

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, CHRIST CHURCH, GENTLESHAW, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2009

Present: Cllr. R. C. Hemmingsley (Chairman); Cllr. B. J. Butler;  
Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett; Cllr. A. J. Juxon; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere;  
Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Russell; and Cllr. S. K. Welch.

Also present were the Clerk, Cllr. N. J. Roberts, Lichfield District Council;  
PS David Holroyd, Staffordshire Police; Mr. Julian Bagg, of CgMs  
Consulting; Mr. Glen Smith, of Park House Design; Mr. Alex Witt,  
of Chorley; and Mr. Richard Clarke, of Brook End, Longdon.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. The Rev. J. R. Andrews; Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. N. Stanfield;  
and County Councillor F. W. Lewis, MBE.  
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, on Tuesday, February 10th, 2009, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Russell, approved and signed.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman then welcomed the members of the public present to the meeting and invited *Sgt. Holroyd* to address the Council.

Sgt. Holroyd said that, although there was generally a low level of crime in the parish, there had been two criminal incidents in February: a window had been smashed and tools stolen from a dwelling in Batesway, Upper Longdon; and diesel had been taken from a fork lift truck in Hay Lane, Longdon Green.

That very day, two men had been arrested in Upper Longdon following an armed robbery at Hammerwich Post Office.

He reminded the meeting that PC Brown, the Community Beat Officer, would be holding a surgery in Longdon Village Hall that Saturday morning from 9.00 p.m. to 10.15 p.m.

Asked by Cllr. Butler whether there was a possibility that the mobile safety unit might be brought to Upper Longdon, Sgt. Holroyd said that the unit was inundated by calls for its service and had to prioritise demand.

The Chairman thanked PS Holroyd for attending the meeting and giving his report; PS Holroyd then left the meeting.

The Chairman then invited *Mr. Bagg* and *Mr. Smith* to address the meeting.

Mr. Smith said that their purpose in attending the meeting was to get some feedback on alternative amendments to the planning application relating to The Grand Lodge.

However, the Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council would not be making its formal comments until the amended planning application had been submitted.

There were two possible alternatives to the amendments, both affecting the rear extensions: the first, Option A, proposed the reduction of the two-storey central extension to a single storey and the retention of the two single-storey wings, while the second, Option B, proposed the removal of the two single-storey wings and the retention of the two-storey central extension.

In response to the first of these options, it was thought that it could not possibly comply with planning regulations relating to development in the Green Belt, while, in the case of the second, it was impossible to make a reasoned judgment before measurements were provided.

Mr. Bagg conceded that both proposals exceeded the thirty-per-cent limit imposed on extensions, but it had been indicated to him that there might be special circumstances which would make this acceptable.

Responding to the objection to the proposed gates, Mr. Bagg assured the Council that they would not be opaque, an impression given by the sketch provided with the plans. He was reminded that Borough Lane had been so laid out as to be the main approach to Beaudesert Hall through The Grand Lodge, which had been designed as a gatehouse to the Hall, and that an enclosed arch would detract from its historic aspect.

Mr. Bagg said that there had been no negative feedback concerning the outhouses, which would be the subject of a separate application. Only the design of the garage had been changed, removing the first-floor flat and reducing it to a single-storey building.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Bagg thanked the Parish Council for listening to him and, together with Mr. Smith and Mr. Witt, withdrew from the meeting.

The Chairman then invited *Mr. Clarke* to address the meeting.

Mr. Clarke reported on several conversations which had taken place regarding the inclusion of the Longdon Memorial Hall and the Longdon Club and Institute on the Parish Website.

Mr. Clarke then answered Councillors' concerns on several issues. After amendments regarding private parties had been agreed, the Council approved entries on the Website for both the Memorial Hall and the Club and Institute.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

##### (i) The Grand Lodge

The Chairman reported that a meeting of the Planning Committee, attended by Cllr. Butler, Cllr. Hemmingsley and Cllr. Stanfield, had taken place immediately before the present meeting at which the above proposals had been discussed.

In that and the following discussion, it was agreed that Option A, if submitted, would be totally unacceptable, and that, even in Option B, areas of concern, such as the fenestration and the gates, were still being ignored.

