

Minutes of a Meeting of The Parish Council of Longdon held in the  
W.I. Hall, Ford Lane Longdon, on Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2013

Present: Cllrs. R.A.G. Clarke (Chairman), B.J.Butler, C.D.Cherry, P.M. Couchman  
A.J.Juxon, K.R Morgan, M.J.Nash, K.C.Taylor, C.J. Webb and S.K.Welsh.

1. Apologies

Cllr. Mrs. H.A.Meere and District Councillor N.J.Roberts.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the previous Meeting, held in the W.I.Hall, Ford Lane,Longdon, on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup>., 2013, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Taylor and Seconded by Cllr. Butler, approved and signed.

3. Declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

None was declared.

4. Requests for Dispensation

None was made.

5. Public Participation

No member of the public was present.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

(1) Maureen Piper Memorial

No decision has yet been made by the Show Committee as to the form the memorial would take, And it was agreed the Council could only wait for further information.

(2) Fly tipping on Cannock Chase

No further information reported on action taken by the District Council. The clerk would write and ask for a response to our previous letter.

(3) Cannock Chase ANOB Parish Council's Meeting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Cllr. Taylor agreed to attend this meeting as Cllr Welsh has a prior commitment.

(4) AOB

1. Cllr Morgan led the discussion on the poor mobile phone reception within the village around the public areas such as the Village Hall, where emergency calls may be required. It was noted that not all the mobile providers were effected by the poor coverage. Cllr. Nash reported how digital radio was also effected. The Council considered it prudent to ask the Village Hall committee to ensure that a working telephone would be available when the Hall is being used by the public.. Cllr. Cherry would discuss with them..

2. A Village register of volunteer drivers was suggested to help people get to doctors appointments. etc. There could however be problems with insurance and any payments towards costs. The over 60's committee could be asked to consider this further.  
The Clerk will be asked to draft a letter.

(5) Appointment of Clerk to the Council

The Chairman asked the Council to approve a few minor outstanding details to the new Clerks contract and reconfirm it's agreement to appoint Mrs. Claire Dillow.

This was carried unanimously.

The appointment will be made as soon as possible.

7. Planning

(1) Report of Planning Committee

The following applications in the view of the committee did not present any local planning problems or issues :-

13/00853/FUL , 13/00918/FUL, 13/00833/COU, 13/00981/FUL, 13/00931/COU and  
13/00972/FUL

Their recommendations were accepted unanimously.

(2) Neighbourhood Plan Update

The 2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition of the flyer has now been delivered to all houses in the Parish with the help of Sue Boston and Sarah Hollinshead. Full report of the last meeting is appended to these minutes.

8. Reports of Meetings.

- (1) L D C Parish Forum 2<sup>nd</sup>. October 2013 Attended by Cllr Clarke.  
Address by the Community Council of Staffordshire. Offering the use for a fee of Village Agents. Also reminding Councillors of the oil bulk purchase scheme and Village Hall Capital Grant scheme.  
It was reported that the Best Kept Village competition was only supported by some 50 Villages out of a total of 310.  
Mike Wilcox the leader of the Council spoke under the heading of "Fit for the Future" and the needs of the District Council to raise revenue to off-set Government funding restrictions A full report is appended to these minutes..
- (2) Cllr Taylor reported on a School Governors meeting at St. James informing the Council That the Deputy Headteacher was leaving to take up a Heads position at another school.
- (3) Cllr Taylor also attended a Committee meeting at Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall. One major item of interest was that the hall have managed to have the car park completely re- surfaced. Cllr Taylor reported how active the committee are and how well organised they are.  
A copy of the minutes will be provided.

9. Notice of Meetings

- (1) Highways and Open Spaces Committee: Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup>.2013  
In the WI Hall, Ford Lane, commencing at 7.00 pm.

