

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD
IN THE MEETING ROOM OF CHRIST CHURCH, GENTLESHAW, ON
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, 2004

Present: Cllr. J. R. Andrews (Chairman); Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. H. C. Bramley;
Cllr. B. J. Butler; Cllr. R. C. Hemmingsley; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere;
and Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons.

Also present were the Clerk; Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District Council;
PC Andy Brown, Community Beat Officer; and twenty-six members of the
public - Mr. Roger Adams, of Upper Way, Upper Longdon;
Mr. & Mrs. Simon Allan-Smith, of Upper Longdon; Mr. Tom Badgery,
of Upper Way, Upper Longdon; Mr. & Mrs. Keith Cameron, of Stockings
Lane, Longdon; Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Cowdell, of Brook End, Longdon;
Mrs. Hazel Crosbie, Mrs. Michael Crosbie and Miss Nicola Crosbie, of
Stockings Lane, Longdon; Mrs. Karen Dawson, of Swan Close, Longdon;
Mrs. Maggie Derry, of Hawcroft, Longdon; Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Gage, of
Bradley Lakes, Longdon; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hewitt, of High Street,
Longdon; Mr. D. Meek, of Chase Terrace; Mrs. Eva Overton, of Brook End,
Longdon; Mrs. Mary Pratt, of Brereton; Mrs. Rebecca Shenton, of Stockings
Lane, Longdon; Mr. Ken Taylor, of Upper Way, Upper Longdon;
Mrs. Melissa Thompson, of Longdon; Mr. Hugh Reynolds, of Brook End,
Longdon; Mr. Neil Vyse, of Stockings Lane, Longdon; and Ms. Anne
Whitehouse, of Lower Way, Upper Longdon

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. A. J. Juxon; Cllr. Mrs. M. G. Nichols; Cllr. N. Stanfield;
and Cllr. S. K. Welch.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday,
October 12th, 2004, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Hemmingsley and seconded by
Cllr. Bramley, approved and signed.

3. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed parishioners and other members of the public who were present
at the meeting.

Speaking of the meeting which had taken place on October 21st between the Parish
Council, County Councillor Frank Lewis, and David Grain and Alan Chapman, two members
of the Development Services Directorate of Staffordshire County Council concerning
measures for improving the safety of the A51 through Longdon, the Chairman said that no
final decisions had been made, though it was obvious that a great deal of preparatory work
had been done. The officials had been acquainting themselves with the problem, and the
Council had been very impressed with how well they understood the issues. They had also
made clear how helpful they had found the contributions of the parishioners who had written
to them.

The Chairman added that it had emerged at the meeting that this section of the A51 was at the top of the agenda for the next financial year and that work could be expected to start in the summer of 2005.

Decisions were not yet set in stone, and the Parish Council would be continuing to work closely with the County Council in the final stages of the preparation of the scheme. In turn, the County Council was expecting the Parish Council to continue to inform and consult its parishioners, and the Chairman pledged to write an article for the forthcoming issue of "Longdon Life" fully explaining the current position.

He warned that, in its final form, the scheme might not incorporate everything that parishioners had called for, but he thought it important that, in those circumstances, parishioners should know why. He pointed out that other agencies, such as the police, the fire service and the ambulance service, had to be consulted and that the view of the police in particular had to be taken into account before speed-reducing measures were introduced.

The next meeting between the Parish Council and the County Council would take place in February of next year, after which, Cllr. Roberts thought, the County Council might be prepared to make public its proposals.

There was still some concern that the views of the residents would not be given sufficient weight and a demand for separate representation at future meetings, as well as a reluctance on the part of some present to accept that the Parish Council would represent those views with sufficient clarity or force. However, after pointing out that the County Council representatives preferred to confer with residents through the elected members of their Parish Council and reminding all those present that both Parish Council and parishioners shared the same objective, that of improving the safety of the A51, the Chairman re-iterated his commitment both to ensure that the views of the parishioners were kept in the forefront of discussions and to keep them informed of future developments.

