

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD IN THE W. I. HALL,
LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14TH, 2009

Present: Cllr. Hemmingsley (Chairman); Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. B. J. Butler;
Cllr. A. J. Juxon; and Cllr. Mrs. J. A. Russell.

Also present were the Clerk, County Councillor F. W. Lewis, MBE,
and Mr. Richard Clarke, of Brook End, Longdon.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. The Rev. J. R. Andrews; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; Cllr. N. Stanfield;
Cllr. S. K. Welch; and Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District Council.

Also absent were Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett and Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in Christ Church, Gentleshaw, on Tuesday, March 10th, 2009, were,
on a motion proposed by Cllr. Juxon and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Russell, approved and signed.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public was present, Mr. Clarke having left after presenting the Chairman with a letter.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Flooding in Stockings Lane

Cllr. Lewis updated Councillors on developments in Stockings Lane, where there had been a site meeting
between Mrs. Dee Power, one of the affected landowners,
Mr. Clive Thompson, the Area Surveyor, and himself.

Mrs. Power had pointed out that there had never been a drain adjacent to her land, and it had also been
established that the pipe which had been put in on the opposite side was too low to prevent the flow of water.

However, a third landowner had been identified, and Mr. Thomson had undertaken to visit him and come to
some arrangement with him over maintaining the flow of surface water in the ditch adjacent to his land.

(ii) Longdon Memorial Hall and Longdon Club & Institute

The Chairman reported that both were now on the Parish Website, the former as one of the Parish's village
halls.

(iii) Gentleshaw Common

The Chairman reported that, following a telephone conversation which he had had with John Brown, the
District Council's Land and Property Manager, concerning the Parish Council's reluctance to enter into an
agreement with the District Council for the management of that part of Gentleshaw Common opposite School
while the condition that the District Council's consent must be obtained before any scheme could be
implemented, Mr. Brown had agreed that the phrase "subject to the prior consent of the District Council" would
be withdrawn on the understanding that the Parish Council would keep the District Council informed of any
proposals for the site.

5. PLANNING

(i) Report of Planning Committee

The Chairman reported that, since the last meeting, the Planning Committee had considered the following planning applications:

09/00252/COU: Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Burt: Conversion of existing barn to a two-bedroom dwelling: Rookery Farm, Giddywell Lane, Longdon

It had been the Committee's understanding that it had been originally proposed to convert this building to a dwelling as part of the overall scheme for the site, but that this had been found to be unacceptable.

While the Parish Council did not know the reasons, it appeared from the statement made by the applicant's agent that planning permission had been subsequently granted for the use of the buildings as a garage, office and store associated with Rookery Farm, the occupiers of which had since constructed what was substantially a new building for this purpose, hence this application.

It had appeared to the Committee that this proposal was unsatisfactory in that there was very little amenity area, it represented over-development of the site, and the proposed design detracted significantly from the agrarian appearance of the building.

09/00258/COU: Mr. Paul Williams: Retention of garden shed: Broomy Lodge, Broomy Fields, Hay Lane, Longdon Green

There had been no objection to this application.

Whilst acknowledging the restriction on the original conversion, it had been considered that the location and ongoing screening would not adversely affect the openness.

While the building could be seen from the footpath that crossed the adjacent field and it might be preferable to site it nearer to the dwelling, given the planting that had taken place, it would soon be substantially screened from public view.

(ii) For Consideration

The Council then considered the following applications:

09/00338/FUL: Mr. Derek Jessop: Two-storey extension to form kitchen/breakfast room, bedroom and en suite: 6, Stockings Lane, Longdon

The Council had no objection to this application

09/00350/COU: Mr. Alan Showell: Remove existing chimney, replace windows and rear door and construct new canopy: Hill Top Cottage, Hill Top, Longdon Green

The Council had no objection to this application provided that it conformed to prevailing Listed Building conservation policies.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

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

09/00050/FUL: D. W. Cope Partners: Erection of temporary classroom and toilet to facilitate educational visits under Higher Level Stewardship (7 years): Beadesert Park Farm, Horsey Lane, Upper Longdon

(iv) Refused by Lichfield District Council

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, Lichfield District Council had issued the following Notices of Refusal of Planning Permission relating to the Parish of Longdon:

09/00121/FUL: Mr. John Woodward: Retention and cladding in timber of storage containers for use as a feed store/tack room: "Cringleford", Lower Way, Upper Longdon

REASON FOR REFUSAL:

1. The storage containers constitute inappropriate development within the Green Belt which cause harm to its openness and visual amenity. No special circumstances have been put forward which would outweigh the resultant harm to the openness of the Green Belt. Furthermore, the containers, by reason of their materials, scale and design, fail to conserve or enhance the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and have a detrimental impact on the natural beauty of the area.

