

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD IN THE W. I. HALL,  
LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2010

Before the commencement of the meeting, Cllr. Mrs. Gina Duckett signed a Declaration of the Acceptance of Office of Chairman.

Present: Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett (Chairman); Cllr. The Rev. J. R. Andrews;  
Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. B. J. Butler; Cllr. R. A. G. Clarke;  
Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; Cllr. K. C. Taylor; and Cllr. S. K. Welch.

Also present were the Clerk, and three parishioners – Mr. R. D. Bindless, Mr. C. D. Cherry and Mr. M. J. Nash.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. A. J. Juxon; Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District Council; and County Councillor F. W. Lewis, MBE.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Butler, approved and signed.

3. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

The Council proceeded to the co-option of two new members of the Council.

After Mr. Bindless withdrew his application on the grounds that his future in the parish was now uncertain, Mr. Cherry was, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Butler and seconded by Cllr. Taylor, co-opted to fill the vacancy in the Longdon Ward, and

Mr. Nash was, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Meere and seconded by Cllr. Andrews, co-opted to fill the vacancy in the Gentleshaw Ward.

Both then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took their places on the Council.

Councillors thanked Mr. Bindless for his interest in joining the Council and expressed the hope that he would renew his interest once his circumstances allowed.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Bindless indicated that he did wish to address the Council.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Resignation of Cllr. Hemmingsley

It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should write to the former Councillor expressing the Council's appreciation of all his hard work on behalf of the Council both as Councillor and Chairman of the Council.

## 6. PLANNING

### (i) Report of Planning Committee

10/00013/FUL: Rajinder Dhanao: Single-storey extension to form swimming pool: Park House, Lower Way, Upper Longdon

The Council had objected to this application on the grounds of over-development of the site. If granted, it would mean that, including the garage, the buildings ancillary to the actual dwelling would cover a footprint almost equal to that of the dwelling itself.

It was also noted that the property was within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the proposed extension would extend to the very edge of the forest.

10/00029/FUL: Goldcycle Ltd.: Construction of twelve additional stables ancillary to the equestrian use of Brook Farm: Land at Brook Farm, Chorley

The Council had objected to this application.

Planning officers were asked to recall that, approximately twelve months ago, an appeal in relation to the change of use of some existing stables to offices was withdrawn on the grounds that they were no longer needed following a decline in business. Councillors were therefore surprised to find that the applicants were now claiming to have twenty-two stables and were preparing to add a further twelve, all of which would be accessed from a public bridleway.

Furthermore, it was believed that the stables would have an adverse effect on the openness of this part of the Green Belt and would be clearly seen from the bridleway.

10/00030/FUL: Goldcycle Ltd.: Change of use of land to site a portacabin for use as a messroom and rest room ancillary to the equestrian use (retrospective): Land at Brook Farm, Chorley

Without prejudice to the comments relating to Planning Application No. 10/00029/FUL above, the Council also believed that the portacabin was of an inappropriate design and that the amenities should instead be sited within the existing stable block.

10/00034/FUL: Mr. Andrew Moore: Siting of temporary (three years) mobile home for agricultural worker (Revised application following refusal of application 09/00105/FUL in March 2009): Benbrook Farm, Stonywell Lane, Longdon Green

The Council had objected to this application, believing that, if granted even on a temporary basis, the Planning Authority would have no choice but to grant consent to the planning application which would inevitably follow for a permanent building on this site.

The Parish Council had objected to the previous application, which was refused, and could see no significant change to the original plan.

10/00036/FUL: Mr. Steve Maritza: Conservatory to rear: 68, Upper Way, Upper Longdon

The Council had had no objection to this application.

10/00037/FUL: Mr. David Davies: Single- and two-storey extensions to form living-room, dining-room and bedrooms: "Greensleeves", Lower Way, Upper Longdon

The Council had had no objection to this application.

(ii) For Consideration

There were no further planning applications for the Council 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:

09/01375/FUL: Mrs. Dee Power: Erection of stable block comprising of two stables, tack room and store: Millers Barn, Stockings Lane, Upper Longdon

(iv) Refused by Lichfield District Council

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

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Parish Council's complaint regarding District Council's handling of planning applications relating to The Grand Lodge

The final draft of the above complaint was approved by Councillors, and the Clerk was instructed to submit it to the District Council's Chief Executive.

(b) Fir Tree Cottage, Dollymakers Hill, Gentleshaw

The Clerk reported that he had received from Chris Hibbs, Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement), Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, an email dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010, in which she apologised for the delay in responding to the Parish Council's report that the above premises were now being used for commercial purposes, that is, the sale of logs, informed the Council that her Enforcement Assistant had that day visited the site and promised that she would let the Council know what action her Department would be taking once she had discussed the outcome of his inspection with him.

