

# Longdon Parish Annual Assembly

Including Longdon, Longdon Green, Upper Longdon & Gentleshaw



## Minutes April 2016

Minutes of Meeting of Longdon Parish Annual Assembly held 7.30pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at Longdon Village Hall.

**Present:** **Parish Councillors;** K Morgan (Chair), A. Fullwood, B Butler, K Taylor, H Meere, N Stanfield, P Couchman.  
**Parish Councillor Apologies;** C Webb, G Duckett  
**Other apologies:** SCC/LDC Councillor Martyn Tittley and LDC Councillor Ian Pritchard  
**Clerk;** H Goodreid  
**Public Attendees;** approx. 40 members of public attended the meeting

| Min No.         | Item   |
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| <b>1</b><br>1.1 | <b>Welcome by the Chair</b><br>Cllr Kevin Morgan, as current Chair of Longdon Parish Council opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Cllr Morgan thanked the WI for providing refreshments and the Village Hall Committee for the use of the hall. Cllr Morgan also thanked Inspector Rob Neeson who would be talking later.  |
| <b>2</b><br>2.1 | <b>Apologies</b><br>All apologies were noted and recorded.   |
| <b>3</b><br>3.1 | <p><b>Chairs</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Report</b></span></p> <p>A full copy of the report is appended to the minutes but in brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the Standing Orders to improve working practices;</li> <li>• Transparency Code required information to be loaded onto the website (<a href="http://www.longdon-staffs.info">www.longdon-staffs.info</a>) ;</li> <li>• Audit and Financial running of the council had been fully scrutinised;</li> <li>• Change in councillors over the past year – special thanks were given to Cllrs Juxon, Welch, Clark, Cherry, Cleaver and Dangerfield who had all resigned from the council after great service; thanks to Cllrs Duckett, Stanfield and Fullwood for coming on board – there were still 2 councillor vacancies to be filled.</li> <li>• Planning Applications had sometimes been contentions but the parish council had fulfilled its role in responding to Lichfield DC. The parish council were keen to see that its contributions were to make a difference in the decision making process.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Plan is nearly finished and looks at land use around the whole parish.</li> <li>• Budget/Precept – this had been made more robust with a reserve in place for contingencies as part of best practice, and a planned group of projects to be undertaken over the next 3 years. Funding would become an increasing issue as funding from Staffs County Council and Lichfield DC was set to decrease over forthcoming years.</li> <li>• Public Attendance at meetings – it was encouraging to see an increasing number of residents attending the full council meetings. The parish council represents the residents and it was important that information flowed both ways.</li> </ul> |
| <b>4</b><br>4.1 | <b>Financial Report</b><br>The Clerk talked through the Statement of Account (available on the website   |

