

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF
LONGDON HELD IN THE W. I. HALL, FORD LANE, LONGDON,
ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 2013

Present: Cllr. R. A. G. Clarke (Chairman); Cllr. B. J. Butler; Cllr. C. D. Cherry;
Cllr. P. M. Couchman; Cllr. A. J. Juxon; Cllr. K. R. Morgan;
Cllr. K. C. Taylor; Cllr. C. J. Webb; and Cllr. S. K. Welch.

Also present was the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; Cllr. M. J. Nash; Cllr. N. J. Roberts, Lichfield District Council; and County Council M. C. Tittley.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

None was declared.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None was made.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall, Buds Road, Cannock Wood, on Tuesday, July 9th, 2013, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Taylor and seconded by Cllr. Butler, approved and signed.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No member of the public was present.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Maureen Piper Memorial

It was reported that donations towards the Maureen Piper Memorial Tree should be made to Martin Sandground, Chairman of the Longdon Flower Show Committee.

(ii) Footpath Leaflets

Councillors accepted the recommendation of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee that copies of the earlier two-tone footpaths leaflets should be re-cycled once a sufficient number of specimen copies had been retained for distribution amongst interested Councillors.

(iii) Proposed Cycle Path

The Clerk reported that clearing the pathway between Longdon Green and Lichfield had been one of the requests which he had made in a letter which he had written to Richard Rayson, the Community Highway Liaison Manager, dated 8th August 2013.

(iv) “Longdon Life”

The Clerk reported that 730 copies of “Longdon Life” had been printed by the South Staffordshire College, together 700 double-sided A4 inserts, at a cost of £166. 55.

After distribution, there had been a surplus of about two dozen copies, which had been deposited at Longdon Post Office for casual readers.

7. PLANNING

(i) Report of Planning Committee

13/00680/FUL: Mrs. J. Daniels: Rendering of exterior walls: 56 Brook End, Longdon

No indication of colour had been given in the application, though there were planning restrictions on choice.

As there was already scaffolding up in front of the dwelling, it was assumed that this had already been agreed with the planning authorities.

13/00769/FUL: Mr. K. Healey: Erection of agricultural building for housing livestock: Land at High Street, Longdon

While there had been concern at the size of the proposed building, it had been noted that it would stand 80 metres back from the road and that there were already other buildings on the site.

It was agreed that there were no grounds for objecting to this application.

(ii) For Consideration

There were no further plans for Councillors to consider.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

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

13/00456/FUL: Mr. D. Craig: Installation of dormer window: Pear Tree Cottage, Windmill Lane, Gentleshaw

13/00461/FUL: Mrs. M. Cope: Extension to existing hay barn and infilling of the open sides of existing barn: Beaudesert 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 no Notices of Refusal of Planning Permission relating to the Parish of Longdon.

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Notice of Appeal

Inspectorate Reference No.: APP/K3415/13/2199276
Appellant's Name: Mr. S. Oxby
Proposed Development: First-floor extension and alterations
to form bedroom with en suite
Land at: Benvenuto, Bardy Lane, Upper Longdon
Appeal Starting Date: 10th July 2013.

(vi) Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Chairman reported that Lichfield District Council had designated the Parish of Longdon as Longdon Neighbourhood Area on 9th July 2013.

The Working Group had met on July 18th, when the format of the flyer had been agreed.

He had spoken to eleven local organisations, to whom he had offered a question-and-answer session, and all had been receptive to the idea.

In fact, he had already arranged three; he would meet the Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Music Society the following Tuesday, Longdon Flower Club the day after (Wednesday) and the Longdon Flower Show Committee on October 10th.

Longdon W. I. and Longdon Over Sixties would be consulting their members over the choice of date.

He thought that two members of the Working Group should attend each session, the one to make the presentation, the other to record responses.

The Working Group would be meeting the next evening (August 14th), when the arrangements for a series of public meetings, one in each settlement within the Parish, would be agreed.

Cllr. Clarke pointed out that the complete process could last up to two years, and it was, he thought, vital that the momentum should be kept going lest indifference set in.

The Working Group had also introduced the rôle of “ambassador” for those who were supportive of the work of the Group but who felt that they were unable to give the time to the project which it required.

Graham Passey had embraced that rôle on behalf of St. James Church, and Cllr. Clarke hoped to recruit five or six Youth Ambassadors, since the Plan would certainly affect their future.

8. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) Gentleshaw School

The Chairman reported that he had attended two events at Gentleshaw School, the School Sports Day on Friday, July 12th, and an end-of-year concert on July 16th.

The former had taken place on a hot and sunny afternoon, and the children had taken part in a number of “pick-and-carry” tasks and several relay races.

The afternoon had ended with a Fathers’ Race – but not a Mothers’!

The concert had taken the form of a “Wild West” production presented by Years 5 & 6, supported by singing by Classes 3 & 4.

Cllr. Clarke had been greatly impressed by the joyfulness exuded by the children, to which the audience had responded.

(ii) Lichfield District Parish Forum

The Chairman reported 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, July 15th, at which he had been present.

The two major items on the agenda had been an update of the District Council’s ‘Fit for the Future’ programme, which was designed to reduce expenditure and reshape the Council for the future, and a presentation on Planning Enforcement.

Copies of an Enforcement Flowchart showing the procedure followed in response to receiving a complaint and of the series of slides used during the presentation were distributed at the end of the presentation.

(iii) Staffordshire Branch, Society of Local Council Clerks

The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting of the County Branch of the SLCC which had been held at the Council Offices of Biddulph Town Council on Thursday, July 25th, and at which Andy Halden, of the Community Council of Staffordshire, had been the guest speaker.

In addition to reminding the meeting of the work already carried out by the Community Council, Mr. Halden listed the new projects which it had recently undertaken. These were: the Good Neighbour Scheme; Eat Well Staffordshire; Group Oil Buying; working with European Textiles to recycle clothing as a local fund-raising opportunity; supporting and running voluntary car schemes; M. O. D. Stafford Community Development Work; and Food for Thought, a scheme for supporting food-based projects in South Staffordshire which encouraged the better cooking, making and buying of food.

The Clerk added that the Community Council was probably best known for its promotion of the annual Best Kept Competition, but Mr. Halden's talk had illustrated just how much further its remit extended.

(iv) Snooker Awards Ceremony

Cllr. Taylor reported that he had attended the Awards Ceremony which had taken place at the Longdon Memorial Hall on Friday, July 19th at which Cllr. Clarke, as Chairman of the Parish Council, had been invited to present the prizes.

The 'A' Team of the Longdon Club and Institute had won the trophy awarded to the winners of Division 2 of the Chase Snooker League and the 'B' Team had won the Albert Fleming Cup.

Alan Holdsworth, Chairman of the Chase Snooker League, had been present and had commented on the quality of the Club's snooker table and its facilities.

9. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

(i) Longdon Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr. Cherry reported that the Committee would be meeting at "The Swan with Two Necks" on Tuesday, August 20th, at 8. 00 p.m. and that the Committee's Annual General Meeting would be taking place on Sunday, September 22nd at 7. 30 p.m.

He commented that this was the first time he had received notice of a Committee meeting since he had been appointed as the Council's representative!

10. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

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

The Clerk presented a written report on a meeting of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee which had taken place in the W. I. Hall, Ford Lane, Longdon, on Tuesday, August 6th, 2013 (*Appendix A*).

Church Hollow had still to be measured. The planings had been spread but not impacted. It was thought that the replacement railings at the top of the path should be of metal, not of wood, since wooden railings were likely to rot fairly quickly.

It was agreed that the position regarding the trees on the bank adjacent to St. James Close needed clarifying, since earlier work on them had been carried out by the County Council, even though it was believed that the responsibility for maintaining them was legally that of the adjoining landowners.

On the problem of *unauthorised roadside signs*, it was agreed that, while the Council had passed a resolution that they should not be tolerated, this did not amount to a policy, since it had not been decided what action the Council should take in the event of any sanction being ignored.

Moreover, a parish council did not have the powers to insist on their removal, which belonged to the County Council, who would not exercise them unless requested to do so, and the question arose as to whether a parish council could introduce its own bylaw.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Taylor, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Road Safety Partnership asking for their views.

Cllr. Webb pointed to the state of the bank and footpath and the weed-ridden gutters in Church Hill and asked whether the Parish Council might engage a contractor to clear the footpath and gutters and cut back the overhanging trees.

It was thought, however, that the County Council and the District Council should be approached first, since maintaining the bank, path and road was their shared responsibility, and, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Welch and seconded by Cllr. Taylor, the Clerk was instructed to write to the two Councils asking them to carry out the work before the onset of winter.

Cllr. Webb said that, once the footpath and gutters had been cleared, the resident could be asked to maintain the area outside their property.