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

REASON(S) FOR REFUSAL:

1. The site lies within the Green Belt where permission is normally only granted for certain specific development. This includes development related to agriculture. However, it is considered that, in this instance, the justification put forward by the applicant for the mobile home does not meet the financials set out in PPS7 and the development is therefore inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

2. The mobile home would result in harm to the openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt by reason of its prominent siting and extent of its residential curtilage.

(v) Withdrawal of Application

The Clerk reported that he had received from Claire Billings, Development Control Manager, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 17th March 2009 informing the Council that Planning Application No. 09/00152/ABN (Storage of Foodstuff for cattle stuff for cattle on land situated off Giddywell Lane, Longdon) had been withdrawn on 16th March 2009.

(vi) Notice of Appeal

The Clerk reported that he had received from Claire Billings, Development Control Manager, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 18th March 2009, notifying the Council that an appeal had been made to the Planning Inspectorate against the decision of Lichfield District Council to refuse planning permission for the erection of a three-bedroom dormer bungalow and detached double garage on land to the rear of "Meadow View", Lower Way, Upper Longdon; and advising the Council that, if it wished to modify or add to the comments which it had already made, it should write in triplicate to the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol within six weeks of the appeal starting date.

However, it was decided that the Council did not wish to amend or expand on its earlier comments.

(vii) Removal of Planning Application from Planning Register

Finally, the Clerk reported that he had received from Della Templeton, Senior Planning Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a copy of a letter dated 24th March 2009 which she had written to CT Planning, Trafalgar House, Market Street, Lichfield, informing them that Planning Application No. 07/00323/FUL (Various alterations and extensions for education use (revised scheme of approval) at The Coach House, Longdon Hall, Longdon) had been removed from the planning register.

6. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) Lichfield District Parish Forum: April 6th

The Clerk presented a written 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 Monday, April 6th, 2009 (*Appendix A*).

After he had drawn the attention of the meeting to Longdon Parish Council's concerns over absenteeism, it had been agreed to include responsible membership on the agenda of the next meeting, which was due to be held in September.

7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, he had received notice of the following meetings and forthcoming events:

(i) "Local Leadership 2020": Wednesday, April 8th, 2009, at the Government Office West Midlands, St. Philips Place, Birmingham, from 10. 00 a.m. to 3. 00 p.m.

This meeting was intended primarily for Councils which had achieved Quality Parish Council status or were aspiring to achieve it.

(ii) Public Meeting: Friday, April 24th, 2009, in Longdon Memorial Hall, Brook End, Longdon, commencing 8. 00 a.m.

A proposal to provide a community Bowling Green in its field at the rear of the Memorial Hall is a current major project for the Longdon Club and Institute which is now seeking opinions and suggestions on and support for this proposal.

(iii) Campaign to Protect Rural England (Staffordshire Branch) – Annual General Meeting: Saturday, April 25th, 2009, at the Dorothy Clive Garden, Willoughbridge, Market Drayton, at 2. 00 p.m.

There would be addressed by Chris Welch, of the Community Council of Staffordshire, and Gary Rowe and Cathy Luff, of Tutbury Hydro Scheme.

(iv) Cannock Chase AONB Dog Activity Day: Saturday May 9th, 2009. at Birches Valley Forestry Centre, near Rugeley, from 11. 00 a.m. to 4. 00 p.m.

(v) N17 Conference – "Creating an Environment for a Thriving Third Sector in Staffordshire": Tuesday, June 23rd, 2009, at The County Showground, Stafford (no time given).

National, regional and local speakers would explore how a thriving relationship between the third sector and public bodies could have a positive impact during times of economic adversity.