## 7. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) SPCA Lichfield Area Committee

The Clerk presented a written report on a meeting of the Lichfield Area Committee of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, which had taken place in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (*Appendix A*).

## 8. 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) Big Green Fair: Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at Whittington Village Hall, from 11.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

(ii) Funding Fair: Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at Oakdene Day Centre, Sycamore Road, Chasetown, from 4. 00 p.m. to 6. 00 p.m.

(iii) SPCA Training Seminar on VAT: Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at The Peel Building, St. Chad's Place, Stafford, from 2. 00 p.m. to 4. 00 p.m.  
Cost: £20. 00 1<sup>st</sup> delegate; £15. 00 2<sup>nd</sup> delegate; £10. 00 3<sup>rd</sup> delegate.

(iv) Highways and Footpaths Committee: Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon. commencing at 7. 30 p.m.

(v) The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens – Regional Conference: Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in The Kolo Building, Spon End, Coventry, from 10. 00 a.m. to 4. 00 p.m.  
Members: £10. 00, non-members £25. 00.

(“The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens exists to support, represent and promote community-managed farms across the United Kingdom”)

(vi) Beau Desert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Trust: Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in The Conservatory, The Park Gate Inn, Park Gate Road, Cannock Wood, commencing at 8. 00 p.m.

## 9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

### (i) Footpath Survey

The Clerk reported that he had received the following reports from Dominic Willmore, Rights of Way Assistant, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council:

#### Footpath No. 42 (Smithy Lane – Stonywell Lane)

“...The County Ranger has issued a job sheet for the footplate to be repaired...”  
(Report dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010)

#### Footpath No. 63 (Stonywell)

“...The landowner has re-hung the gates on this path and the County Ranger way-marked it accordingly. The issue of reinstating the path is still being investigated...” (Report dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010)

#### Footpath No. 71 (Smithy Lane)

“...The issues that you raised with regards to the path not being re-instated are still being investigated...”  
(Report dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010)

#### Footpath No. 72 (Brook End)

“The County Ranger inspected this path on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009. The line of the path and the stiles have been cleared of any undergrowth. This was done on the day of the inspection. The Ranger has also mended the step to one of the stiles...” (Report dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010)

(ii) Traffic Congestion in Horsey Lane, Longdon, and Bardy Lane, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had heard expressions of concern over the volume of traffic likely to be generated in these lanes once the owners of Beaudesert Park Farm were receiving visits from schools (estimated at three a week), and he suggested that the owners might be urged to advise coach companies to approach the farm only from Borough Lane when sending out directions.

Cllr. Welch undertook to seek the co-operation of the owners in this matter.

(iii) Neighbourhood Highway Teams

The Clerk reported that he had received from Wayne Mortiboys, Group Manager – Community Highway Liaison, Staffordshire Highways, a letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010, informing the Council that, in view of the need to concentrate resources on patching the numerous pot-holes resulting from the current extended cold spell, visits from the Neighbourhood Highway Team would be suspended until at least the week commencing February 15<sup>th</sup>, depending on how long the cold spell continued.

Mr. Mortiboys also warned that, owing to a national shortage, stocks of grit were also low, but added that, if any Parish Council felt that particularly dangerous locations were being exposed to risk, it should contact its Local County Member, who had been advised how to liaise with Mr. Mortiboys' staff, who would assess the need for hand-gritting.

(iv) Traffic Calming in Upper Way, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had also received from Mr. Mortiboys a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010, to which he had attached a copy of his letter to Michael Fabricant, MP, dated 5th October 2009.

In this letter he had pointed out that the average speed recorded using automatic traffic data counters had been within two miles per hour of the posted speed limit, which was considered to be a good level of compliance.

Moreover, comparisons being made with other areas around Lichfield were unfortunate, since traffic volumes along Upper Way were very low; the two-way flow was less than 100 vehicles an hour for the majority of the day, and even during the peak hours there were less than 200 hundred vehicles.

There had been no accidents in the past five years, and he praised the efforts of the volunteers involved in the Community Speedwatch, which he thought had been at least partly responsible for this statistic.

However, he did not wish to raise any expectations of traffic calming through the village, as there were far greater priorities countrywide which called on the limited budgets available.

In his letter to the Parish Council, Mr. Mortiboys pointed out that, under the Local Government and Rating Act of 1997, it was possible for Parish Councils to fund traffic-calming works where the expenditure would be of benefit to their area, though the introduction of localised traffic calming features would cost in the region of £6000, including noticing and consultation.

Cllr. Butler re-iterated his earlier point that what residents were now demanding was that Upper Way should be regularly visited by a Highway Safety Team, and it was agreed that PC Brown, the Community Beat Officer, to press for such visits.

