

REPORT OF MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE OF LONGDON  
PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE W. I. HALL, LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7th, 2008

Present: Cllr. N. Stanfield (Chairman); Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. B. J. Butler;  
Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett; and Mr. Will Rose.

Also present were the Clerk and one parishioner – Mr. Tony Ellis,  
of Malthouse Road, Gentleshaw;

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Bird and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Duckett, approved and signed

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Ellis to the meeting and invited him to address the Committee.

Mr. Ellis said that he had been pleased to see that “SLOW” signs had been painted on the road surface opposite East Lodge and outside School House, but he pointed out that the road safety measures were not yet complete; he felt that it was imperative that a centre line should be painted at the junction of School Lane and Dollymakers Hill with Windmill Bank.

In addition, the Speed-and-Volume Survey had taken place outside Gentleshaw School and had, as a result, failed to register the number of vehicles turning into Buds Road.

Cllr. Stanfield said that, for a more accurate assessment, he would carry out his own survey in Malthouse Road one morning between the hours of 7. 15 a.m. and 9. 15 a.m. and one afternoon between the hours of 4. 00 p.m. and 6. 00 p.m.

This survey would, however, for practical reasons be limited to number and type of vehicles.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Tim Buxton, the Traffic Management Technician, asking for a central line to be painted at the junction of School Lane and Dollymakers Hill with Windmill Bank and a “SLOW” sign at the top of Dollymakers Hill for traffic approaching from the direction of Longdon.

The urgent need for the latter sign in particular had been illustrated by an accident involving two vehicles which had occurred late in the afternoon of Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Roadside hedges at Coldwell, Gentleshaw

These had not yet been cut, presumably because the contractor was still engaged in harvesting.

(ii) Footpath 33 – Lysways Lane

The latest known position regarding the re-opening of this footpath was the dispute between the land-owner and the County Council over the exact line of the footpath had not yet been finally resolved and that, consequently, the footpath still remained closed to public use.

It was agreed that a site meeting should be sought between concerned parties to clarify the position.

(iii) Community Paths Initiative Bid

While the Council's bid for funding under the Community Paths Initiative towards the cost of upgrading the footpath across the Glebe Field had failed, the County Council had awarded the Parish Council £1500 from its footpaths maintenance budget, and a further £500 had been contributed by the Lichfield Diocese.

(iv) Grange Hill

The Clerk reported that he had written to Ken Owen, the Divisional Highway Manager, asking him whether there had been any progress regarding the proposal to secure the banks on either side of Grange Hill.

It was suggested that the situation would be improved if Grange Hill were kerbed; this would help to define the road, secure some stability and allow the hill to be cleaned mechanically.

5. SURVEY OF FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Mr. Rose submitted three more completed survey forms for forwarding the County Council's Development Services Directorate.

Those footpaths which remained to be surveyed were identified and allocated to volunteers as follows:

*Cllr. Mrs. Duckett:* FP29, FP30, FP31, FP32; *Mr. Rose:* FP25, FP26, FP27, FP55 & FP2067/68; *Cllr. Stanfield:* FP34FP50, FP53; *Cllr. Butler:* FP35-38, FP59, FP60, FP61 & FP0.402.

*Cllr. Mrs. Meere* would be asked to survey FP41, FP42, FP43, FP68 & FP70.

It was agreed that the Survey should be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

6. COMMUNITY GANGS SCHEME

Cllr. Stanfield reported that a programme of work had been sent to the Area Highways Manager, as promised, and that, as a consequence, a number of tasks had been carried out in the parish in the limited time available, notably the exposing of roadside footpath signs concealed by encroaching vegetation.

However, the full width of the road surface opposite Catmeadow Lane had not been re-claimed, and he suggested that this now be referred to the Village Lengthsman.

Mr. Rose also pointed out that a footpath sign close to the ford at Brook End needed re-erecting.

7. NOTICE-BOARDS

(i) Longdon Village Hall

The Committee heard that Cllr. Butler had offered the Village Hall Management Committee a redundant notice-board belonging to the Longdon Model Flying Club, which had been gratefully accepted.

(ii) Notice-Boards for Bus Shelters in Brook End

Cllr. Bird informed the Committee that Sundeala board for exterior use was no longer being manufactured.

However, as an alternative, a cork/rubber composite was obtainable from Harry Stebbings, the manufacturer of the two notice-boards in Brook End, at a cost of £20 per square metre.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Butler and seconded by Cllr. Bird, it was agreed that two boards measuring 1m.x 0.6m. be ordered and that Alan Johnson, of Aquajet Service, be asked to frame and mount them.

## 8. ANIMALS ON RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr. Stanfield referred to the letter to the Parish Council from Paul Rochfort dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008 setting out the law regarding the control of animals in fields crossed by public rights of way, copies of which had been distributed to members of the Committee with the agenda for the present meeting.

The Committee heard that the problem still existed on certain footpaths in Longdon, having already been reported in the course of the Survey, and it was agreed that a request should be made for a Ranger to walk these footpaths and assess the extent of the problem.

## 9. FOOTPATH 73

Cllr. Stanfield reported that there had been a site inspection at the ford the previous Saturday morning, when the state of the footpaths and bridge had been looked at.

It had been agreed that the bridge needed a new rail and that exposed brickwork at one end needed concreting over.

In addition, a site meeting should be sought with The Environment Agency with a view to arranging the thorough dredging of the brook to prevent the recurring flooding which was making an important footpath impassable.

## 10. CHURCH HOLLOW

The Clerk reported that his attention had been drawn by a parishioner to two dead trees in the bank below St, James Close.

It was agreed that arrangements should be made for these trees to be reduced or removed.

It was also agreed that a maintenance programme should be set up for Church Hollow, which, though used nowadays as a footpath and bridleway, was still technically part of the highway, never having been declassified.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### (i) Lysways Lane

It was reported that flooding was still occurring in Lysways Lane.

It was hoped that this would be totally eliminated when the proposed roadworks programme was completed.

### (ii) Cleat Hill

It was noted that the roadside direction sign to Cleat Hill Farm had been removed, having earlier been damaged by a goods vehicle.

It was thought to have been first erected when the A51 was re-aligned at this point, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Divisional Highway Manager asking for it to be replaced.

### (iii) Upper Way

Cllr. Butler complained that Upper Way had not been swept for at least the past six months.

The Clerk said that he would check the District Council's street cleansing schedule for Upper Longdon.

### (iv) "Longdon Life"

Cllr. Mrs. Duckett undertook to write reports on the Committee's activities for inclusion in "Longdon Life".

(v) Pot-Holes in Borough Lane

It was reported that there were pot-holes in Borough Lane, close to Copes' farm.

Cllr. Stanfield said that he would refer them to the County Highways Authority via CLARENCE.

(vi) Mr. Rose reported that he had been unable to access the Definitive Footpaths Map on the County Council's website, even though he had followed the prescribed links and, as a result, was wondering whether it had not yet been posted.

The Clerk said that he would ask Caroline Watterson, the Rights of Way Assistant, for confirmation that the Map had been posted when he sent her the latest completed survey forms.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that all of next year's meetings should be agreed by the Council by the end of the year.