Finally, Cllr. Cherry suggested that each Councillor might act as an *informal custodian* of his or her particular part of the Parish and report to the Highways and Footpaths Committee anything that might need doing in his or her particular patch.

(ii) Speed Limit in Malthouse Road

The Clerk reported that he had received from Richard Rayson, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, Highway Operations Unit, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 15th July 2013, in which he had stated that he would discuss the Council's request for a speed limit in Malthouse Road with County Councillor Tittley when he met him the following week.

(iii) Surface Water in lane known as "Coffin's Hollow"

The Clerk reported that, in the same letter, Mr. Rayson had reported that a temporary channel had been installed to allow the water to drain away, adding that these blocked easily when a vehicle passed over it.

His Department would be investigating why this water had started to flow from the adjoining woodland and what could be done to resolve the matter

11. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Mowing Contract

The Clerk reported that he had received from Graham McCulloch, the Council's mowing contractor, a letter dated 22nd July 2013 in which he had reported that a cut had been carried out two days previously and that there had been no problems.

The long grass at the centre of Longdon Green had also been cut and cleared away.

Mr. McCulloch expected that next cut would be in mid August.

12. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(i) Appointment of Clerk

The Chairman reported that there had been two applications; the first applicant would be interviewed in two days time, the second the following Thursday.

Both were already parish clerks; neither lived in the parish.

There would be a second interview of the successful applicant at which a remuneration packet would be agreed and a contract tabled.

The Employment Group would then make their recommendation to the full Council, and the new Clerk would start work at the October meeting.

13. LAW AND ORDER

(i) Parish Police Surgeries/Fly Tipping on Cannock Chase

The Clerk reported that he had received from Sgt. Caroline Bailey, Deputy Commander of the Lichfield Local Policing Team, Staffordshire Police, a letter dated 17th July 2013, copies of which he had distributed to Councillor prior to the meeting.

In her letter Sgt. Bailey had acknowledged that people who had a community safety concern or wish to speak to their local officer did not usually wait for a surgery but contacted their officer for a response at the time of an incident and at their convenience. It had therefore been agreed that the Police would no longer hold surgeries, but, as the Council had suggested, link in where possible to community events.

Referring to the incident of fly-tipping on Cannock Chase on February 2nd, she had said that the incident had been recorded and then referred to the Local Authority as the lead investigating and prosecuting agency. She had forwarded the Council's enquiry to the Local Authority Officers and requested that they update the Council directly in relation to the enquiry.

(ii) OWL Messaging

The Clerk reported that he had received a series of warnings of a number of scams from the Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, including a phone call from someone stating that they were from the Ministry of Justice and informing the resident that he/she had been awarded £6500 after a court case.

There were also warnings against buying services such as driveway-cleaning on the doorstep, which might be offered by criminals wanting a good look at the house, and against the sale of dangerous fake vodka.

The Clerk added that he placed copies of all such alerts in folders kept in Longdon Village Hall and Longdon Post Office and, when space allowed, posted copies on the parish notice-boards.

(iii) “Meet the Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner”

The Clerk reported that he had received notice of a meeting at The Rose Theatre, Rugeley, of a public meeting that morning, at which the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire, Matthew Ellis, was inviting comments on the draft Police and Crime plan for Staffordshire currently out for consultation.

He had also received by email a copy of the plan, entitled “Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy”, which he had forwarded to Councillors.

(iv) New LPT Commander

The Clerk reported that he had received from Jonathan Drake, Chief Superintendent, Southern Local Policing Team Commander, Staffordshire Police, a letter dated 6th August 2013, in forming the Council that Inspector Rachel Joyce had that week taken up post as Local Policing Team Commander for Lichfield.

14. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

(i) Service 823

The Clerk reported that he had received from Bernadette Chadwick, Network Development Officer, Transport & the Connected County, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 11th July 2013, in which she pointed out that the 823 service was due to operate with a new timetable from Monday, 15th July 2013, which she thought should solve any problems with reliability, as the changes were made at the request of the operator in order that he could facilitate a better service.

The Council’s concerns over the roadworthiness of the vehicles had been highlighted with the Department’s Standards and Monitoring Officer in order that he might take any action necessary.

The new timetable would be operated on the back of a school service, which, Ms. Chadwick thought, should vastly improve the vehicles used.

Cllr. Couchman pointed out that the new timetable had actually *reduced* the service, and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Ms. Chadwick pressing for the diversion of Service 825 from Armitage twice during the day.

15. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2013

The Clerk reported that Longdon & Longdon Green had finished second in the Large Village Category of the Lichfield/Cannock Chase District and Upper Longdon had finished second in the Small Village Category of the Lichfield/Cannock Chase District.

He had found that only fifty-three of an estimated three hundred villages in Staffordshire had entered the Competition.

16. FINANCIAL MATTERS(i) Accounts for Payment

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

*G. C. McCulloch	Treating Church car park with herbicide	£ 60. 00
*Hazel Crosbie	Delivering “Longdon Life”	£ 45. 00
Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall – July 18 th : £12. 00 Hire of Hall – August 6 th : £12. 00 Hire of Hall – August 13 th : <u>£12. 00</u>	£ 36. 00
G. C. McCulloch	<u>Mowing – July 20th</u> Parish Sites: £280. 00 Gentleshaw Green: £ 90. 00 Cutting centre of Longdon Green and removing grass: <u>£180. 00</u>	£ 550. 00
Print&Digital	1500 Neighbourhood Plan leaflets	£ 245. 00
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Membership Renewal	£ 42. 00
R. A. G. Clarke	<u>Printing</u> Neighbourhood Plan: £25. 95 Vacancy for Clerk: £ 5. 70	£ 31. 65
A. J. Juxon	Editor’s Expenses	£ 15. 00

(ii) Payment Received

The Clerk reported that no payments had been received since the last meeting.

(iii) Current Balance

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

NatWest c/a:	£12635. 87
<u>less uncleared cheques</u>	
1799: £	45. 00
1803: £	12. 00
1806: £	30. 00
1808: £	<u>45. 00</u>
	£12503. 87

(iv) Requests for Grant Aid

No requests for grant aid had been received.

(v) Finance & General Purposes Committee

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee would be held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday, September 3rd, 2013, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.

17. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Cllr. Robert Pritchard, Deputy Leader, Tamworth Town Council, a letter dated 29th July 2013, asking for the Council's support in restoring the status of L/Cpl. Watchman V, a Staffordshire bull terrier, the former regimental mascot of the Staffordshire Regiment, which was lost when the Regiment became the third battalion of the Mercian Regiment.

However, Councillors did not think that involvement in this project would serve any useful purpose.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Alan McDonald, Business Development Manager, Highways Lighting, an undated letter offering the Council money on highways lighting without outlay.

However, Longdon Parish Council was not a Lighting Authority. and was therefore unable to benefit from this offer.

18. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

(i) From Karen Travers, Admin Officer – Electoral Services, Lichfield District Council:

Register of Electors - Notice of Alterations (August 2013).

(ii) From Heather Gibbons, Democratic and Development Officer. Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 28th July 2013;

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 11th August 2013.

(iii) From Michaela Plant, Licensing Assistant, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 12th July 2013;

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 19th July 2013;

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 26th July 2013;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 1st August 2013.

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

S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 25/13 – 11th July 2013;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 26/13 – 18th July 2013;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 27/13 – 26th July 2013;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 28/13 – 1st August 2013.

(v) From Sue Sheppard, Biodiversity Officer, Staffordshire County Council:

Managing Cannock Chase Newsletter – Issue 2.

(vi) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Healthwatch Staffordshire Newsletter #4;
Bulletin (12th July 2013);
Butterfly Survey;
Bulletin (19th July 2013);
Bulletin (26th July 2013).

(vii) From Sarah Thirwall, Communications and Engagement Officer, NHS Staffordshire/Lancashire CSU:

NHS111Update for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

(viii) From The Rural Services Network, Tavistock, Devon:

Rural Vulnerability Service – Broadband (July 2013);
Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty (July 2013);
Weekly Email News Digest – 15th July 2013;
Weekly Email News Digest – 22nd July 2013;
Weekly Email News Digest – 29th July 2013;
Weekly Email News Digest – 5th August 2013;
Rural Opportunities Bulletin – August 2013.

(ix) From VAST:

Voluntary and Community News for Staffordshire;
Voluntary and Community News (25th July 2013);
“action” (bi-monthly newsletter);
Booklet: “Supporting Staffordshire’s Voluntary Sector.

(x) From Getmapping, Hartney Wintney, Hants.:

Parish Online: HS2 Layers; PSMA on LinkedIn.

(xi) From Ordnance Survey:

PSMA Newsletter - July 2013;
PSMA Census 2013/2014.

