

12/01

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD
IN THE W. I. HALL, LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2012

Present: Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett (Chairman); Cllr. B. J. Butler;
Cllr. P. M. Couchman; Cllr. R. A. G. Clarke; Cllr. A. J. Juxon;
Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; Cllr. M. J. Nash; Cllr. K. C. Taylor;
and Cllr. S. K. Welch.

Also present was the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. C. D. Cherry; Cllr. N. J. Roberts, Lichfield District Council;
and County Councillor F. W. Lewis, MBE.

2. REVIEW OF CURRENT PRACTICES AGAINST RISK ASSESSMENT
REGISTER

It was agreed that these should be reviewed during the course of the meeting.
Cllr. Clarke added that he would be carrying out the annual review of the Register
during January.

3. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS
MEETING

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Juxon and seconded by Cllr. Nash, the minutes of
the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Ford Lane, Longdon, on Tuesday,
December 13th, 2011, were approved and signed.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public was present.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Talk by Clare Eggington

The Clerk reported that, following her talk to the Council, Mrs. Eggington had
sent an email clarifying the position regarding voting in local referenda.

What was required was the approval of seventy-five per cent of those who voted,
not of the total number of residents.

(ii) Parish Website

Cllr. Clarke informed the Council that, while Eric Roy's quote for updating the pages of the parish website was £670. 00, the final cost might reach a figure of between £1500 and £1800, depending on how much of the preparation could be completed before handing over the final texts and illustrations to Mr. Roy.

However, he felt that, if the cost *were* to increase, he would expect Mr. Roy to advise the Council accordingly.

It was suggested that contributors should be asked to submit their texts in the required format; Cllr. Welch said that he could change the format of any illustrations received into the format required by Mr. Roy.

Cllr. Clarke said that the welcome page, the history page and the news page all needed refreshing, and he would circulate the revised pages to Councillors for approval. Cllr. Juxon said that he thought that there was little that needed changing on the existing history page, which he himself had drafted, but he would look at it to see if it could be improved.

Cllr. Clarke estimated that it would need another month before the revisions were ready to hand over to Mr. Roy. He pointed out that, once up and running, the website would need to have a home editor, who, he assumed, would be Cllr. Cherry.

(iii) Inconsiderate Parking in Ford Lane

It was reported that a resident of Ford Lane had offered to put out traffic bollards on the days when the refuse lorries visited the village, if the Council provided the bollards.

However, it was pointed out that this would require the consent of both the County Highways Department and the Police.

It was also suggested that some of the vehicles parked in the lane were owned by householders.

It was agreed that, in drawing the attention of the local authorities to the problem, the Council had done as much as it could do and that, if the refuse lorries were unable to access the houses in Ford Lane because of parked vehicles, the onus was on the crews to complain to their employers.

(iv) Damaged Water Pipe in Borough Lane

Cllr. Juxon reported that the water pipe damaged in the course of the roadworks carried out recently in Borough Lane had been inspected, but, so far, no action had been taken to stem the leak.

The Clerk was instructed to contact the Highways Authority and ask for action.

(v) Request from St. James School for Direction Sign

The Chairman reported that she had advised Mrs. Slymn, the Head Teacher, that, on the information received by the Parish Council, the Highway Authority was unlikely to agree to the erection of a direction sign on the A51.

The School was now displaying a banner at the side of the A51 opposite High Street, even though the Head Teacher was aware of the Parish Council's policy.

In addition, there was now an A-Board chained to a lamp standard at the side of the A51 advertising “The Swan with Two Necks”, for which there was already a direction sign.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Community Highway Liaison Officer drawing his attention to the presence of these signs and to the two boards at the side of the A51 at Longdon Green advertising “The Red Lion on the Green”.

(vi) Licensing of the Rev. Janet Waterfield

The Chairman reported that, in addition to herself, who had had a part in the welcoming of Mrs. Waterfield, the Council had also been represented by Cllr. Butler, Cllr. Juxon and the Clerk.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mrs. Waterfield inviting her to one of the Council’s meetings.

(vii) Kicking Rail outside No. 71, Upper Way

The Clerk reported that, to date, he had not received a reply from the Community Highway Liaison Manager regarding his proposal to replace the existing bollards with a kicking rail and would be following up his enquiry.