Finally, the Clerk informed the meeting that he had been advised that the review of the traffic problems in Upper Longdon was still at an early stage, but that it was hoped that a scheme would have been prepared by the end of the year.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Japanese Knotweed in Church Hollow

Cllr. Bramley reported that he had received a phone call from Marieke Tomlin, the District Council's Countryside Officer, inviting him to a site meeting in Church Hollow with a view to identifying the exact location of the Japanese knotweed reported growing there, but he had not been free to meet her and had instead given her directions for finding the site.

(ii) Missing Letter Box

The Clerk reported that he had received a phone message from Royal Mail informing him that wheels had been set in motion to replace the letter box stolen from the top of Batesway but that it might take some time.

He had written to every parishioner living in Brereton Hill Lane and Batesway, advising them of the position.

(iii) Roadside Tree Planting

The Clerk reported that he had received a price list from Woodshoot Nurseries listing the variety of sorbus available.

In view of the need to carry out this planting without further delay, it was agreed that Cllr. Bird and Cllr. Welch should be given the authority to select appropriate trees from this list.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Bird and seconded by Cllr. Hemmingsley, it was agreed

that trees should be ordered from Woodshoot Nurseries not exceeding £300. 00 in value.

(iv) Footpath Leaflets

The Clerk reported that he had, as instructed, taken copies of the four footpath leaflets to The Benhill Press in Rugeley and now awaited their quotation for printing 1000 of each.

(v) Repair and Replacement of Benches

The Clerk reported that this work had been carried out.

(vi) Brook End Conservation Area

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Stanfield had told him that he would have plans to present to the Council at its next meeting.

(vii) Verge at Side of Footpath between Berkeley Way and Beech Walk

The Clerk reported that Alan Johnson was currently at work on clearing this verge.

(viii) Law and Order

The Clerk reported that he had, as instructed, written to the Chief Constable of Staffordshire Police asking him for an authoritative statement on the level of policing in the parish.

(ix) Discharge of Sewage in Shaw Lane

Cllr. Roberts reported that he had raised the issue with both Environmental Control and Building Control at Lichfield.

He understood that the problem may have arisen because a watercourse had been obstructed when a garage had been built at the top of the lane.

5. PLANNING

(i) Report of Working Group

In the absence of Cllr. Welch, the Clerk reported that the following observations had been submitted to Lichfield District Council on behalf of the Parish Council:

04/00456/FUL: Mr. R. W. Barton: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of two detached dwellings and additional vehicular access (amended plan): "Southdown",
Lower
Way, Upper Longdon

The down-sizing of the original plan had been noted, but there were still grave reservations about the proposed development.

It would still provide an additional strain on drainage and sewerage, already inadequate; it would still add to the problem of run-off; and it would still bring additional traffic onto a totally unsuitable road.

(ii) For Consideration

The following planning application was then considered:

04/01124/CLE: Miss S. J. Boston: Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use - residential:
Hawcroft Cottage, Hood Lane, Longdon

The Council was concerned that the location plan showed no access road and felt that the applicant must establish a legal right of way to the property before a Certificate of Lawfulness was issued.

It was expected that such access would need to be adequate to sustain vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

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

04/00795/FUL: Mrs. M. Savage: Single-storey side and rear extension to form utility, workout room/swimming pool and kitchen with dormer windows to front and rear: "Woodholme", Lower Way, Upper Longdon.

04/00888/FUL: Messrs. Attridge, Phillips, Cope and Manson: Variation of Condition 17 of 02/00699/COU (Horsey Lane Farm) to provide only one passing bay at Bardy Lane: Land south of Deva House, Bardy 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 Permission for Development relating to the parish.

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Chairman's Meeting with Mrs. Christine Hibbs, Senior Planning Officer, Development Services Department, Lichfield District Council

The Chairman reported that, following receipt of the letter of 5th October 2004 from Stephen Hill, Development Control Manager, advising the Council of counsel's opinion regarding the unauthorised development at Bradley Lakes, he had arranged a meeting on October 19th with Mrs. Hibbs in order to discuss the wider implications of the decision, made in the light of this opinion, not to proceed with an enforcement order.

She had remained firm in her refusal to release the text of counsel's opinion, pointing out that, if the Parish Council were dissatisfied with it, the Council could always seek a second opinion. If, however, her Department were to act contrary to the opinion it had received, it would risk a reprimand from the District Auditor.