The New Staffordshire Compact and the Staffordshire Third Sector Commissioning Framework would also be launched at this event.

A formal invitation would be issued during April.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Street Cleaning in Upper Way

The Clerk reported that he had received from Alan Deakin, Assistant Supervisor for Ground Maintenance, Operational Services, Lichfield District Council, a recorded telephone message informing him that Upper Way was swept at three-monthly intervals.

It had last been swept on January 14th and would next be swept on April 20th.

(ii) Community Gangs

The Clerk reported that he had received from Kevin Wawrzynczyk, Local Highway Officer, Lichfield Highway Office, Development Services Directorate,

Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 16th March 2009, explaining that the task of clearing the footway between Bradley Lakes and Brereton Hill Lane was too big a job for the Community Gang in one visit.

It would, however, be put on the system for possible inclusion on the next visit as a “fill in” job, but that would be assessed nearer the time.

The Clerk further reported that he had received a second letter from Mr. Wawrzynczyk, dated 17th March 2009, confirming that the task of clearing the path in Church Hollow had been programmed for the gang’s next visit.

(iii) Grange Hill

The Clerk reported that he had received from Richard Harris, Assistant Divisional Highway Manager, Lichfield Highways Office, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 18th March 2009, informing the Council that he was currently in the process of checking the Highway Authority’s legal position in relation to this matter and would comment once he was in possession of all the information required.

It was pointed out that the County Council had already acknowledged that the embankment was within the highway verge, and the Clerk was instructed to send copies of past correspondence to Cllr. Lewis.

(iv) Traffic in Darlings Lane, School Lane, Malthouse Road and Dollymakers Hill, Gentleshaw

The Clerk reported that he had received from Tim Buxton, Traffic Management Technician, Lichfield Highways Office, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 31st March 2009 in response to the Parish Council’s suggestion for improved road markings in these lanes.

Mr. Buxton re-iterated his belief, which he had made in an earlier letter, that an over-proliferation of “SLOW” road markings would be detrimental to the effectiveness of the existing ones.

He also pointed out that there were already warning signs for the Windmill Bank junction and at the top of Dollymakers Hill.

He believed that white centre lines would not guarantee that vehicles could or would be able to stay within them owing to the narrowness of the road and would therefore have little effect.

Mr. Buxton also believed that the majority of motorists using these lanes were regular users and already knew the road, so additional lining would have little effect on their driving habits.

It was his view that the proposals would not have a positive effect on road safety, but would rather serve only to spoil the appearance of this picturesque rural occasion.

There was general agreement amongst Councillors that Mr. Buxton’s conclusions were reasonable and that the matter should no longer be pursued.

The Clerk was instructed to send a copy of Mr. Buxton’s letter to Mr. Tony Ellis, the parishioner who had first raised the issue.

(v) Pot Holes in Stoneywell Lane and Giddywell Lane, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Kevin Wawrzynczyk, the Local Highway Officer, a letter dated 1st April 2009, informing the Council that the pot holes in Stoneywell Lane had previously been identified on his Department’s Poems system.

He thanked the Council for drawing attention to the pot holes in Giddywell Lane, which had been programmed for repair, adding that Category 3 repairs were usually completed within twenty-eight days.

(vi) Emptying Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk reported that he had received a phone call from S & S Garden Clearance, of 1 Trent Valley Cottages, Streethay, Lichfield, asking if the firm could quote for emptying the Parish Council’s dog waste bins.

The caller had assured the Clerk that the firm already held a licence to collect waste.

The Clerk was instructed to send details of the number of bins and the current frequency of collection, as requested.

9. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Meeting of Greens and Open Spaces Committee: April 28th

Councillors were reminded that there would be a meeting of the Greens and Open Spaces Committee in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, April 28th, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

10. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(i) Change of Gentleshaw Venue

The Chairman proposed that, in view of the limited accommodation available in Gentleshaw Church, an alternative venue should be sought.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Juxon and seconded by Cllr. Butler, it was agreed that the Chairman should approach the Chairman of the Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall to see whether a suitable room would be available on the appropriate evening in that Hall.

(ii) Arrangements for Annual Assembly

The Clerk reported that the St. James School Hall had been booked for the evening of the Annual Assembly and that he had written to local organisations inviting them to contribute an annual report.