(viii) Grit Bins

It was reported that the two bins at Redhill and in Lower Way were still empty, even though the Clerk’s email had been acknowledged.

He was instructed to press for the immediate servicing of these bins.

(ix) Community Forum

It was confirmed that wine and nibbles would be provided.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Clarke, the Chairman said that the attendance by Councillors was optional, but she hoped that some would be there. Unfortunately, she herself would be unable to attend, as she would be going into hospital, and it was agreed that Cllr. Juxon should open the proceedings.

Cllr. Nash said that he, too, would be unable to attend, as he would be attending the District Parish Forum in Lichfield.

(x) Numbering of Properties in Lower Way

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that, before the houses could be numbered, the consent of *all* the householders would be needed and that any householder objecting to the proposal would have to be persuaded before any action could be taken.

Cllr. Taylor said that he had explained the position to the resident who had approached him and she had acknowledged that, under these condition, it was unlikely that the numbering could be carried out.

She had, however, thanked the Parish Council for pursuing the matter on her behalf.

6. PLANNING

(i) Report of Working Party

11/01171/FUL (Amended): Lichfield Cathedral School: Two-storey extension to provide classrooms, assembly hall and reception area: Lichfield Cathedral School, Church Hill, Longdon Green

There had been no objections to this amendment.

11/01381/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Keely: Conservatory extension to rear: Brookfield House, Lower Way, Upper Longdon

There had been no objection to this proposed development.

(ii) For Consideration

There were no other plans for the Council to consider.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District

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

(v) Other Planning Matters

There were no other planning matters for the Parish Council to consider.

7. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

No reports of meetings were received.

8. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

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

(i) Police Surgery: Saturday, January 14th, 2012, in Longdon Village Hall, from 1. 30 p.m. to 2. 30 p.m.

- (ii) Lichfield District Parish Forum: Thursday, January 19th, 2012, in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, commencing at 7. 00 p.m. Cllr. Nash would be attending.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Report on meeting of Highways and Open Spaces Committee

Cllr. Welch presented a written report on a meeting of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2012 (*Appendix A*).

(ii) Footpath across Glebe Field

The Chairman reported that, in addition to the weeds growing up through the surface of the path, the surface itself was, in places, very uneven.

She also reported that one of the gate posts leading into the churchyard was coming away from the wall and needed to be secured by substantial bolting.

Cllr. Butler and Cllr. Couchman undertook to carry out the repair.

(iii) Footpath Leaflets

Cllr. Juxon said that he had been increasingly concerned by the lack of progress being made with this project and had invited Cllr. Clarke and Mr. Will Rose to a meeting to discuss final drafts.

Following that meeting, he had visited The Benhill Press in Rugeley and obtained a quote of £715 for 1000 copies of each of the five footpath leaflets. 2000 copies of the five leaflets would cost £830. 00.

This compared favourably with the quote already obtained, and it was thought that further quotes were unnecessary.

Coincidentally, the firm had just completed a similar commission from Kings Bromley Parish Council, and Cllr. Juxon was able to bring copies of those leaflets to the meeting (Cllr. Clarke, however, thought the paper was not of sufficiently good quality, and he also thought that the map of the walk should be on the same page as the descriptive text).

A discussion followed as to how complete the preparation of text and format should be before submission to the printer, Cllr. Clarke arguing that this should be completed before submission, Cllr. Juxon arguing that the final arrangement could be left to the printer for the Council to approve.

It was agreed that Cllr. Juxon should provide the printer with the information and photographs and a rough idea of the format and bring the final draft to the next meeting of the Council.

(iv) Registration of Brook End Green

Cllr. Clarke outlined the procedure to be followed in registering the Council's ownership of the Green with The Land Registry, based on his experience of registering the ownership of the field at the rear of the Longdon Memorial Hall.

He questioned whether the services of a solicitor were really needed, as advised by The Land Registry.

The Green would have to be valued, and it would be necessary to check with The Stamp Office in Birmingham whether stamp duty would have to be paid, though he thought this unlikely.

It would have to be confirmed that the Green was, in fact, a registered green, and established that there were no grazing rights, no covenants, no services and no overriding interests.

