

Longdon Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highways and Open Space Committee held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2nd August 2016 at WI Hall, Longdon.

Parish Councillors; Cllrs N Stanfield, K Taylor, P Couchman, H Meere, and K Morgan
Apologies; Cllr A Fullwood, S Welch (co-optee)
Clerk; H Goodreid
In Attendance; Will Rose as Co-opted Member, Cllr G Duckett and three residents

Min No.	Item	Action
1	Apologies for Absence	
1.1	All councillors were in attendance.	
2	Declarations of Interest	
2.1	None	
3	Chairman to close meeting for public session	
3.1	Two residents attended to make representations in respect of an application made to the Staffordshire County Council in 1998 for the upgrading to a bridleway of that part of footpath no 73 from its junction with bridleway 25 to Brook End. The County Council had advised that the application was now no. 99 on their list of applications to determine and the residents were concerned that it would be many years before the matter was resolved.	
3.2	It was also noted that a block of concrete had been placed across bridleway 25 which prevented a gate being fully opened.	
3.3	The matter was discussed and it was explained to the residents the consultations that were ongoing with the land owner in respect of an alternative route. (See minute no 7 below)	
4	Minutes	
4.1	These were agreed and signed Proposed: Cllr Morgan; Seconded: Cllr Meere	
5	Matters Arising on the Minutes	
5.1	Matters arising from the meeting would be dealt with on the agenda with the exception of:	
5.2	Cllr Morgan requested that the matter of Parish Wide Road Safety Scheme continue to be made to SCC. Clerk to send copy of letter to SCC to remaining Cllrs that aren't on Committee.	Clerk to send
5.3	Cllr Couchman presented paperwork – Needwood Forest Connect – regarding possible Ring and Ride Scheme. Clerk to chase with Cllr Martyn Tittley.	Clerk to contact Cllr Tittley
5.4	Work to start on the noticeboards this Friday 5 th August 2016.	
5.5	Potholes: Richard Meere had been in correspondence with Tim Heminsley at SCC re potholes and this was passed on to Cllrs.	
5.6	Cllr Fullwood has emailed Cllrs re outcome of the Best Kept Village completion and we have received x 2 Highly Commended. Poster competition took place for BKV, judging and presentation of book tokens	

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	to the winners took place. Cllr Morgan reminded the committee that we start preparations for BKV earlier next year. Thanks went to all involved.	
6	Items for Decision	
6.1	Cllr Stanfield has looked at possible locations for walks leaflets and found that we need approx. 12 stands, each to hold 8 different walks.	
6.2	It was agreed that Clerk order 12 stands for 8 leaflets each at a cost of £14.92 from PlasticOnline. Proposed: Cllr Taylor; Seconded: Cllr Morgan	Clerk to place order for the stands.
6.3	Cllrs consider the need to order additional leaflets in order to stock the new stands. Quote received from Benhill Press of Rugeley for 500 of each leaflet at accost of 21.2pence which is £106 per walk. The council had 8 walks. Proposed: Cllr Taylor; Seconded: Cllr Meere	Clerk to place order for the leaflets.
6.4	Wil Rose agreed to restock the leaflets around the various locations.	
7	Items for Discussion	
	Footpaths and Bridleways	
7.1	<u>Bridleway 25</u> There is a break in the bridleway as concrete block has been placed in the way. Request that the Parish Council write formally to the owner. Will Rose said that a Parish Council has the powers to designate a bridleway / footpath with the owner's permission. This approach had been made some years ago and Cllrs discussed possible approach again.	
7.1.1	Following the last council meeting, Cllr Morgan has been in touch with the land owner. The land owner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will slightly move the block to allow easier access for walkers but still restrict horses; • raised concerns about the slope of the land if the route was redirected; • questioned the route wondering if it should be across the neighbouring land owners land rather than the current landowners land. 	
7.1.2	If the parish council cannot resolve the issue, then it could be escalated to the County Council. It was agreed that Cllr Morgan goes back to the landowner to discuss possibilities.	Cllr Morgan to contact the landowner re diversions and other solutions.
7.2	<u>Footpath 28</u> The stile was broken and has now been replaced with 3 kissing gates – one to place the broken stile and then two further on. It was agreed to pass on thanks to the landowners.	
7.3	<u>Footpath 53</u> No way markers had yet been placed.	
7.4	<u>Footpath 22</u> Will Rose to clarify situation.	Will Rose to clarify situation.