He had also written to the President of Longdon Women's Institute asking if members would once again serve refreshments.

It was agreed that the evening's programme should be the same as previous years.

(iii) Annual Meeting

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the next meeting would be the Annual Meeting at which a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman would have to be elected.

Pressure of business had led Cllr. Stanfield, the present Vice-Chairman, to decide that he could not accept the office of Chairman, if nominated, and he had indeed been thinking of resigning from the Council, which, it was unanimously agreed, would be a great loss to both the Parish Council and the community.

Cllr. Hemmingsley added that, to avoid this, he was willing to continue as Chairman for the next few months in the hope that Cllr. Stanfield's business problems would be soon resolved, but the Council might still have to elect a Vice-Chairman, and he asked Councillors to give some thought to a choice of candidate.

11. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

(i) Roadside Display of Competition Posters

The Clerk reported that he had the previous week attended a meeting of Competition judges at which he had questioned the desirability of displaying Competition posters on the highway verge.

He had pointed out that, while Longdon Parish Council had decided against this practice, limiting their display to notice-boards throughout the villages, the Council was using other methods of advertising the Competition, referring to it in the Easter issue of "Longdon Life", enclosing one of the Competition handbills in each copy distributed and publicising it on the Parish Website.

Initially, the Chairman of the Working Group had seemed sympathetic, but had later insisted that he would expect to see Competition posters at the roadside at the entrance to any competing village.

He had also asked for evidence that the Competition was being advertised through the Parish Newsletter, a request which the Clerk had since met.

By the end of the discussion, the Clerk had concluded that he could no longer continue as one of the Competition judges.

(ii) Progress Report

The Clerk said that he had written to both St. James School and Longdon Pre-School asking them to provide posters.

He would be writing to last year's volunteers, asking them to continue their support.

Two new replacement flower tubs had been purchased, the one for Brereton Hill Lane, the other for Giddywell Lane.

Cllr. Butler agreed to treat the notice-board in Upper Way, which was in need of touching up with paint.

12. LAW AND ORDER(i) Joint Operations Group

The Clerk reported that he had received summaries of the main points discussed at meetings of the Joint Operations Group held on Thursday, 12th March, 2009, and Thursday, 26th March, 2009, together with a list of incidents of fly-capture from April 2008 to the end of February 2009.

Not surprisingly, the only part of the Longdon parish where fly-tipping had been recorded was Gentleshaw Common.

(ii) Visit of PC Andy Brown to Longdon: March 14th

The Chairman reported that PC Andy Brown, the local Community Beat Officer, had held a public consultation at Longdon Village Hall between 9. 00 a.m. and 10. 15 a.m. on Saturday, March 14th, but had been consulted by only one parishioner.

He would be holding his next consultation on Saturday, May 2nd.

(iii) Neighbourhood Watch Crime Log

The Chairman reported that only one incident had been recorded in the parish during March – a window had been smashed at a dwelling in Upper Way and jewellery stolen.

13. FINANCIAL MATTERS(i) Accounts for Payment

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

*≠Instaprint, Rugeley	Printing 700 copies of "Longdon Life" and 600 inserts	£330. 87
*≠Hazel Crosbie	Delivering "Longdon Life" and inserts	£ 45. 00
*≠A.J. Juxon	Editor's expenses	£ 15. 00
Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall – April 14th	£ 12. 00
Staffordshire County Council	Hire of St. James School Hall for Annual Assembly	£ 30. 00
Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	Membership Fee	£374. 00

≠W. B. Sullivan	2 half barrels @ £22. 00 each: £44. 00;	
	2 bags of compost @ £3. 00 each: £6. 00:	
	1 bag of pebbles for drainage @ £6. 00:	
		£ 56. 00
	<i>(re-imburement)</i>	

Campaign to Protect Rural England	Annual Subscription	£ 20. 00
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(*confirmation ≠payment made under Section 137)

(ii) Payments Received

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

Staffordshire County Council	Highway Maintenance Agreement	£680. 00
e-on Central Networks	Wayleaves – Longdon Green	£ 35. 07
A. W. Johnson	Advertisement: “Longdon Life”	£ 6. 00

(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a (as at 1 st April 2009):	£1170. 18	The Halifax s/a: £12509. 98
less unpaid cheques:	<u>£ 92. 00</u>	
	£1078. 18	

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

The Clerk reported that the following appeals for grant aid had been received:

(a) Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Country Fayre

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Bird and seconded by Cllr. Butler, it was agreed to donate £100. 00 to the cost of this year’s Fayre, subject to receiving a completed Grant Application Form.