He would also need a copy of the Deed of Conveyance held by the Clerk.

He assured the Council that, forbidding as all this might sound, it was a simple matter of following the prescribed procedure step by step.

He thought that the fee payable to The Land Registry would be £40. 00.

The Chairman expressed the Council's gratitude to Cllr. Clarke for being prepared to undertake this task.

(v) Roadside Signs

The Clerk reported that he had received from Tim Buxton, Traffic Management Technician, Community Highway Liaison, Staffordshire County Council, an email dated 15th December 2011, in which he set out in detail the County Council's thinking on brown tourism signs.

These signs were not intended for advertising, though increasing numbers of establishments such as public houses were requesting them for this purpose, so the Highway Authority needed to consider if there was a real need from them.

As both "The Red Lion" and "The Swan with Two Necks" were not far off the A51 there should be no difficulty in finding their location if they were advertised correctly in the media and there should therefore be no need for signs on the highway.

The roadside sign advertising "The Swan with Two Necks" had been up for some years and would no longer meet the current criteria, and if it created an issue it might have to be removed.

Other issues which Mr. Buxton covered in his email included:

(a) Borough Lane

To put a restriction on Borough Lane would require a change to the Traffic Regulation Order. A 30 mph limit would be impossible to justify, and, moreover, the Department of Transport recommended at least 500m in length for a speed limit, taking it well past that area and making it even more difficult to justify.

An “Elderly Persons” sign had been suggested, but there was already a sign warning of the absence of a footway at the junction of the A51 which covered everyone, not just the elderly. Moreover, the junction was already becoming cluttered with signs, which included a “Not Suitable for HGVs” sign. Finally, there had, in the last ten years, not been a single recorded injury around the almshouses.

(b) Ford Lane

To prevent parking in Ford Lane would also require a Traffic Regulation Order and would then require double or single yellow lines to be put down (the latter would also require signs and time plates). This would be a lengthy process and, given current workloads, might not even be started for several years, as all parking-related Traffic Regulation Orders were prioritised by the Lichfield Parking Board.

Mr. Buxton suggested that the best option would be to contact the local police, as they could issue tickets to the inconsiderate parkers, and once this had happened a few times it should resolve the issue.

It might, however, require occasional re-visits to prevent any complacency creeping in.

(vi) Public Footpath No. 1

The Clerk reported that he had received from Dominic Willmore, Rights of Way Assistant, Rights of Way, Staffordshire County Council, dated 19th December 2011, confirming that the finger post had been replaced by the County works unit on December 14th.

(vii) Damaged Speed Limit Sign on A51 at Longdon Green

The Clerk reported that he had, as instructed, reported the damaged sign to the Highways Authority and had been given the Incident Number 11119391.

(viii) Church Hollow

Cllr. Juxon suggested that one way in which the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee could be commemorated could be the regeneration of Church Hollow and its re-naming as “Jubilee Walk”.

It was agreed that this suggestion should be put before the Community Forum.

It was understood, however, that this project would require the consent of the County Council, since the path was still officially highway, and possibly of the District Council as well.

10. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(i) Co-option of Councillor for Gentleshaw Ward

The Chairman reported that the Council had received an expression of interest in becoming a member of the Council from Chris Webb, of Church Hill Cottage, Church Hill, Longdon Green, who had submitted a Curriculum Vitae which the Clerk had copied to all Councillors.

The Clerk confirmed that, while the vacancy was for a Councillor for the Gentleshaw Ward and Mr. Webb lived in Longdon Green, this was no impediment to his co-option, since he was a resident of the parish of Longdon.

Moreover, the vacancy had been advertised since last May without any response from Gentleshaw residents.

The Chairman added that it had been Mr. Webb's intention to attend this meeting, but pressing family circumstances had prevented him.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Juxon and seconded by Cllr. Taylor, it was agreed that Mr. Webb should be invited to join the Council.

(ii) Parish Surgery

The Chairman reported that she, Cllr. Butler and the Clerk had been present since 7. 00 p.m., but no parishioners had come.

11. LAW AND ORDER

(i) Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. Taylor reported that he had not received a report since the last meeting.