## 10. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Report of Greens and Open Spaces Committee

Cllr. Welch presented a written report on a meeting of the Highways and Footpaths Committee which had taken place in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (*Appendix B*).

(ii) Mowing Contract 2010

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Taylor, it was agreed that Graham McCulloch should be offered a one-year extension to the two-year contract awarded to him in 2008.

Four additional sites should be included – the highway verge in Church Hill, Longdon Green, and the three grassed areas at the junctions of the A51 at Brereton Hill Lane, High Street and Borough Lane.

The contract should also include terms of payment.

## 11. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

### (i) Election of Vice-Chairman

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Taylor, Cllr. Butler was nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

There were no other nominations, and Cllr. Butler was duly elected.

### (ii) Appointment of LEA Governor at Gentleshaw School

Cllr. Andrews reported that Cllr. Clarke would be attending the Governors' Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> to acquaint himself with the powers and responsibilities of School Governors.

### (iii) Parish Website

The Chairman reported that she had received from Karen and Paul Dawson, of 2 Swan Close, Longdon, an Improved Remit Proposal for Longdon Parish Website, in which they offered to take over the hosting of the Longdon Parish Website and perform all updates "on demand" as and whenever required for the sum of £120. 00.

Copies of the documents had been distributed by the Clerk to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

The former Chairman had updated the Website and was prepared to continue to do so for the immediate future, but it was recognised that there was a need to find someone to replace him without undue delay.

However, it was accepted that other applications should be sought before a decision was taken, and agreed that an invitation to submit applications should be published on the Website and in "Longdon Life". Applicants should be asked what other websites they had designed.

## 12. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2010

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Juxon had drafted new maps, which, he thought, were attractive in appearance and fully met past criticism by Competition judges of the maps used in previous years.

He asked for and was given permission to replace the flower tub at the bottom of Grange Hill which had been destroyed in a road accident over the Christmas period.

## 13. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### (i) Accounts for Payment

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

Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall – January 19 <sup>th</sup> : £12. 00	
	Hire of Hall – February 9 <sup>th</sup> : £12. 00	
		£ 24. 00
Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett	Two tickets for the Lichfield District Council Chairman's Ball (Chairman' Allowance)	£ 70. 00

(\*confirmation            ≠payment made under Section 137)

(ii) Payments Received

Staffordshire County Council	Mowing Agreement	£688. 00
Mrs. Olwyn Bennett	Advertisement: "Longdon Life"	£ 24. 00

(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a:	£1804. 65	The Halifax s/a:	£14016. 21
<u>less uncleared cheques</u>			
	<u>1514: £ 24. 00</u>		
	£1780. 65		

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

(a) Longdon Pre-School

The Clerk reported that he had received a completed Grant Application Form from Christine Wilson, Manager of Longdon Pre-School, in support of an application for a grant of £500. 00 towards the cost of play area security.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Clarke and seconded by Cllr. Bird, it was agreed that the Council would make the grant of £500. 00.

(b) Longdon Village Hall Management Committee

The Clerk reported that he had received a completed Grant Application Form from Neil Vyse, Chairman of the Longdon Village Hall Management Committee, in support of an application for a grant of £1500. 00 towards the cost of security fencing to the side and rear of the Village Hall.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Bird, it was agreed that the Council should make the grant of £1500. 00.

*Having declared an interest as Treasurer of the Management Committee, Cllr. Mrs. Duckett vacated the Chair in favour of Cllr. Butler.*

(c) Other Applications

Consideration of applications from Longdon Brownies to fund outings and from ANIRAZ for musical and other equipment was deferred pending further information being provided.

It was decided not to contribute towards the cost of the Lichfield District Council Summer Playscheme.

The Clerk reported that he had received from Jim Morrison, Chairman, Queen's Hospital Scanner Appeal, a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010, asking if the Parish Council would make a donation to the Appeal, pointing out that the hospital served the local community.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Bird and seconded by Cllr. Butler, it was agreed to make a donation of £200. 00.

#### 14. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Linda Wicks, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010, enclosing copies of the District Council's Constitution "Planning Committee – Delegated to the Planning Committee" and "Planning Committee – Members Planning Code of Practice Protocol" which the Parish Council had requested in preparation of its complaint relating to the handling of the planning applications in relation to The Grand Lodge.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Elizabeth Rees-Jones, Service Delivery Manager, Communities Directorate and Chief Executive's Office, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010, informing the Council that, from April 2010, the mobile library visit rota would become three-weekly, which would bring it into line with the loan period in static libraries.

The change in frequency would allow the mobile library fleet to be reduced to three vehicles, but no community would lose its mobile library service and ninety per cent of stops would remain on the same day of the week.

The mobile library service would be re-aligned with District Boundaries so that, whenever possible, the same vehicle and driver would serve one District.