(b) St. James Church, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Val Shand, Secretary of the Parochial Church Council of St. James the Great, Longdon, a letter dated 30th March 2009 in which she had asked if the Parish Council would contribute to the cost of maintaining the churchyard, which cost the PCC £1500. 00 annually.

In addition, the PCC was this year facing a bill of £1900. 00 for taking down and burying hazardous memorials.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Juxon and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Russell, it was agreed that the Council should meet the full cost of making safe the memorial stones.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Russell and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, it was further agreed to make an additional donation of £1000. 00 towards the cost of the general maintenance of the churchyard.

Both these grants were made conditional on receiving a completed Grant Application Form.

(c) Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall

The Clerk reported that that he had received from the Treasurer of the Management Committee of the Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall an application for a grant towards the cost of a project to upgrade security at the Hall, the total cost of which had been given as between £8182. 62 and £10,321. 25, depending on the level of security required.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Butler and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, it was agreed to make a donation of £1500. 00 towards the total cost, this being the sum requested.

(d) Other Applications

The Clerk reported that, in addition to the above, the Council had received an application for grant aid from Longdon Cricket Club and The Open Spaces Society, but too late to include on the agenda.

It was agreed that these applications should be considered at the next meeting.

Cllr. Juxon also advised the Council that the War Memorial in St. James Church, which formed part of the pulpit, was in need of repair, and he expected the local branch of the Royal British Legion to approach the Council for financial assistance in carrying out the repair.

(v) Financial Statement for Fourth and Final Quarter of Financial Year ending 31st March 2009

The Clerk distributed copies of a Financial Statement for the financial year just ended.

It was agreed that this should be considered in detail at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and presented for formal adoption by the Council at its next meeting.

(vi) Interim Internal Audit

The Clerk reported that Alan Toplis, the Independent Internal Auditor, had carried out an interim audit of the Parish Council's accounts on March 26th.

Although he had not yet received a written report from Mr. Toplis, Mr. Toplis had suggested to him that the Council should consider reducing the size of its reserves and either increasing its Fidelity Guarantee or limiting the number of its signatories.

It was agreed that these matters which should be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its next meeting.

(vii) Notice of Annual Audit

The Clerk reported that he had received notice of this year's Annual Audit, the dates of which would be as follows:

Date of Announcement of Audit: July 6th;

Date between which all financial records should be available for inspection by interested parties: July 20th – August 14th;

Date on which the Auditor should receive completed Return of Annual Return:

August 17th.

14. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Deborah Barnish, of angel tomney design and beautiful gardens, Whittington, a letter dated 9th March 2009, asking if her firm could be included on the Parish Council's list of preferred contractors.

He added that he had also received a letter from Simon Roberts, Managing Director of the firm, dated 2nd April 2009, making the same request.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Ruth Plant, Director, Operational Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 10th March 2009, informing the Council that, from 23^d March, Lichfield District Council would be responsible for patrolling the streets and issuing tickets (penalty charge notices) across the district to anyone parked wrongly on streets with yellow lines or other types of parking bays.

She had asked the Council to draw the attention of its residents to the change which was taking place and had enclosed copies of a leaflet which explained in more detail what was happening.

The Clerk added that these were being displayed on the Parish Council's notice-boards.

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Peter Holliday, Group Chief Executive, St. Giles Hospice, Whittington, a letter dated March 2009, thanking the Council for its continued support of the Hospice.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Viv Evans, Chief Executive, Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, an email dated 23rd March 2009, informing member-Councils of new funding, the launch of a comprehensive proposal for a new "Post Bank" to run as part of the Post Office Network, practical advice for dealing with unstable memorials, and a reminder of a seminar at the Guildhall Lichfield, on April 28th on markets.