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| 4.2  | <p><a href="http://www.longdon-staffs.info/council/documents">www.longdon-staffs.info/council/documents</a>). Main income came from the Precept and associated grant but additional income had come from the Transparency Grant which had allowed for the purchase of council laptop and printer.</p> <p>Key elements of expenditure was the mowing contract for various public open spaces, hire of halls for meetings, insurance, the small grants awards and the Neighbourhood plan.</p>   |
| <p><b>5</b><br/>5.1</p>  | <p><b>Report from Highways and Open Spaces Committee</b></p> <p>This committee met approx. every 2 months and all meetings were open to the public. Work achieved over the past year included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restriction to layby waiting times to prevent overnight lorry stops</li> <li>• Bus Services – there had been a withdrawal of the local bus services so a survey had been developed (in Longdon Life and on the website) to get feedback from the public on their needs. The parish council would assess the results and take action as required.</li> <li>• Road Safety – the parish council continued to lobby the county council regarding a parish wide safety review for <b>all</b> roads.</li> <li>• Potholes and road damage – please report any damage to the county council website and get a reference number. If you get no response, please forward a copy of your email to the parish council who will help to push for the repairs.</li> <li>• Footpaths and Bridleways – lucky to have so many in the parish but please report any issues to the parish council</li> <li>• Appearance – the signs and noticeboards are now on a programme of repair / replacement around the parish</li> <li>• Gentleshaw Common SSSI – is now being looked after by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. SWT had given a talk at a recent parish council meeting.</li> <li>• Longdon Green – was a site of biological importance with rare orchids on the green. The committee was seeking to get grass cuttings removed following mowing in order to preserve the biological interest of the land.</li> <li>• Best Kept Village – the parish council had entered Longdon/Longdon Green and Upper Longdon into the competition. Posters would go up soon.</li> <li>• Longdon Life – this had previously been edited by Allen Juxon but Glenys Beveridge had now taken on this mantle and thanks went to both for their work.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>6</b><br/>6.1<br/><br/>6.2<br/><br/>6.3<br/><br/>6.4</p> | <p><b>Longdon Neighbourhood Plan Working Group (NPWG)</b></p> <p>An executive summary had gone to all households in the parish. The full document was available on the website. The full document had also been sent to various other bodies who may have an interest in the parish. Following consultation and feedback, a further draft will be written and produced. Neil Vyse thanked all for their input.</p> <p>The NPWG were now in discussion with Lichfield District Council regarding policy refinement and providing clarity to landowners in the parish.</p> <p>There will be a 6-week formal consultation period and a draft should be out in the summer. It was important to note that when the Referendum was called, in order to vote on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), you would need to be on the electoral register.</p> <p>If the NP was adopted, then it would become part of the statutory local plan for the area and would have legal standing. All parts of the NP must have conformity with national policy and would therefore support Green Belt policy.</p>  |
| <p><b>7</b><br/>7.1</p>  | <p><b>Formal acceptance of written reports from local organisations</b></p> <p>Reports from the following organisations were available in the information pack and were read and accepted. Details of the groups can be found on <a href="http://www.longdon-staffs.info/information/organisations">www.longdon-staffs.info/information/organisations</a> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longdon Cricket Club – the club has been playing for over 100 years behind</li> </ul>  |

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|   | <p>the Red Lion in Longdon Green. Unfortunately, the landowner no longer wishes to renew the lease in 4 years' time which puts the future of the club in jeopardy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall – Longdon Parish Council holds 1 in 3 meetings in this village hall which is a great local facility.</li> <li>• Longdon Villages Community Group – a relatively new group which helps to support other local groups in the parish by raising money to offer as grants. In order to raise money there would be a celebratory event on 12<sup>th</sup> July for the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (see website for more details).</li> <li>• Longdon Flower Club – meet monthly in the WI Hall</li> <li>• Longdon WI – meet monthly in the WI Hall. Thanked the parish council for the grant to refurbish the toilets at the hall. This year was the centenary of the WI so key events had taken place. The WI had taken part in the refurbishment of the preschool play area.</li> <li>• Longdon Walking Group -meet monthly in the WI Hall</li> <li>• Longdon Over 60's – looking for new members</li> <li>• Longdon Friends of St Giles – appealed for support and fundraising ideas</li> <li>• Longdon Village Hall Management Committee – thanked the parish council and other users for hiring the building and using the facilities.</li> <li>• St James Church – a detailed 2 page report was provided</li> <li>• Longdon Parochial Charities Trust – offers financial support for a variety of uses e.g. support for students or a grant for a local group.</li> <li>• Longdon Cotton Almshouses – there are 3 Almshouses in Borough Lane which are currently fully occupied. A new car park had been built this year.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>8 &amp; 9</b><br/>8.1<br/><br/>8.2<br/><br/>8.3<br/><br/>8.4<br/><br/>8.5</p> | <p><b>Open Forum on Local Issues and any Resolutions</b></p> <p>A number of issues were raised from the floor but in general centred around the following:</p> <p><b>Longdon Social Club and Institute</b> – Cllr Morgan has spoken with the secretary and can now confirm that the insurance on the building has been extended to end of June 2017. The hall continues to honour the bookings taken and the parish council have asked for an update and meeting. The land and buildings have been gifted to the parish. There are no plans to develop the field to the rear of the building. If there were any specific questions, please contact the club direct.</p> <p><b>Traffic</b> – the lanes were becoming a rat run with increased traffic movements on the A51 and displaced traffic from the weight restriction put in at Armitage with Handsacre. Cllr Morgan mentioned the requests made to Staffs County Council for a comprehensive safety review. As the parish has dispersed settlements, access to the A51 in peak times is a problem. The ageing population of the parish also needed to be factored in to any safety review. The parish council will continue to seek a risk assessment.</p> <p><b>Litter</b> - the issue of litter in the ditches along Brereton Hill, Goosemoor Lane, Giddywell Lane and Borough Lane was also mentioned and this would be passed to Staffs County Council Neighbourhood team who were to be in the area for a day in May and a day in August. The issue of dog fouling and failure to collect and dispose of it in an <b>appropriate</b> fashion was also commented on.</p> <p><b>Stiles and Footpaths</b> – there seemed to be no consistency as to whether replaced access points were done as stiles or kissing gates – this was an issue for mobility impaired walkers and walkers with dogs, wishing to do circular walks round the parish. A local landowner explained that the stiles etc. were provided by the county council but were installed by the landowners at their cost. The parish council did have walks marked on their website but would review the accessibility of these walks and mark clearly. The parish council would also assess the footpaths etc. over forthcoming year and assess the repairs / works required to each.</p> |