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7.5	Some dog walkers are trespassing and veering off the footpaths. This is a concern of the local landowners. Will proposed to write an article in the next issue of Longdon Life to remind walkers to stick to the footpaths with dogs on a lead. Continued issue of dog fouling on agricultural land as this is harmful to cattle and other livestock.	Will Rose to write article.
7.6	Long Term, Will Rose is planning to undertake a survey of all of the footpaths with the regular volunteers as it has been some years since that was last undertaken.	
7.7	<u>Footpath 42</u> This comes across Broomy Fields. It has been reported that the bridge over the stream needs a plank replacing. Will Rose has contacted the owner who has said that he will repair this.	
7.8	<u>Footpath 30</u> This has now been renamed as <u>Footpath 30a</u> on the SCC record. This means that there has been a diversion which may affect one of the footpaths. Clerk to get copy of the diversion from SCC.	Clerk to contact SCC
7.9	<u>Footpaths 9, 7 and 14</u> Cllr Stanfield had been contacted re issues with these bridleways and had reported problems. Cllr Stanfield has had confirmation that works have been undertaken but has not been to see if the work is sufficient. The works required were to overhanging trees.	
7.10	There was discussion re overhanging vegetation obstructing footpaths, roads and bridleways in the parish. It was agreed that Clerk write to County Surveyor to raise the issue and check that this is the right protocol.	Clerk to contact SCC.
7	Highways Matters	
7.11	R Meere has sent on correspondence between him and Tim Heminsley at SCC. The information received does give clarity to how potholes are classified for repair work.	Clerk to contact SCC and cc Cllr Tittley. Clerk to seek a meeting with SCC to discuss further works to improve this junction.
7.12	Cllr Duckett raised the issue of access to the A51 from High Street and the fact that hedges/trees are overgrown as is the growth at the base of the hedge on the bank. There are concerns that the standard for the visibility splay is not at the minimum required for a minor road accessing a main highway. It was agreed that Clerk contact SCC re this and request that the overgrowth is cut back.	
7.13	Some work has started on Upper Way but it is only the kerb stones that have been put in in one part. Clerk to check progress of work.	Clerk to contact SCC
7	Open Spaces	
7.14	The work to the noticeboards and finger posts has been commissioned. Work will start on 5 th August on the noticeboard in front of the Post Office. Bus Shelters may need a coat of varnish to protect them for the winter.	H&OS to look at this in next meeting.
7.15	Clerk to ask Benhill Press for an electronic version of the walks to allow	

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7.16	<p>for updating to website.</p> <p>S Welch had written to the parish council re land in front of Longdon School. Staffs Wildlife are wanting some trees removed. Cllr Morgan to follow up with S Welch re the role of LPC. Clerk to look through files to see if there is correspondence with the Lichfield re maintenance of land. Land within Gentleshaw Common – Cllr Stanfield pursuing issue of land which was meant to be exchanged for land taken by a neighbour.</p>	<p>Clerk to get a version of walks.</p> <p>Cllr Morgan to pursue with S Welch.</p>
7.17	<p>Longdon Green sign for information re biological interest and Photos of the natural landscape are still awaited.</p>	<p>S Welch</p>
8	Councillors Reports	
8.1	<p>Cllr Taylor spoke re Sunny Corner and encroachment onto bridleway re Shavers Lane/Lower Way flooding. Clerk to email Cllr Stanfield all correspondence re this planning application.</p>	<p>Clerk to let Cllr Stanfield have correspondence.</p>
8.2	<p>Will Rose raised the issue of coloured way marker discs which related to the printed walks. It was agreed that these are used for path marking as they mentioned the parish council.</p>	<p>Will to contact previous Clerk for discs.</p>
8.3	<p>Cllr Duckett spoke to the committee re the budget for the committee. Cllrs were reminded that they have nearly allocated 50% of their budget and would need to go back to full council for approval to draw down the rest of the budget.</p>	<p>For full Council in September.</p>

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm

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