Cllr. Clarke reported that Mr. Will Rose was very active in setting up Neighbourhood Watch teams in Brook End and was eager to call a meeting of co-ordinators.

It was agreed that Mr. Rose should be left to organise this meeting.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Accounts for Payment

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

Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall: January 3 rd : £12. 00
	Hire of Hall: January 10 th : £12. 00

£24. 00

(ii) Payments Received

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

A. D. Bennett	Advertisement: "Longdon Life"	£ 5. 00
Margaret Dutton	Advertisement: "Longdon Life"	£ 5. 00
A. W. Johnson	Advertisement: "Longdon Life"	£ 6. 50
N. J. Sutcliffe	Advertisement: "Longdon Life"	£ 8. 00

(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a:	£436. 96	The Halifax s/a: £6032. 70
<u>less uncleared cheques</u>		
	1671: £ 12. 00	
	<u>1673: £ 50. 00</u>	
	£374. 96	

(iv) Request for Grant Aid(a) Lichfield District Council 2012 Summer Playscheme

The Clerk reported that he had received from Mrs. Mary Cooke, Play Development Manager, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 20th December 2011 asking if the Parish Council would support the District Council's 2012 Summer Playscheme Longdon programme.

On a motion proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr. Clarke, it was agreed to make a donation of £130. 00, this being the cost of hiring St. James School for the two weeks of the programme.

(v) Formal Acceptance of Quote for Updating the Website

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Nash and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, the quote of £670. 00 for updating the Parish Website received from Mr. Eric Roy was approved.

(vi) Presentation of Financial Statement

The Clerk presented a written statement for the first nine months of the financial year ending on 31st March 2012 (*Appendix B*).

After due study, the statement was, on a motion proposed by Cllr Mrs. Duckett and seconded by Cllr. Butler, approved and accepted.

(vii) Parish Precept 2012/2013

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Duckett and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, it was agreed that the precept for 2012/2013 should be £13650. 00, the same as the previous financial year.

13. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

The Clerk reported that, other than Christmas Greetings from the Community Highways Team, the Head Teacher of St. James School, Emma Beaman-Green, AONB Assistant, Cannock Chase AONB, and SMP Playgrounds Limited, no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

14. 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 15th January 2012;
Forward Plan – Version 1 – Issued 16. 12 2011 – Effective for the Period 01. 01. 2012.

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

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 9th December 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 16th December 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 23rd December 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 30th December 2011.

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

Register of Electors – Notice of Alteration (January 2012).

- (iv) From Rhiannon Purkis, Communications Officer, Lichfield District Council:

Section 106 Newsletter.

- (v) From Jan Wright, Administration Assistant, Lichfield and District Community and Voluntary Support Sector:

S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 42/11 – 8th December 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 43/11 – 15th December 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 44/11 – 22nd December 2011.

(vi) From Tony Montinaro, MBE, Chief Executive Officer, Staffordshire Buddies:

Full-time Vacancy at Staffordshire Buddies HIV Services.

(vii) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Card: Staffordshire Community Works!
SPCA Update (21st December 2011);
Demistifying GIS Seminar: 22nd February 2012;
Celebrate Midlands Housing Week (12-18 March 2012).

(viii) From The National Association of Local Councils (in partnership with CPRE):

Booklet: "Planning Explained".

(ix) From The Rural Services Network, Tavistock, Devon

Weekly Email News Digest – December 2011;
Weekly Email News Digest – January 2012;
LATEST: Government to review rural funding formula.

(x) From The Journalism of Local Planning:

"The Localism Act is here: what does this mean to parish and town councils?"

(xi) From The Historic Towns Forum:

Newsletter – December 2011.

(xii) From Marie Hitchen/Martin Taylor, sustainable government:

"Are government cards as bad as the headlines claim?"
"Has the time come for Britain to sever ties with Europe?"
"HMRC in festive spirit as big firms see £25bn tax bill wiped out".

(xiii) From The Ordnance Survey:

PSMA Letter – December 2011.

(xiv) From Notts Sport, Lutterworth, Leics.:

"It's been a record year for Notts Sport's play and sport solutions!"

(xv) From HAGS, Sturminster Newton, Devon:

Making the most of our winter stock clearance.