(xii) From The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:

“Staffordshire Wildlife”: Number 118, Summer 2013;
Notice of Adjourned 43rd Annual General Meeting;
Annual Review 2012;
What’s On – September to December 2013;
Annual Raffle 2013 (2 books x 5 tickets @ £1.00 each).

(xiii) From The Secretary, Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee:

Minutes of meeting held on Monday, 24th June 2013;
Agenda for meeting to be held on Monday, 22nd July 2013.

(xiv) From Zurich Municipal:

Tell us what you think (Survey)

(xv) From Lamps & Tubes Illumination Ltd., Chesham, Bucks.:

“Don’t miss this large choice of Christmas tree light sets at bargain prices”;
“Sale now on - Cheap LED golf ball lamps for Christmas displays”.

(xvi) From Arien Designs Ltd., Cheddar, Somerset:

Countryside signage and more.

(xvii) From Sovereign Play, Shoeburyness, Essex:

Playground Clearance Sale – Limited Stock.

19. DOCUMENTS

The following documents were available for Councillors to consult:

- (i) “Safer, Fairer, United Communities for Staffordshire – Summary 2013 – 2018” (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire).
- (ii) “Staffordshire Wildlife”: Number 118, Summer 2013.

20. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Cherry asked for guidance on how to respond to a request which he had received to post a link on the Parish Website to the National Association of Life Coaches.

He himself had doubts about the suitability of giving publicity to a national organisation which was in essence commercial and had no local association or connections.

Councillors concurred with this view and supported Cllr. Cherry in his preference for not accepting the link.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday. September 10th, 2013, in the W. I. Hall, Ford Lane, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.

Appendix A

REPORT ON A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES
COMMITTEE OF LONGDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE W. I. HALL,
FORD LANE, LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 2013

Present: Cllr. C. D. Cherry (who, in the absence of the Chairman, took the Chair);
Cllr. P. M. Couchman; Cllr. R. A. G. Clarke; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere;
Cllr. M. J. Nash; and Cllr. K. C. Taylor.

Also present was the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. A. J. Juxon; Cllr. S. K. Welch; Mr. Will Rose.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Meere and seconded by Cllr. Clarke, the minutes of the meeting of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee held in the W. I. Hall, Ford Lane, Longdon, on Tuesday, May 7th, 2013, were approved and signed.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Broken Drain Cover at Russells Bank

It was reported that the broken cover had now been replaced.

5. FOOTPATHS REPORT

The Clerk said that, in presenting his apologies, Mr. Rose had submitted the following report, starting with outstanding matters:

FP. 72 (Brook End - Hood Lane)

New growth had been cleared by the County Council's Works Unit.

FP. 5 (Windmill Bank)

The fallen finger-post had been restored, and the stile replaced on April 29th.

FP. 7 (Briertey Hill Lane)

The finger missing from the finger-post at the junction of Briertey Hill Lane had been replaced on April 29th

BW58. Dark Lane, Upper Longdon, had been confirmed as an adopted non-maintained highway (Green Lane) by Debbie Bailey, of Staffordshire County Council.

In other words, it is an Unsurfaced, Unclassified Road (UUCR), otherwise known as a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT).

Mr. Rose had then reported the following new items:

FP69. The finger post at the junction with Smithy Lane had been loose and leaning, but had been re-erected by the County Works Unit on June 14th.

FP54. The stile at the of the footpath with the A51 was overgrown and there was no finger post. This had been reported to the County Council on July 31st.

FP45a (Mill House – The Croft). Mr. Rose had cut back the worst of the nettles and encroaching undergrowth and the path was now clear. He had put a note through Mr. Whitmore's letter box asking him to strim the path, Mr. Whitmore being the owner of Mill House, one of the properties adjacent to the path.

Cllr. Clarke then reported that Mrs. Gina Duckett had passed on a complaint from a local resident that three footpaths at the back of Church Way and Beech Walk were impassable, and it was agreed that this complaint should be investigated.

6. FOOTPATH LEAFLETS

The Clerk reported that he still had in his possession two boxes of the earlier two-tone leaflets and asked what should be done with them.

On a motion proposed, by Cllr. Taylor and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Meere, it was agreed that a token selection should be retained and the rest re-cycled.

7. CHURCH HOLLOW

Cllr. Clarke asked whether the planings deposited on the car park by the County Highways Department had now been spread.

No one could give an authoritative reply, and the Clerk said that he would check.