In the words of one Councillor, "boundaries are still being pushed".

The Chairman summed up the attitude of the Council when he said that there were consequences of living in a listed building.

##### (ii) Flooding in Stockings Lane

The Chairman reported that, subsequent to the site meeting on which he had reported at the last meeting, it had been discovered that there was a third blockage to the drainage system caused by a field entrance, where the pipe that had been laid was a foot above water-level.

As a consequence of this discovery, Sarah Hollinshead's contribution to the cost of opening up the ditch on her side of the lane had been doubled to £1000. 00.

The Area Surveyor had now written to both Miss Hollinshead and Mrs. Power but neither had so far replied, and Cllr. Lewis had asked whether he or Cllr. Stanfield would call on them to see whether they had been aware of Mr. Linford's initiative.

##### (iii) Felling on Cannock Chase

Cllr. Welch reported that he had met Jim Stewart, of The Forestry Commission, on the morning of February 19<sup>th</sup>, but had discovered that his colleague, Jim Foster, had already met a group of Upper Longdon residents to discuss their concerns the previous day.

As a consequence of that meeting, a further meeting had been arranged at The Chetwynd Arms on the evening of March 9<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr. Welch had been informed of neither of these meetings, and work commitments had prevented him from attending the meeting at The Chetwynd Arms until mid-way through, but he had prepared a statement, which Cllr. Butler had presented on his behalf (*Appendix A*).

Cllr. Welch pointed out that The Forestry Commission could have exercised their legal power to close the Chase while felling was taking place, but had chosen not to do so. He also pointed out that, as a result of The Commission's methods of husbandry, there were now thirty-five pairs of nesting skylarks on the Chase, the only place in the West Midlands where they were nesting.

(iv) Best Kept Village Competition

It was agreed that the Parish Council would once more invite St. James School and Longdon Pre-School to provide children's posters for this year's Competition under the same terms as last year.

5. PLANNING

(i) Report of Planning Committee

The following planning applications had been considered by the Committee prior to the meeting:

09/00105/FUL: Andrew Moore: Site of temporary (five years) mobile home for agricultural worker: Benbrook Farm, Stoneywell Lane, Longdon Green

An objection had been made to this application.

It was clear that there was no justification for a dwelling on this site. In fact, the applicant did not appear from the information provided to derive his living from agriculture. Any need for a dwelling on this site was therefore based on future predictions as to the type of unit proposed, and the Parish Council had objected to this proposal to provide a dwelling in the Green Belt.

It had also been noted that, although the application was stated to be for five years, in the supporting documents, both agents referred to a period of three years.

09/00106/FUL: Andrew Moore: Formation of new farmstead comprising of 2 no. livestock buildings, silage/forage store, manure store: Benbrook Farm, Stoneywell Lane, Longdon Green.

An objection had been made to this application.

As recognised by the Government in PPG2, the most important attribute to Green Belts was their openness, and their continued protection should take precedence over land-use objectives.

Whilst the applicant's agents put forward the case that this new farmstead would be substantially screened from view behind the hedge fronting Stoneywell Lane and the proposed landscaping, a walk around this area would clearly reveal that this would not be the case. The buildings, manure store and silage clamps would be seen over a wide area from Footpaths Nos. 59 and 43 and also along the footpath along the A51. The development would therefore have a significant impact on the openness of this part of the Green Belt, and to allow it would be contrary to Central Government advice and Local Plan Policy E5.

The concreting over of this large area to form a yard around the buildings and the lighting of this yard and buildings would have a significant impact on the appearance of this rural area and was clearly not essential in respect of any existing agricultural use of the land and was an inappropriate location for an intensive farming unit.

From the report prepared by Reading Agricultural Consultations in 2008, it would appear that the only land over which the applicant had a secure tenancy was the land subject to this application. Furthermore, as far as the Parish Council was aware, this was the only agricultural land which he had in the Longdon parish.

The only animals on the site appeared to be some thirty beef cattle; all figures therefore appeared to be based on what might happen in the future.