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Butler reported that bushes at the junction of Brereton Hill Lane and outside “Sunny Corner”, Upper Way, needed cutting back.

The Clerk was instructed to report this to the Community Highways Liaison Officer.

(ii) Cllr. Couchman reported that Giddywell Lane and an area on the opposite side of High Street were pitch black during times of darkness and asked whether lights could be provided.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the lighting authority asking for the matter to be investigated.

(iii) Cllr. Couchman reported that there had been a serious accident on the A51 at Bradley Lakes at approximately 2.45 a.m. on Christmas morning resulting in a demolished wall and a fractured gas main, and he asked whether the 50 mph buffer zone could be removed and the 40 mph zone extended, and a speed camera installed.

Cllr. Butler pointed out that the criteria for installing speed cameras was very exacting – three deaths within 100 yards within twelve months.

The Clerk was instructed to raise this matter with the Highway Authority.

(iv) Cllr. Couchman reported that passengers using the local bus service had been warned by an inspector that, unless the service were used by more people, it would be withdrawn, and he asked whether this could be substantiated.

It was agreed, however, the Council should wait until it had received notification of any proposed changes in the service.

Cllr. Mrs. Meere said that her mother had found the dial-and-ride service run in Walsall very convenient, and Cllr. Nash agreed to raise the issue at the District Parish Forum.

(v) Cllr. Taylor reported that there was a lot of litter between Brereton Hill Lane and Shavers Lane.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the District Council asking for it to be cleared.

(vi) Cllr. Clarke reported that there was a faulty gate on the footpath at Bradley Lakes behind the premises of the turf-laying business.

The Clerk was instructed to report this to Will Rose.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 14th, 2012, in the W. I. Hall, Ford Lane, Longdon, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

REPORT ON MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES
COMMITTEE OF LONGDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE W. I. HALL,
LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 2012

Present: Cllr. S. K. Welch (Chairman); Cllr. R. A.G. Clarke; Cllr. A. J. Juxon;
Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; and Cllr. M. J. Nash.

Also present was the Clerk. .

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett ; and Mr. Will Rose.

1. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES AGAINST RISK
ASSESSMENT REGISTER

It was confirmed that there had been no change in the procedures and practices being followed.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, September 20th, 2011, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Nash and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, approved and signed after Cllr. Clarke had pointed out that the Secretary of State referred to in 4 (i) was Caroline Spellman, and “*his* intervention” should therefore be “*her* intervention”.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public was present.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Footpath across Glebe Field

Cllr. Juxon said that weeds were beginning to appear in the path, and it was agreed that weed-killer needed to be applied in the Spring.

(ii) Gentleshaw Green

Cllr. Welch said that no further work needed to be undertaken until the Spring, when the triangular flower beds would be re-planted and nesting-boxes brought in.

(iii) Footpath No. 37

Cllr. Clarke reported that the kissing-gate was still obstructed by vegetation, which needed clearing so that walkers could use it rather than the gap in the hedge next to it.

Preferably, the gap should be closed, but this was the responsibility of the tenant.

(iv) Footpath No. 39

Cllr. Juxon reported that this footpath, which crossed from Borough Lane to Smithy Lane, was not re-instated when the field adjacent to the Almshouses was planted with potatoes.

It was agreed that Paul Rochford, the County Council's Principal Rights of Way Officer, should be asked to write to the land-owner reminding him of his responsibility.

(v) Provision of Allotments

Cllr. Juxon said that there were just six allotments at the rear of the Almshouses and wondered if there was a demand for more allotments in the parish.

He acknowledged that there did not seem to be an overt demand at the moment, but suggested that an article in the next issue of "Longdon Life" might reveal whether there *were* parishioners who would take advantage if more space were provided.

It was pointed out, however, that, should any parishioners respond positively, the Council would then be under a legal obligation to supply the land, and suggested that it might be prudent to ascertain availability first.

It was thought that demand might be better assessed through the proposed Village Plan.

5. FOOTPATH LEAFLETS

Cllr. Juxon expressed his concern that, after more than a year spent on the project, the leaflets were still not ready for printing; he himself had received only one of the texts and could not prepare the accompanying maps until all the texts were to hand.