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received from Andrew Halden, Contracts Manager, Community Council of Staffordshire, an email dated 30th March 2009, giving details of the 2009 Calor Staffordshire Village of the Year Competition.

(vi) The Clerk reported that he had received from Louise Atkin, Office and Studio Manager, Phd design, The Barn at Common Farm, Riley Hill, Lichfield, an email dated 31st March 2009, enquiring on behalf of a client whether the Council published a parish magazine and, if so, how often it appeared, when the next issue was due and what the cost of advertising in it would be.

The Clerk added that the enquiry had been referred to Cllr. Juxon, as Editor of "Longdon Life".

(vii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Chris Stanley, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 7th April 2009, enclosing a poster/flyer about the new Burntwood Health and Wellbeing Centre which had been opened recently.

Copies of this poster had been put up on each of the Parish Council's notice-boards.

(viii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Anna Reeves, Staffordshire Project Officer, British Trust of Conservation Volunteers, an undated letter informing the Council that her organisation, the UK's largest Conservation charity, was currently looking for projects in a local community.

The basic cost of a BTCY project was £230 a day.

(ix) The Clerk reported that he had received from Alan Tooth, Revenue Manager, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 7th April 2009, in which he informed the Council that the three premises identified as not appearing on the District Council's list of business premises had been referred to the Inland Revenue Valuation Office Agency for a decision on their rateability.

(x) The Clerk reported that he had received from Ruth Hytch, AONB Officer, Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a letter dated 8th April 2009, in which she had referred to concerns over the dwindling attendance at meetings by invited parish councils and asked the Parish Council to complete and return a questionnaire by Friday, 26th June 2009.

15. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 29th March 2009;
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 12th April 2009;
Forward Plan – Version 1 – Issued 17. 03. 09 – Effective for Period
01. 04. 2009 – 31. 07. 2009.

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

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 13. 03. 09;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 27. 03, 09 & 03. 04. 09;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 09. 04. 09.

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

Register of Electors 2009 – Monthly Applications for 1st April 2009.

- (iv) From The Chief Fire Officer, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service:

Safety Plan News – Spring 2009.

- (v) From Holly Tunley, S3SN Admin Assistant, Lichfield & District CVS:

E Bulletin - Issue No. 74, 16th March 2009;
E Bulletin - Issue No. 75, 27th March 2009;
E Bulletin - Issue No. 78, 3rd April 2009;
E Bulletin - Issue No. 77, 9th April 2008.

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

Newsletter – March 2009
(enclosures: letter from Great Wyrley Garden Supplies;
including a company profile and 'a brief list of satisfied customers';
Vacancies for Clerk and RPO at Cheslyn Hay and Hints with Canwell
Parish Councils);
Notice of two training events at Burton-on-Trent: Wellbeing (April 21st)
and New Councillor Training (April 28th);
"Proposed Change to the Local Building Control Changing Regime"
- Consultation Paper (53 pages, sent by email).

- (vii) From The National Association of Local Councils:

Request (under the Freedom of Information Act 2000) for information
from an independent film broadcasting company, "Films of Record", for
information from burial authorities for a feature in a future BBC
Panorama programme (on testing and toppling gravestones).

(viii) From The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:

“Staffordshire Wildlife”: No. 105, April 2009;
“Natural World”: Issue 85, Spring 2009;
Cannock Group: Dates for Your Diary – May to August 2009;
Ruby Raffle 2009 (10 tickets @ £1. 00 each);
“Hunt out your unwanted mobile phone...” (recycling envelope).

(ix) From The Open Spaces Society:

“Open Space”: Spring 2209, Volume 29, No, 4.

(x) From St. Giles Hospice, Whittington:

St. Giles Hospice News: Spring/Summer 2009.

(xi) From The Cannock Chase AONB Unit:

AONB News: Spring 2009.

(xii) From KOMPLAN, Milton Keynes:

Seminar series: “New Developments in Play and Risk”.

(xiii) From GOPAK, Hythe, Kent:

Promotional card.

16. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Bird asked whether the Clerk was receiving copies of the minutes of meetings of the Longdon Village Hall Management Committee

The Clerk replied that he had not recently received a copy.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 12th, 2009, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon.

This meeting would immediately follow the Annual Meeting, which would begin at 7. 30 p.m.