Mrs. Hibbs had expressed her Department's own frustration at the situation and had recognised that it could be replicated in other parts of the District.

She had agreed that other parish councils in the District should be advised of the situation and had expressed her willingness to talk to a wider audience of parish councillors at a meeting of the Area Committee or of the District Parish Forum.

The District Council's own policy was being reviewed in the light of advice received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, which was urging negotiation rather than enforcement.

(b) Alleged Boarding Kennels at No. 44 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Christine Hibbs, Senior Planning Officer, Development Services Department, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 22nd October 2004, informing the Council that, following a site visit on October 18th, it had been evident that the outbuildings in the rear garden of this property had not been converted to kennels and were, in fact, used by the occupant to house pigeons in pursuance of his hobby, adding that there was no other evidence to substantiate the complaint.

The Parish Council noted that there had been no grounds for the allegation and, while confirming that it had had an obligation to pursue the complaint, very much regretted the distress this misunderstanding had caused.

(c) Land at Rear of 74 and 76 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Mr. Charles Brown, of Upper Way, Upper Longdon, a copy of a letter, dated 2nd November 2004, which he had written to Ian Thompson, Corporate Director - Development Services, Lichfield District Council and copied to the occupiers of Nos. 50 to 116 Upper Way, objecting to the application for outline planning permission for a four-bedroomed house on the plot of land to the rear of the above properties and insisting that it lay within the Green Belt.

He had subsequently received a copy of a letter from Mrs. Jo Lancaster, of the Development Executive, dated 4th November 2004, and sent in reply to the same occupiers, rejecting this assertion and explaining that the plot fell within the village boundary of Upper Longdon and the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Cllr. Roberts informed the Council that, because of the sensitivity of this application, he had asked for it to be considered at the meeting of the full Planning Committee, which would take place on November 29th.

(d) Lichfield District Local Development Framework Plan

Cllr. Roberts advised the Council that there was not a lot in the proposals which impacted on Longdon directly.

However, he had prepared a two-page summary for the consideration of the Council at its next meeting.

It being 10. 20 p.m., the Chairman then adjourned the meeting until Monday, November 15th, when it would resume in The Meeting Room of Christ Church, Gentleshaw, at 7. 30 p.m.

Present at the resumed meeting were Cllr. J. R. Andrews (Chairman); Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. H. C. Bramley; Cllr. B. J. Butler; Cllr. R. C. Hemmingsley; and Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons.

Also present were the Clerk and three parishioners - Mr. John Knight, of Giddywell Lane, Longdon, Mr. Arthur Nash, of Stockings Lane, Longdon, and Mr. Neil Vyse, also of Stockings Lane, Longdon.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. A. J. Juxon, Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere, Cllr. Mrs. M. G. Nichols, Cllr. S. K. Welch and Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District Council.

6. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

(i) Meeting of Parish Councillors with David Grain and Alan Chapman, of the Development

Services Directorate of Staffordshire County Council, and County Councillor Frank Lewis: October 21st

The Chairman gave a report on a meeting between members of the Parish Council, David Grain and Alan Chapman, of the Development Services Department of Staffordshire County Council, and County Councillor Frank Lewis which had taken place in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Thursday, October 21st, 2004.

It had been, he said, an extremely valuable meeting, and, while nothing definitive had been presented, it was clear that a tremendous amount of preparatory work had been done.

A range of solutions was being considered, safety cameras, splitter islands and speed restrictions amongst them.

More importantly, Longdon was now being given top priority and, as a result, it was expected that work would begin early in the next financial year. Cllr. Hemmingsley felt that more information could have been given to parishioners attending the previous week's meeting; a range of options had been discussed, none of them especially revolutionary, and he thought that this information could have been disclosed, subject to the proviso that everything still depended on the availability of adequate financing and the support of a number of other agencies such as the police and the emergency services.

He was supported in this view by Cllr. Bird.

The Chairman pointed out that, at that stage of the meeting, the Council had not had the opportunity of discussing what was being proposed, adding that two members of the Council had been unable to attend the meeting and were not aware of what these proposals were.