Cllr. Clarke said that he had all of the original texts and would meet Cllr. Juxon to discuss the final format so that Cllr. Juxon could decide on both the final format and photographs.

6. REGISTRATION OF BROOK END GREEN

Cllr. Mrs. Meere said that she would consult her husband on the correct procedure to be followed and then pass the forms to Cllr. Clarke for completion.

7. IDEAS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

(i) Diamond Jubilee

It was hoped that ideas for celebrating and commemorating the Diamond Jubilee would be forthcoming at the Community Forum later in the month, but, in the meantime, Cllr. Juxon suggested that the Council might consider regenerating Church Hollow as a possible project.

The bridleway was very neglected, and the banks needed stabilising, possibly by stone caissons, possibly by planting.

The pathway itself could be re-claimed, and steps provided where the path enters the Church car park.

It was agreed that Cllr. Juxon's suggestion should be put before the Council at its next meeting.

Cllr. Welch suggested that another project might be the mapping of all veteran trees in the parish.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Inconsiderate parking in Ford Lane

Cllr. Clarke said that a resident of Ford Lane had offered to put out plastic bollards along Ford Lane on Thursdays, the day on which refuse lorries were being prevented by parked cars from accessing the properties at the far end of the lane.

However, it was agreed that such action would need the prior approval of both the Highways Authority and the Police.

(ii) Borough Lane

Cllr. Juxon reported that, during recent work on the ditches in Borough Lane, a water main close to a field gate had been damaged and flooding had resulted.

It was agreed that the Clerk should draw the Community Highway Liaison Manager's attention to this problem.

(iii) Smithy Lane

Cllr. Juxon further reported that heavy flooding was preventing walkers from using this lane.

It was agreed that the Clerk should draw the Community Highway Liaison Manager's attention to this problem.

(iv) The Grand Lodge, Horsey Lane

Cllr. Juxon asked whether the newly-laid tarmac driveway leading from Horsey Lane to The Grand Lodge, replacing a gravel driveway, was appropriate to a listed building.

The appropriateness of other recently-introduced features - the use of black stone in the gate piers, the laying of kerb stones along the verge and the erection of an aggressive warning notice on the highway verge - was also questioned.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the District Council's Enforcement Officer concerning the driveway and pier stones and to the Community Highway Liaison Manager concerning the kerb stones and notice.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 27th, 2012, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.

PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (1ST APRIL – 31ST DECEMBER 2011)

	(2011)	(2010)
Opening Account:	£ 6979. 79	£10083. 13
<u>Receipts</u>		
Precept:	£13650. 00	£13650. 00
Staffs. C. C.	£ 1000. 00	£ 00. 00
VAT Refund:	£ 837. 82	£ 844. 55
Advts: "Longdon Life":	£ 134. 50	£ 115. 00
Wayleaves:	£ 36. 27	£ 35. 07
Donation:	£ 5. 00	£ 00. 00
Gross Interest:	<u>£ 00. 00</u>	<u>£ 11. 63</u>
Total Receipts:	£15663. 59	£14656. 25
Total Income:	£22643. 38	£24739. 38
 <u>Payments</u>		
<i>Greens & Open Spaces</i>		
Work on Gent. Gn:	£ 2768. 00	£ 00. 00
Mowing:	£ 2880. 00	£ 2800.00
Mowing centre of Longdon Green;	£ 170. 00	£ 170. 00
Emptying dog waste bins:	£ 823. 68	£ 806. 52
Sub: "Open Spaces:	£ 40. 00	£ 40. 00
Treework:	<u>£ 180. 00</u>	<u>£ 00. 00</u>
TOTAL:	£ 6861.68	£ 3816. 52
 <i>General Administration</i>		
Insurance:	£ 865. 44	£ 760. 53
SPCA:	£ 383. 00	£ 383. 00
"LCR"	£ 15. 50	£ 13. 50
Clerk's Salary:	£ 840. 00	£ 1050. 00
Employer Tax:	£ 210. 00	£ 00. 00
Photocopying:	£ 394. 05	£ 500. 97
Postage:	£ 110. 35	£ 84. 70
Printing AA reports:	£ 00. 00	£ 87. 77
Hire of rooms:	£ 258. 00	£ 266. 00
Audit Fee:	£ 162. 00	£ 182. 13
Printing "Longdon Life"	£ 1368. 50	£ 866. 89
Delivering "Longdon Life"	£ 135. 00	£ 90. 00
Editor's Expenses	£ 45. 00	£ 30. 00
Overpayment of VAT:	£ 00. 00	£ 304. 18
Professional fees: (internal audit)	£ 101. 40	£ 275. 62