## 10. Highways and Footpaths.

- (1) Closure of Dark Lane etc.  
Still awaiting final closure legal documents but according to Richard Rayson, Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, he expects to have the project completed by the end of the financial year.
- (2) No further information following our request for a 30mph roundel and a name plate for Stockings Lane or hedge trimming at Grange Lane.
- (3) Councillor Morgan reported a request for the Hedge to be cut back along the footpath Between Borough Lane and High Street on the west side of the A51.  
It is now overgrown considerably obstructing the footpath.  
Although the Council is aware that it may be the landowners responsibility, it is posing a safety hazard to walkers. The County Council are to be asked. to take action.
- (4) Councillor Webb was pleased to report that Church Hill had been cleaned and he congratulated the County Council for a good job well done.
- (5) The footpath from Longdon Green to Constitution Island along the A51 still needs some work.

### Action

In view of the time to complete some items reported to Richard Rayson and often the considerable delay in replies to correspondence.

Councillors recommend that the Clerk produce an ongoing list of all the outstanding items reported to the County so they don't get overlooked.

## 11. Greens and Open Spaces

Brook End Green. A Complaint was received from Mrs. Cauldwell that trees on the green are overshadowing her garden.. Cllr. Welsh will go and investigate.

## 12. General Administration

- (1) Risk Management Working Group.

Cllr Morgan reported the group had met and decided to produce a Policy Document, and carry out a line by line review of the Risk Register.

The policy document containing two pages has been completed and the register is being examined. The results will be reported to the next F&GP committee.

Cllr. Nash reported that the Parish Web Site was out of date, he was unable to obtain an updated copy of the register. He was able to demonstrate that other items on the Web Site were out of date such as the Vicar at Gentleshaw was still named as Martin Butt.

Cllr.Cherry expressed surprise at this but agreed to check Web information.

- (2) The need to formulate a Disciplinary and Grievance procedure was debated . It was agreed that this would be passed to the F& GP committee to action and report to the Council it's recommendations.
- (3) The Chairman asked Councillors to think about "Outcomes" so as to stimulate a discussion by the full Council around " what are the outcomes we wish to achieve" e.g. we deliver tangible outputs such as Longdon Life as tools to achieve outcomes like wellbeing,

neighbourliness, integration etc Inputs are not in this thought process.

### 13. Financial Matters

(1) Current balance end September Nat West c/a £10,607.90

(2) Accounts for payment

On a motion proposed by Cllr, Welsh and seconded by Cllr. Webb, payment of the following accounts was approved :-

Print & Digital	Printing village plan flyers	£145.00
Ditto	Printing plan input cards	£ 60.00
Hazel Crosbie	Delivering Flyers	£ 45.00
Gentleshaw Village Hall	Room Hire 22/10/13	£67.50
Longdon W.I.	Room Hire Sept & Oct 13	£60.00
G.C.McCulloch	Mowing Greens	£370.00
Ditto	Herbicide Treatment Car Park	£60.00
Grant Thornton	Audit Fee	£120.00
Staffs Parish Council Association	10 copies Councillor Guide	£25.00
S.K.Welsh	Reimbursement Plants	£27.00
A.J.Juxon	Reimbursement Scroll Framing RHS Subscription	£77.00

(3) St. Giles Hospice. Request for funds following our previous grant of £200  
Whilst Councillors are sympathetic they asked the Clerk to check when  
The previous payment was made.

### 14 Best Kept Village Competition

(1) Copies of the judges comments were received and were very encouraging.

Some criticism of the Churchyard was made with respect of grass cutting.,  
but this was done just after the judges inspection.

Letters to all who helped in the competition will be sent by the Council.

Cllr. Cherry was pleased to report that the Churchyard had been awarded a silver  
prize in this years Diocesan competition.

(2) In view of the poor support for the BKV competition throughout the County. The Council  
will need to decide whether or not it enters the competition next year.

15. Public transport

Still awaiting a response regarding the re-routing of some of the 823 service to pass through Longdon.

The council had nothing to add to the HS2 debate.

16. Neighbourhood Watch and Owl Messaging

— A letter from Mr Nunn asked the Council to consider calling a public meeting to encourage more formal coverage of the role of co-ordinators and the distribution of Owl messages.

The council will discuss this further at it's next meeting.

17. A.O.B.

Councillors were handed a copy of "The Good Councillor Guide"

18. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. 2013, in the Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall, Buds Road, Cannock Wood, Commencing at 7.30 pm