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from a parishioner, Mr. P. J. Hammersley, of Gorton Lodge Cottage, Stoneywell Lane, dated March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009, in which he had expressed his concern over the possibility that the site would become a store for surplus building materials, site cabins, hardcore, tractors, dumper trucks and large plant, since the applicant's main source of income was through his non-agricultural work, particularly on the railway.

Cllr. Roberts added that the planning officers were already concerned at the considerable tonnage of material being regularly dumped at the site, ostensibly as footings for a development for which planning permission had not yet been given.

However, the unauthorised tipping of waste was the responsibility of the County Council, who were showing a marked reluctance to take prompt action lest planning permission should be granted, thus exposing the County Council to legal action on the part of the applicant.

Nonetheless, it had been observed that vehicles of a non-agricultural nature related to the applicant's contracting business were being parked on the site.

(ii) For Consideration

The Council then considered the following applications:

09/00119/FUL: Mr. John Woodward: Retention of amenity area to holiday let/ancillary accommodation and retention of shed for mobility scooter (temporary period 5 years): "Cringleford", Lower Way, Upper Longdon

The Council objected to this proposal, as the development was inappropriate in the Green Belt and therefore by definition harmful.

The building could also be seen from Footpath No. 51 and detracted from the openness of the Green Belt and the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

09/00120/FUL: Mr. John Woodward: Retention of extension to existing stable block: "Cringleford", Lower Way, Upper Longdon

The Council had no objection to this proposal as, although the development was within the Green Belt and the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the proposal would not result in the extension of the stable block into the open countryside and would therefore appear to comply with national and local planning policies.

In relation to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Council did not consider that the proposal would cause harm.

09/00121/FUL: Mr. Philip Hamlet: Agricultural Determination –storage of foodstuff for cattle: Land situated off Giddywell Lane, Longdon

The Council objected to this application.

The Council was aware that it was a condition precedent that a building was "reasonably necessary" for the purposes of agriculture within the relevant unit in order for the application to be dealt with as an agricultural determination.

In this case, given the existing buildings already on the site, the limited extent of the holding and the limited extent of the agricultural activities on the land, the Council was of the opinion that this building failed the test of being "reasonably necessary", and, accordingly, specific planning permission was required for the erection of the buildings.

09/00153.LBC: Mrs. Dee Power: Various alterations to form a three-bedroom dwelling, including the addition of a conservatory: Millers Barn, Stockings Lane, Upper Longdon

The Council had no objection to this proposed development.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, Lichfield District Council had issued no Notice of Approval of Planning Permission relating to 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) Section 106 Agreement between Lichfield District Council, Timothy Hollinshead, Lynda Ann Hollinshead, Longdon Stud Limited, National Westminster Home Loans Limited and National Westminster Bank PLC

The Clerk reported that he had received a copy of the above document, which he had copied to the Chairman and Cllr. Stanfield.

The Chairman described it as “substantial”.

(b) Appeal by Mr. T. Cox – Site at Holly Farm, Chorley

The Clerk reported that this appeal had been withdrawn at the hearing opened on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr. Stanfield, who had attended the hearing, said that there had been some surprise that the District Council had not claimed costs when given the opportunity.

(c) The Grand Lodge, Horsey Lane

The Clerk reported that he had received from Glen H. Smith, Company Director, Park House Design, a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> February 2009, saying that he was eagerly awaiting the Parish Council’s comments with regard to scheme options tabled in order that he might again meet with the Local Authority’s Planning Departments respectively to obtain their views.”

As already reported, Mr. Smith had attended the present meeting and had been told that the Parish Council would not be formally commenting on the proposed amendments before receiving the plans.

## 6. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

No reports were submitted.

## 7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

(i) Conference – ‘Working with Ex-offenders’: Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at The Waterfront, Barton Marina, Burton-on-Trent, (times not given).

There is no conference fee.

“We have the active participation of Derbyshire Probation Service, NAVCA, local organisations that involve ex-offenders as volunteers and from us at the Volunteer Centre South Derbyshire”

(Email from Dave, Manager, Volunteer Centre, South Derbyshire, dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009 – sent via SPCA office)

(ii) Cannock Chase AONB Parish Councils' Meeting, Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at the Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Hall, Ravenhill Park, Main Road, Brereton, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

(Enclosures: Agenda, minutes of meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008, questionnaire, draft of Management Plan)

Unfortunately, neither Cllr. Butler nor Cllr. Welch would be able to attend this meeting, so it was unlikely that the Parish Council would be represented.