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from John Cameron, Head of the NSPCC Helpline, London, a letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010, informing the Council of his organisation's campaign to raise awareness of the NSPCC Helpline, a free 24-hour service that offers support and advice, by phone and email, to any adult worried about a child.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Jason Middleton, Regional Childsplay Manager, Nottssport Synthetic Surfacing, a letter postmarked 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010, informing the Council that he would be in the area in the week commencing Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, and would be happy to advise on the installation of a new sports, play or landscaped area, or the refurbishment of an existing one.

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received from Viv. Evans, Chief Executive, Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association, an email dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010, asking for the Parish Council's views on how the Lichfield Area Committee should be run, including whether District Council Officers should be present at meetings of the Area Committee, whether a change of timing would be beneficial, what would be a successful format, and whether members of the Area Committee should be invited to sit on partnership panels.

She asked that all comments should be submitted by no later than the first week in March so that they could be included with the agenda of the next Area Committee meeting, which the District Council would circulate with the agenda of the next District Parish Forum.

(vi) The Clerk reported that he had received from Sue Holliday, Secretary of the Beau Desert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Trust, a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010, thank the Council for its offer to meet the cost of installing a child's swing on the Sports Field.

(vii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Chris Harrop, Director of Sustainability, Marshalls, Elland, West Yorkshire, an undated letter in which he reminded the Council of the recent changes to the permitted development rights regarding the paving of front garden areas for hard standing and enclosing a copy of "Your guide to achieving a well-balanced driveway design within the guidelines of legislation".



## 15. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

- (i) From Dawn Everitt, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010;  
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010;  
Forward Plan – Version 1 – Issued 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 –  
Effective for the Period 01. 02. 2010 – 31. 05. 2010.

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

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010;  
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2010;  
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

- (iii) From Carol Pepper, Admin Co-ordinator, Lichfield District Council:

Minutes of meeting of Lichfield District Parish Forum held on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Attachments: “What is Climate Change Strategy?” – presentation by Ruth Plant, Director of Operational Services. Lichfield District Council;  
2009 Parish Forum Satisfaction Survey.

- (iv) From Mike Maryon, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment, Staffordshire County Council:

Leaflet: “ Staffordshire Highways – Improving the way we work with local Communities” (20 copies).

- (v) From Jan Wright, S3SN Administration, Lichfield & District CVS:

E Bulletin – Issue No.1/10, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010;  
E Bulletin – Issue No.2/10, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2010;  
E Bulletin – Issue No. 3/10, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

- (vi) From Julia Harris, Development Officer, Lichfield & District CVS Support:

Opportunities for Voluntary and Community Groups in Lichfield and the Surrounding Areas (25. 01. 10);  
Opportunities for Voluntary and Community Groups in Lichfield and the Surrounding Areas (29. 01. 10).

- (vii) From Sue Venables, Head of Communications, South Staffordshire NHS Primary Care Trust:

“Express your views on new legal rights for patients” (Local

consultation)

(viii) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Weekly Update (22 January 2010)

•"Clash looms after pay freeze offer";

•Standards for England: The role and appointment of parish and town representatives to the standards committee and the Standard (England) Regulations 2008; Notifications to parish and town councils concerning complaints about their members and the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008; Charitable trustees and declarations of interest under the Code of Conduct.

Weekly Update (29 January 2010)

•BKV launch press release;

•'Give us your view' – training requirements of planners and local councillors.

Minutes of meeting of Lichfield Area Committee held on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

(ix) From The National Association of Local Councils:

Legal Briefing L17-08: Level of Burial Fees;

Administration Briefing A02-10: Buckingham Palace Garden Parties.

(x) From VAST, Hanley, Staffs.:

Membership Application Form

*("VAST has joined together with JG Fenn of Stoke-on-Trent, one of the country's leading office product suppliers, to offer the Voluntary & Community Sector this unique discount on office products. The offer is only available to VAST members")*

(xi) From Blachere Illuminations (via SPCS):

2 for 1 End of Season Offer.

(xii) From SMP Playgrounds Limited (by email):

"Discover What's New from SMP".

(xiii) From The Secretary, Beau Desert Sports Field and Recreation Trust:

Minutes of meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

## 16. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Mrs. Meere reported that litter had been accumulating in the car park at Georges Hayes Nature Reserve as the result of the gate being left open.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust drawing attention to the problem.

(ii) There had been complaints about children building ramps in Church Hollow for skate-boarding.

The problem would be discussed at the next meeting of the Highways and Footpath Committee.

(iii) Cllr. Taylor reported that he had now met Portia Howe, one of the District Council's Arboricultural Officers, who had brought documents with her which he would present to the Greens and Open Spaces Committee at its next meeting.

#### 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010, in the Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall, Buds Road, Cannock Wood, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.