Website:	£ 200. 00	£ 00. 00
Course fees:	£ 00. 00	£ 55. 00
Notice-boards:	£ 174. 50	£ 00. 00
JRA Presentation:	£ 58. 50	£ 00. 00
Comm. Council:	£ 22. 00	£ 22. 00
TOTAL:	£5343. 24	£ 4972. 29

Community Halls

Longdon	£ 00. 00	£ 1000. 00
Cannock Wood	£ 00. 00	£ 200. 00
TOTAL:	£ 00. 00	£ 1200. 00

Highways and Footpaths

Levelling Footpath & renovating bridge	£ 00. 00	£1445. 25
Waymarkers	£ 00. 00	£ 546. 96
Refurbishment of benches	£ 00. 00	£ 355. 23
Two-way gate	£ 00. 00	£ 314. 91
Footpath surfacing	£ 00. 00	£ 141. 00
Book on Rights of Way	£ 00. 00	£ 34. 95
Contribution to cost of roadworks	£1000. 00	£ 00. 00
Treating church car park with herbicide	£ 65. 00	£ 00. 00
Refurbishing street furniture	£ 422. 00	£ 00. 00
Repair to bridge	£ 00. 00	£ 755. 50
TOTAL:	£ 1487.00	£3593. 80

Section 137

Donations

St. Giles Hospice	£ 200. 00	£ 200. 00
CW & G Fayre	£ 00. 00	£ 100. 00
Preschool:	£ 50. 00	£ 50. 00
Beaudesert Trust	£ 150. 00	£ 00. 00
Produce & Flower Show:	£ 210. 00	£ 220. 00
Beaudesert Sports Field Trust	£ 100. 00	£ 00. 00
Wreath	£ 19. 00	£ 00. 00
“Messy Church” (Gentleshaw)	£ 60. 00	£ 00. 00
S. Staffs. Cruse	£ 50. 00	£ 00. 00

Subscriptions

CPRE (Staffs.)	£ 00. 00	£ 20. 00
Staffs Wildlife Trust:	£ 39. 00	£ 39. 00
Staffs. Playing- Fields Assoc’n:	£ 15. 00	£ 15. 00

<u>BKV Comp.</u>		
Gift tokens	£ 60.00	£ 22.00
Flower Tubs, Compost & Bedding Plants:	£ 216.00	£ 109.00
Bluebell bulbs:	£ 00.00	£ 64.95
TOTAL:	£1169.00	£ 839.95

Churchyards

Longdon:	£ 1032.80	£ 966.14
Gentleshaw	<u>£ 342.00</u>	£1000.00
TOTAL:	£ 1374.80	£1966.14

SUMMARY OF PAYMENTS

Parks & Open Spaces:	£ 6861.68	<i>£5000.00</i>	£ 3816.52
General Administration:	£ 5343.24	<i>£5500.00</i>	£ 4972.29
Community Halls:	£ 00.00	<i>£2000.00</i>	£ 1200.00
Highways & Footpaths:	£ 1487.00	<i>£3500.00</i>	£ 3593.80
Section 137:	£ 1169.00	<i>£2500.00</i>	£ 839.95
Churchyards:	£ 1374.80	<i>£ 800.00</i>	£ 1966.14
TOTAL:	£16235.72		£16388.70

(italicised figures represents budgeted expenditure – excess expenditure to be met from reserves)

RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

Opening Account:	£ 6979.79	NatWest c/a:	£ 436.96
Receipts:	<u>£15663.59</u>	Halifax d/a:	<u>£ 6032.70</u>
Total:	£22643.38		£ 6469.66
less Payments:	£16235.72	less uncleared cheque:	£ 62.00
TOTAL:	£ 6407.66	TOTAL:	£ 6407.66