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| 8.6   | <p><b>Glebe Land</b> – This had been discussed at the last parish council meeting in great detail. Cllr Morgan had been in touch with the land agent for the diocese who had assured him that they were <b>not</b> currently putting the Glebe field up for sale. Lichfield District Council in their Strategic Housing Land Assessment were not currently looking for houses in the Longdon Parish.</p>   |
| <p><b>10</b><br/>10.1</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p>                         | <p><b>Traffic Calming in Upper Longdon</b></p> <p>Cllr Morgan spoke briefly on this in the absence of Cllr Martyn Tittley. The 30mph signs will be re-sited on Upper Way and signing will be made clearer. There would be entrance gateways to the village to reinforce the fact that drivers were coming into a restricted speed area. The road width would be reduced at various pinch points but would still be wide enough for 2 vehicles at a time.</p> <p>Requests were made for restricted weight limits in the village and around the whole parish. This point would be passed on to Martyn Tittley.</p> <p>A request was made for the police to check on traffic speeds not only on the main A51 but also on the side roads. Inspector Neeson said that all villages around Lichfield were experiencing the same issues but with limited resources, the police could only pick up issues where statistics supported the need for measures.</p>  |
| <p><b>11</b><br/>11.1</p> <p>11.2</p> <p>11.3</p> <p>11.4</p> <p>11.5</p> | <p><b>Inspector Robert Neeson</b></p> <p>Thanked the meeting for the opportunity to talk on rural policing. He said that it was important to come to events like this in order to manage expectations and understand local issues. Rural policing was becoming increasingly reliant on technology and affected by technology e.g. violent crime statistics would now include abuse via social media etc.</p> <p>Police now had mobile data to hand as they travelled through the district which meant that information was ready and to hand.</p> <p>Vulnerability was still an issue with cold callers targeting older people and whilst the homeowner was distracted, a burglary would take place.</p> <p>Speeding continues to be an issue but policing numbers were continually being reduced. There was a request that if you have any incidents to report, please do report and get a log number as this then relates to statistics and without statistics to back up information, police funds and support cannot be directed to the area.</p> <p>For a reminder, use 999 for emergencies only. Use 101 for non-emergency matters as this will get through to local police units.</p> |

**The meeting closed at 9.00pm followed by refreshments served by the WI.**

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