of Room	£ 10. 00

G. C. McCulloch	Mowing – June 27 <sup>th</sup> :	£215. 00
	Application of Herbicide to St. James Church car park:	£70. 00
	Internal Audit Fee	£285. 00
	Salute Limited	£ 70. 00
# Open Spaces Society	Subscription	£ 30. 00
	(* confirmation # payment made under Section 137)	

(ii) Payments Received

The Halifax	Gross Interest	£189. 75
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(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a:	£1107. 66	The Halifax d/a: £22009. 98
(less uncleared cheques – 1391:	£ 176. 25	
	1397: £ 24. 00	
	1340: £ 50. 00)	

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid(a) Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Country Fayre

The Clerk reported that he had received from the Treasurer of the Organising Committee a completed Grant Application Form and a copy of the accounts for last year's Fayre.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Russell, it was agreed to make a grant of £100. 00.

An informal invitation from the Committee to provide a stand illustrating the work of Longdon Parish Council was declined after it was decided that not enough notice had been given to allow the Council to put together a worthwhile display.

(b) Vitalise

The Clerk reported that he had received from Clare Ellisdon, Statutory Fundraiser, Fundraising Office, Chigwell, Essex, a letter dated July 2008 and distributed through The Community Council of Staffordshire, asking the Council to support the work of the organisation in providing holidays for disabled people that enabled their carers to have a rest, guilt free, from their care role.

However, it was decided that, since the organisation was not local, a donation would not be justified.

(v) Second and Final Independent Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that he had now received the Independent Internal Auditor's Second and Final Report, copies of which he had distributed to Councillors.

It was agreed that the report should be considered in detail by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its next meeting, which would be taking place before the next meeting of the Council.

13. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Michael Fabricant, MP, a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2008, thanking him for sending a copy of his letter of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2008 to Network Change regarding Longdon Post Office.

Mr. Fabricant had expressed his pleasure at learning that Longdon Post Office was not on the list of intended closures and his gratitude at being kept informed of the Council's actions.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that rural post offices were now under threat over the possible loss of the Post Office Card Account, which could result a further three thousand closures.

For customers wanting to continue using the Card Account at the Post Office, a printed postcard was available for them to sign and send to their Constituency MP or the Prime Minister.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Jack Sills, of Independent Memorial Inspection, an email dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2008, introducing his company as one of the leading memorial inspection companies in the country.

He had forwarded this information to The Rev. Michael Jefferson, Priest-in-Charge of St. James the Great, Longdon, and the Rev. Martin Butt, Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Gentleshaw.

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Margaret Frean, Vice-Chairperson of Lichfield & Cannock Cruse Bereavement Care, a letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008, thanking the Parish Council for its donation of £50. 00 towards the organisation's training and volunteer expenses.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Sandra Cooper, Bureau Chief Executive, Lichfield and Burntwood Citizens Advice Bureau, an email dated 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008, informing the Council that the Bureau was conducting a survey to ascertain how people would wish to access the Bureau's services.

Three different survey forms had been attached, and he had forwarded the most appropriate of these to the Over 60s Club.

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received from Julie White, of NEF Rural Consultants, Tamworth, a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008, informing the Council that they had received funds from Business Link to create awareness of support available for anyone thinking about starting a rural business and enclosing posters publicising this support for display in the parish.

It was agreed that these posters should be displayed on the parish notice-boards.

14. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

(i) From Dawn Everitt, Democratic and Legal Officer, Lichfield District Council:

Forward Plan – Version 1 – to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 –  
effective for period 01. 06. 08 to 30. 09. 08.

(ii) From The Electoral Registration Officer, Lichfield District Council:

Register of Electors 2008 – Monthly Applications for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

(iii) From The Licensing officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services,

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008;  
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 20<sup>th</sup> June 2008;  
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008;  
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

(iv) From The Development Services Directorate (Integrated Transport  
and Planning), Staffordshire County Council:

Staffordshire Public Transport Plan 2008.

(v) From The County Ranger Services, Staffordshire County Council:

Countryside Events – July 2008.

(vi) From Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Newsletter: June 2008.

(vii) From The National Association of Local Councils:

“LCR”: Volume 60, No. 2 – July 2008.

(viii) From The Community Council of Staffordshire:

◆July Training Programme;  
10<sup>th</sup>: Planning 2 – The Planning System in more depth  
(The Bremen Room, County Buildings);  
16<sup>th</sup>: Clerk's Day – Presentation by Planning Aid  
(Uttoxeter Town Hall);  
31<sup>st</sup>: Holding the Perfect Meeting  
(The Bremen Room, County Buildings);  
Charges: £20 for first delegate; £15 for second delegate;  
£10 for other delegates.

◆Publications List 2008/2009.

◆Leaflet: Flashcam-880 with wireless download  
("FlashCAM is watching so YOU don't have to")

(ix) From The Campaign to Protect Rural England:

“Countryside Voice”: Summer 2008.

(x) From Rubberplas Limited, Balsall Heath, Birmingham:

Promotional postcard: Kinder Grass Mat.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) In response to Cllr. Stanfield's call for a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his work in providing the new parish notice-boards, Councillors unanimously expressed their appreciation.

(ii) Cllr. Mrs. Meere voiced her complaint over the way in which her absence at last month's meeting had been recorded in the minutes of that meeting, pointing out that, while she had indeed been at her cottage in Cornwall, it had been to supervise work that was being carried out there.

She pointed out that it was available for letting to holiday-makers and insisted that it was a business, and not just her holiday home.

Reminded that she had attended only half the Council's meetings in 2007 and only one of the six meetings held this year, she attributed her absences to health, personal reasons, business and the need to take her holidays when her hard-working husband could spare time from his work.

She could not rule out the possibility of being absent from meetings for any of these reasons this year.

She reminded Councillors that she had been a member of the Council for the past twenty years and had been for five years Chair of the Highways and Footpaths Committee.

In response, the Chairman said that the letter which he had written reminding Councillors of their commitment as members of the Council had been addressed to all Councillors, and the decision to write it, which had had the unanimous support of all those Councillors present at the previous meeting, had been taken because of the real concern that was felt over the erratic attendance of some Councillors, herself amongst them.

Cllr. Bird acknowledged that his attendance had also been poor, adding that he thought that he should perhaps consider his position as a member of the Councillor, but the Chairman said that he was not calling for anyone's resignation; he hoped only that every Councillor would take to heart the contents of his letter and renew their commitment as members of the Council.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.