

Appendix A

REPORT OF MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
OF LONGDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE W. I. HALL, LONGDON, ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 1ST, 2010

Present: Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett (Chairman); Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. B. J. Butler;
Cllr. C. D. Cherry; Cllr. R. A. G. Clarke; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere;
and Mr. Will Rose.

Also present was the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

All members of the Committee were present.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Thursday, May 4th, 2010, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Butler and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Duckett, approved and signed after the following correction was made:

Item 11: In the final sentence, the name of Cllr. Welch was replaced by that of Steve Taylor.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Footbridge over Shropshire Brook

It was confirmed that the handrail should be of oak, not metal.

The Clerk reported that 200 bluebell bulbs had been planted along the bank.

The Brownies had not been available, so the planting had been carried out by Cllr Clarke, Cllr. Welch and the Clerk.

(ii) Flower Beds at Entrances to Village

Alternative sites were considered, but it was agreed that no decision should be taken before site visits had taken place.

It was also agreed that raised flower beds would be preferred as these would raise their profile.

(iii) Footpath No. 73

The Clerk reported that he had sent Mr. Rowe a copy of the letter received from Laurence Wilson, of the National Rights of Way Casework Team, advising the Council that the application to re-designate the above footpath as a bridleway must be made by the original applicant. He had assured Mr. Rowe that the Parish Council would support his application in any way that it could.

Councillors were confident that Mr. Rowe would pursue his applications.

(iv) Ditches in Stockings Lane

The Clerk reported that site meeting had taken place the previous week, and he would enquire as to the outcome..

(v) Meeting with County Access Officer

Mr. Rose reported that his meeting with County Access Officer had not yet taken place.

However, the Parochial Church Council would be appointing someone with the specific responsibility for ensuring disability access.

(vi) Provision of Disability Access to Footpath across Glebe Field

Mr. Rose reported that he had been informed by Paul Rochford, Principal Rights of Way Officer, Development Services Manager, Staffordshire County Council, that the permission of the land-owner should be obtained before the kissing-gate could be replaced by a chicane.

The PCC would be seeking the consent of the Archdeacon, which, when obtained, would be forwarded to Mr. Rochford.

Cllr. Mrs. Duckett that a 'lip' had formed where the two footpaths met, and the Clerk was instructed to write to the contractors asking them to make the junction seamless.

(vii) Verge outside No. 71 Upper Way

Cllr. Butler reported that eight vehicles had been parked in front of the property the other evening, one so close to the notice-board as to deny access.

The Clerk said that he had written to Richard Rayson, the Community Highway Liaison Officer, asking him to arrange for a barrier to be erected along the verge, and awaited his reply.

(viii) Dog-Fouling

Mr. Rose pointed out that, under the District Council's byelaws, it was an offence to allow a dog to foul "in a public place", which included footpaths, and he asked that parishioners be reminded of this in the next issue of "Longdon Life".

In the meantime, he would provide the Clerk with a plan of the village identifying sites where reminders could be stencilled on the pavement, previous stencils having long since been worn away.

5. MANAGEMENT OF CHURCH HOLLOW AND CHURCH CAR PARK

A site meeting having taken place immediately prior to the meeting of the Committee - at which Cllr. Cherry had declared a personal interest since his residence in St. James Close backed onto Church Hollow -, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Graham McCulloch for a quote to treat the church car park with a systemic weed-killer.

Cllr. Butler undertook to obtain a second quote from a contractor employed by the Longdon Model Flying Club.

It was agreed that Kevin Healey should be asked to replace the wooden fencing at the end of the car park and along the lower edge.

The levelled flower-bed would be replaced by stones, and the loose stones at the top of the footpath should be tamped down.

The Committee also decided to seek a quote for edging both sides of the whole length of the footpath as a way of eradicating the problem of soil slipping down onto the path.

It was thought that the cost might not be prohibitive if the edging were laid on the surface and secured by pegs, though Cllr. Cherry was concerned that the rural charm of the path should not be affected.

6. VILLAGE WALKS

(i) Waymarkers

Cllr. Mrs. Duckett showed the Committee samples of waymarkers provided by Brisco Signs and Graphics of Bristol.

These were colour-coded discs with inserts of different colours which could be varied to indicate which of the walks it was marking.

The cost of the discs without inserts would be £457.00 for 750 and £560.00 for 1000. The cost of the inserts would be £0.49p each per 100 and £0.28p for 250.

A second firm had quoted £110.00 for 120 discs with over-laminate and £90 for 120 discs without overlamine.

The following was agreed: that 750 discs and 600 inserts should be ordered from Brisco Signs and Graphics; that the colours of the latter should be pink, orange, bright blue, mint blue, yellow and white; that "Longdon Parish Council" should be printed on the discs; and that "Walk 1", "Walk 2", "Walk 3", "Walk 4", "Walk 5" and "Walk 6" should be printed on the inserts.

(ii) Footpath Leaflets

Cllr. Mrs. Duckett reported that she had received from T. J. Prints (Midlands) Ltd., of Bore Street., Lichfield, a quote of £840. 00 for 1000 copies each of six different leaflets, printed in full colour.

This compared favourably with quotes of £250. 00 per 1000 and £190. 00 per 1000 which she had received from two other firms.

It was agreed that these leaflets should be comprised of a text pointing out landmarks of interest, a user-friendly diagrammatic map based on the relevant section of the OS Map and an updated version of the Countryside Code.

The number of the walk to which the leaflet referred would be printed on the front of the leaflet in the same colour as the waymarkers along the route. Cllr. Duckett would confirm with the printer that he could match the colour of the leaflets with the colour of the discs.

It was agreed that a small charge should be made for each leaflet, the money being donated to an agreed charity.

The Clerk agreed to approach Lichfield Tourism and Staffordshire County Council for funding, but, in the light of his earlier enquiries, thought it doubtful that any would be available. Cllr. Clarke said that he would look for other funders.

The Clerk would send each member of the Committee a copy of each of the existing footpath leaflets so that he or she could suggest possible improvements, their ideas to be given to Cllr. Cherry, who would co-ordinate them.

It was hoped that the new leaflets would be ready in time for the Longdon Produce and Flower Show in September.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Grange Hill

Cllr. Butler asked when work on the wall in Grange Hill would be carried out.

The Clerk thought that this was dependent on Mr. Lewis, the householder responsible for commissioning the work; he would, however, make enquiries.

(ii) Footpath 28

Mr. Rose reported he had received a fresh complaint about a fallen gate accessing this footpath, which he thought could be replaced by an abandoned kissing-gate lying in a nearby hedge.

He had prepared a report to be sent by the Clerk to the County Council for action.

(iii) Ploughed Footpaths

Mr. Rose said that he was concerned by the number of footpaths which were being ploughed up and not re-instated.

A check of his records showed that, in some cases, they were the same footpaths as last year.

He would carrying out an inspection and would report to the Committee at its next meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, June 29th, 2010, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.
The main item on the agenda would be the format of the footpath leaflets.