He was also anxious not to mislead people into thinking that firm decisions had already been taken.

Mr. Grain and Mr. Chapman were prepared to meet the Parish Council again in February, when they expected to have firm proposals to put before the Council; the Clerk was instructed to make contact with them early in the New Year to confirm this date.

(ii) Staffordshire Police - Police Authority Community Consultation Meeting: November 2nd

Cllr. Butler reported on a Police Authority Community Consultation meeting which had taken place at Fradley Village Hall on Tuesday, November 2nd, 2004.

Nearly the entire time had been devoted to problems faced by Fradley residents, including speeding traffic, the length of response time and the lack of police officers.

It was obvious that these were problems which were shared by other rural communities within the area and attributable to some extent to the size of the area covered by only a small number of officers.

7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that he had had notice of no imminent meetings.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Miscellaneous Highway Matters

The Clerk reported that he had received from Ken Owen, Divisional Engineer South, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 18th October 2004, in which he had addressed the following matters:

(a) Flooding In Smithy Lane

Describing the lane as a minor rural lane without positive drainage, Mr. Owen said that it had been visited over the last few weeks but no major problem had been observed, though he would continue to monitor the situation.

He pointed out that the responsibility for the maintenance of roadside ditches usually rested with the fronting landowner.

(b) Damaged Road Surface in Stoneywell Lane

The potholes had been temporarily repaired and would be permanently patched, hopefully before Christmas, with a view to its being surface-dressed in the summer.

(c) Junction of Borough Lane and Horsey Lane

In Mr. Owen's view, the priority should not be changed, as this would be detrimental to road safety.

However, he would consult his colleagues in the Traffic Section and notify the Council of the outcome.

Cllr. Hemmingsley supported Cllr. Mrs. Nichols' view that the present priority was a risk to road safety, since motorists travelling along Horsey Lane from the direction of Upper Longdon had little time to react when confronted by vehicles turning out of Borough Lane, and the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Owen, re-iterating the Council's concern.

(d) Lack of Pavement between Nos. 74 and 126 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

The request for a footway to be installed at the above location was beyond the scope of Mr. Owen's maintenance function, and his recommendation was to feed it into the Local Transport Plan with a priority to attract funding.

As this would have a major impact on Upper Way/Startley Lane, it should be considered in conjunction with an overall strategy on traffic management.

(e) Advertising on the Highway Verge

The position of Staffordshire County Council was that they did not allow signs other than those within the Traffic Signals manual, and illegal signs on the highway were dealt with in the most appropriate way.

In reality, because resources were limited, priority was given to any signage that compromised safety and visibility.

Mr. Owen thanked the Council for its recent help with regard to "For Sale" signs.

(f) Repair to Road Surface at Top of Shavers Lane

This area had been picked up as below standard. The contractor would be returning at his own expense to carry out remedial work.

(g) Abuse of Highway Verge outside No. 71 Upper Way

Mr. Owen acknowledged that this was taking time to sort out. He would discuss the

problem with his Area Manager and keep the Council informed of progress.

(ii) Public Footpath No. 35 - Seedy Mill

The Clerk reported that he had received from Glyn Chapman, Rights of Way Assistant, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 22nd October 2004, in which he had informed the Council that an inspection of the above footpath had been made and several problems identified.

An instruction had been issued for these works, with a request that they be given a high priority.

The missing fingerposts had been added to the County's ongoing fingerpost replacement programme. Contractors acting on the County's behalf replaced finger posts on a parish-by-parish basis, and it was envisaged that Longdon would be fingerposted in the near future.

9. PARISH WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that he had received contributions from just three organisations - Longdon Friends of St. Giles Hospice, Longdon Over Sixties and Longdon Produce and Flower Show Committee.

Cllr. Hemmingsley said that he had received one from Longdon Village Hall Management Committee.

He produced the draft of a front page, copies of which he would send by e-mail to all Councillors, whose comments he invited.