(iii) Lichfield District Safer Community Partnership Event: Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, at the Darnford Moors Golf Club, Darnford Lane, Lichfield, from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

(iv) Staffordshire Third Sector Network – A meeting to establish a country-wide Children's and Young People's Reference Group: Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, at the Staffordshire Girl-guiding Headquarters, Dorothy Dean Centre, St. Peter's School Site, Church Lane, Hixon, Stafford, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., followed by buffet lunch.

## 8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

### (i) Report of Meeting of Highways and Footpaths Committee

The Clerk presented a written report of a meeting of the Highways and Footpaths Committee held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 (*Appendix B*).

### (ii) Potholes in Malthouse Road and Dollymakers Hill

The Clerk reported that he had received from Mary Lee, Highways Inspector, Lichfield Highways Office, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, stating that, following the Clerk's letter, the site had been inspected and it had been found that there was a water leak causing deterioration of the carriageway.

In the first instance, contact had been made with South Staffs Water, who was responsible for problems relating to water problems. At the same time it had been decided that, if additional grips were opened up, it would assist with the dispersal of any surface water. The work had been undertaken during the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

Once the water leak had been repaired, her Department would be undertaking patching the area, which should resolve the problem with carriageway.

### (iii) Footpath Survey

The Clerk reported that the survey reports relating to Footpaths 32, 34, 41, 43, 50, 53, 55, 68, 71 and 72 had all been acknowledged by Dawn Plant, Rights of Way Assistant, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, in letters dated March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## 9. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

### (i) Gentleshaw Common

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 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009, regarding the proposal that the Parish Council should take over responsibility for the management of that area of Gentleshaw Common opposite Gentleshaw School.

This letter followed an earlier telephone conversation between Mr. Brown and the Clerk, during which Mr. Brown had emphasised that the District Council wanted the arrangement to go ahead and expressed the hope that agreement could be reached between the two Councils.

In response, the Chairman re-stated the Council's view that agreement could not be reached until the District Council conceded autonomy to the Parish Council over the area.

However, it was agreed that Mr. Brown should be invited to attend a second, less formal meeting in a further attempt to break the existing deadlock.

## 10. LAW AND ORDER

### (i) Joint Operations Group

The Clerk reported that he had received a summary of the main points of a meeting of the Joint Operations Group held on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### (ii) Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman reported that he had received the statistical report for February from Rob Nunn, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator.

The report had recorded the three criminal incidents in Longdon to which Sgt. Holroyd had earlier referred.

## 11. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### (i) Accounts for Payment

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

*E. A. Roy	Website hosting, support and maintenance for twelve months from 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2009	£ 130. 00
Christ Church, Gentleshaw	Hire of room – March 10 <sup>th</sup>	£ 10. 00
Longdon W. I.	Hire of W. I. Hall – March 5 <sup>th</sup>	£ 12. 00
W. B. Sullivan	Clerk's salary: £300. 00; Photocopying: £106. 06; Postage: £ 18. 63	£ 424. 69
Will Rose	Expenses incurred in co-ordinating footpath survey	£ 20. 00
Community Council of Staffordshire	Membership renewal	£ 20. 00

G. C. McCulloch	Removal of dead elm tree to rear of 11 St. James Close: Longdon: £370. 00; Cutting back elder and holly at Brook End Green: £180. 00	£ 550. 00
-----------------	---	-----------

(\* for confirmation)

(ii) Payments Received

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

Staffordshire County Council	Mowing Agreement	£ 674. 73
------------------------------	------------------	-----------

(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a:	£1455. 74	The Halifax s/a: £12009. 98
(less uncleared cheques:		
	<u>1447: £ 130. 00</u>	
	£ 1325. 74	

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, he had received no appeals for grant aid.

12. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETINGS

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Helen Relihan, Head of Fundraising, St. Giles Hospice, Whittington, a letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2009 (and received 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009), thanking the Council for its donation of £100. 00.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Stuart Poyner, Chief Executive, South Staffordshire NHS Primary Care Trust, a letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009, informing the Council that his Trust was that day publishing results from the first 'assurance' process for the world class commissioning programme.

The report could be accessed on the Trust's website [www.southstaffordshirepct.nhs.uk/](http://www.southstaffordshirepct.nhs.uk/)

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Karena Scowen, Customer Care Manager, KOMPLAN Limited, an email dated 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009, introducing a new simplified way of selecting play equipment for pathfinder/play builder, or any other open space community project.

This email had been forwarded by the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Viv Evans, Chief Executive, Staffordshire Parish Councils Association the following five emails:

- "We have added a new link to the well-being page on our website...." (25<sup>th</sup> February);
- "We have a link to the CiCLA website page on NALC's website...." (27<sup>th</sup> February);
- "Attached – my notes on well-being...." (27<sup>th</sup> February);



- (d) “Attached is legal advice from NALC with regard to the effect the European elections will have on the timescale for parish elections if you have any...  
Also attached is the link to the latest bulletin from the Standards Board....” (3<sup>rd</sup> March);
- (e) “NALC have just issued a briefing to say that a definite salary increase for last year has now been agreed....” (4<sup>th</sup> March).

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received from David Mousley, Managing Director, Clever Curves, a letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009, introducing his company as an established supplier of Skateparks for BMX, Inline and skateboarders.

(vi) The Clerk reported that he had received from Ian Bloor, Children and Lifelong Learning Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009, notifying the Council that a vacancy still existed for a LEA Governor at Gentleshaw School.

However, no Councillor expressed a wish to be nominated.

(vii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Julie Castree-Denton, Team Leader – Waste Planning Policy, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 advising the Council that a report was being presented to the County Council’s Planning Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 which would bring members up to date with the progress of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy.

The report could be found on the Staffordshire Planning Portal at [http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/Published/C00000137/M00000955/A100003473/\\$WasteCoreStrategy.DOCA.ps.pdf](http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/Published/C00000137/M00000955/A100003473/$WasteCoreStrategy.DOCA.ps.pdf).

### 13. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

- (i) From Heather Gibbons, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 1<sup>st</sup> March 2009;  
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 15<sup>th</sup> March 2009;  
Forward Plan – Version 1 – issued 13. 02. 2009 – effective for period 01. 03. 2009 – 30. 06. 2009.

- (ii) From The Licensing Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Licensing Act Application registered during w/e 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

- (iii) From The Electoral Registration officer, Lichfield District Council:

Monthly Applications for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009.

- (iv) From Holly Tunley, S3SN Admin. Assistant, Lichfield and District CVS:

S3SN E Bulletin: Issue No. 73, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

- (v) From Staffordshire County Council’s Ranger Service:

Countryside Events – March 2009.

- (vi) From Glyn Chapman, Development Services Directorate,

Staffordshire County Council:

Leaflet: "Ploughing and Cropping on Public Rights of Way  
– Code of Practice" (50 copies).

(vii) From The National Association of Local Councils:

"LCR": Volume 60 – March 2009.

(viii) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils Association:

Application Pack: The West Midlands C+ Carbon Positive Awards 2009.

(ix) From Anne Walker, AONB Office Manager, Cannock Chase AONB Unit:

Further draft of the Strategic Environment Assessment (Compatibility  
of Objectives).

(x) From St. Giles Hospice, Whittington:

Dates for your Diary 2009;

Invitation: Lunch at the Races with Bob Champion: Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>,  
2009, at The Old School House, Weeford, from 12. 30 p.m.

(tickets £29. 50 per person);

Entry Form: Solstice Walk: Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009, "within the  
atmospheric cathedral city of Lichfield", starting at 10. 00 p.m.

(entry fee £14. 00).

(xi) From Proludic UK, West Bridgford, Nottingham (by email):

"About Play": Issue 9, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

(xii) From Centrewire Limited, Cheadle, Staffs:

Design for Easy Access to Rights of Way: Catalogue 08.

#### 14. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No matters were raised.

#### 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.