Cllr. Clarke suggested that the work of clearing the path fell into three natural sections: the level pathway, which needed clearing of loose pebbles and other detritus and extended to a width of 1½m; the slope at the top of the path; and the zig-zag which led into the car park, where the fencing needed replacing.

It was agreed that the first step in progressing the project was to seek quotations for the work; however, in the absence of both Cllr. Juxon and Cllr. Welch, who were going to take measurements so that the specifications could be decided, any action would have to be deferred until the meeting of the full Council the following week.

8. GENTLESHAW GREEN

Cllr. Clarke reported that the triangular boxes and flower tubs had now been planted by pupils of Gentleshaw School, but planting the hornbeams to obscure the wall at the rear of the Green would have to wait till the autumn.

9. CLOSURE OF DARK LANE, LONGDON

The permanent closure of the lane had still not taken place, and it had been reported that the temporary signs were being disturbed by riders of quod bikes.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Richard Rayson, the Community Highway Liaison manager, drawing his attention to this infringement and asking when permanent barriers would be erected.

10. UNAUTHORISED ROADSIDE SIGNS

The Clerk drew the attention of the Committee to the number of roadside signs being erected alongside the A51 advertising events at "The Swan with Two Neck".

The Committee agreed that such signs were a traffic hazard, intended, as they were, to distract the attention of passing motorists.

However, parish councils had no legal powers to remove these signs and had to rely on the County Highways Department to remove them.

It was agreed that the Clerk should make known its concerns to the Road Safety Partnership, and to ask the full Council whether it wished to re-affirm its policy of non-tolerance regarding these signs.

11. FUTURE PROJECTS

(i) Church Hollow

Cllr. Clarke suggested that The Council be asked to re-affirm its commitment to this project.

(ii) Footpath from High Street to A51

It was agreed that, in view of the perceived difficulties in implementing this project, it should remain as a possible project for the future.

(iii) Footpath Network

Cllr. Clarke thought that a comprehensive survey of the parish's footpath network would reveal both missing links and redundant footpaths, and he suggested that Mr. Rose might be asked if he would look into identifying and recording these anomalies.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint about the flooding which occurred at the junction of Malthouse Road and Dollymakers Hill every time there was heavy rainfall.

A new culvert had been laid there quite recently, but the parishioner thought that it was already being blocked by detritus from the neighbouring field.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Richard Rayson, drawing his attention to this problem.

(ii) Cllr. Taylor reported that the layby on the A51 between Bradley Lakes and Brereton Hill continued to be monopolised by Bio-Met lorries, on one recent occasion to the exclusion of a broken-down car being attended to by an RAC patrolman.

It was felt that there was a responsibility on the part of the businesses with which these lorries were trading to provide some sort of accommodation for them.

A possible solution to their abuse of neighbouring laybys would be to impose a limited-hours or “No Overnight Parking” restriction on their use, and the Clerk was instructed to write to both the County Highways Department and to the Road Safety Partnership suggesting this.

(iii) Cllr. Couchman reported that he had received a complaint from a parishioner about the overgrown vegetation at the entrance to Lower Way which was now so intrusive that it was constituting a hazard to passing traffic.

Cllr. Taylor said that this was the problem for which he had been seeking a solution for some time now.

The Clerk said that the problem was that it had not been possible to trace the owners of the adjoining ground, whose responsibility it was to cut the vegetation back, but he had been assured by Richard Rayson that, if it ever became a traffic hazard, he would arrange for it to be done.

It was agreed that this point had now been reached, and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Rayson asking him to arrange for this work to be carried out.

(iv) The Clerk reported that Cllr. Webb had asked him to bring to the attention of the Committee the state of Church Hill, where the gutters were clogged with weeds, the footpath made slippery by fallen leaves and passers-by were at risk from overhanging branches.

He was suggesting that the Council might commission a contractor to carry out a clearance of all these obstructions.

It was agreed that this proposal should be put before the full Council at its next meeting.

(v) Cllr. Mrs. Meere reported that, on July 26th, “The Red Lion on the Green” had been bought for £700,000 by Restaurant Group UK Limited, owners of the Frankie and Benny chain.

She pointed out that the fencing erected in front of the pub encroached on Longdon Green, and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the company pointing this out.

At the same time, he could ask the company what its plans were for the inn and whether there was a date for it to be re-opened.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 5th, 2013, in the W. I. Hall, Ford Lane, Longdon, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.