In view of the poor response from local organisations, he and the Clerk would prepare a form for completion and send it to all those who had not yet responded.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Accounts for Payment

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

Christ Church, Gentleshaw	Hire of Room	£ 10. 00
Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall for meeting of 21st October	£ 12. 00
G. C. McCulloch	Mowing - October 19th	£200. 00

(ii) Payments Received

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

(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a: £457. 05	The Halifax s/a: £12218. 65
(less uncleared cheque for £12. 00)	

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

(a) Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall

The Clerk reported that he had received from Gary Powis, Chairman of the Committee of Management of the Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Village Hall, a letter dated 26th October 2004, informing the Council that his Committee was currently seeking quotations for the re-wiring of the Hall and asking if the Council would once again offer some financial help towards the cost of the work.

It was agreed that, while willing in principle to make a donation, the Council would need to know what the cost of the work would be before deciding on the level of its contribution.

(v) Staffordshire County Council Priorities and Budget Consultation

The Clerk reported that he had received from Nigel Pursey, Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 21st October 2004, inviting the Council to consider the County Council's proposals and submit its comments on them.

Councillors felt that, if this was to have been intended as a serious attempt at consultation, more than three weeks should have been allowed for a response.

11. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Paul Rowsell, Head of Democracy and Local Governance Division, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, a letter dated 14th October 2004, informing the Council that the Local Authorities (Code of Conduct) (Local Determination) (Amendment Regulations) 2004 had been laid before Parliament on October 14th and the Standards Board for England (Functions) Order 2004.

They would come into force on November 4th, and copies of the statutory instruments could be found on the HMSO website at www.hmso.gov.uk.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Will Rose, of The Croft, Longdon, a letter dated 15th October 2004, in which he had asked to be supplied with a list of councillors, together with their contact details and when they would be due for re-election.

Mr. Rose had also asked for details of membership of the Council's sub-committees and information about the current District and County Councillors.

All this information being in the public domain, he had supplied Mr. Rose with the details he had required.

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Mrs. Laura Pennycuick, Fundraising Coordinator of St. Giles Hospice, Whittington, a letter dated 28th October 2004, in which she had thanked the Council for its generous donation of £100.00.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Graham McCulloch, mowing contractor, Tutbury, a letter dated 29th October 2004, in which he had offered to carry on with the mowing contract next season at the same price provided the present specifications were not changed.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that they had been advised, when extending the existing contract with Mr. McCulloch for a further twelve months last year, that they should open it for competitive tendering in 2005.

The Clerk was instructed to thank Mr. McCulloch for his offer and explain that the Council would be obliged to advertise next year's contract in the local press.

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received from Mike Grundy, Planning Development Team Manager, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 8th November 2004, informing the Council that the County Council had adopted "public speaking" at their Planning Committee meetings following a twelve-month trial and enclosing six copies of a new leaflet explaining the basis on which public speaking was

conducted.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk reported that, in addition to the above, the following communications had been received since the last meeting:

(i) From The Chief Executive, Lichfield District Council:

Agenda of Meeting of Lichfield District Council to be held in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, on Tuesday, 26th October 2004;
Minutes and Reports for the Meeting of the Council to be held on Tuesday, 26th October 2004.

(ii) From The Corporate Director - Democratic and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Report of Corporate Director - Development Services for meeting of Planning Committee to be held on Monday, 8th November 2004;
Executive Arrangements - Forward Plan 2004/2005 Version 1 (to take effect on 1st November 2004);
Executive Arrangements - Forward Plan 2004/2005 Version 2 (to take effect on 1st November 2004);
Executive Arrangements - Forward Plan 2004/2005 Version 3 (to take effect on 1st November 2004);
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 31st October 2004;
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 14th November 2004;
Code of Conduct - Registering of Interests and Free Masonry - Revised Advice.

(iii) From The Chairman, Health, Housing and Environmental Protection (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee, Lichfield District Council:

Report of meeting of Committee held on 19th October 2004.

(iv) From The Passenger Transport Business Unit, Staffordshire County Council:

Public Transport News - November 2004 (2 copies).

(v) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Chief Executive's Circular 25;
65th Annual General Meeting and Conference - Programme;
Annual Report and Accounts 2003-2004;
Booking forms: Mentoring Evenings - 15 November (Law),
30 November (Roles and Responsibilities);
"A guide to becoming a Quality Council" (4 copies).

(vi) From The National Association of Local Councils:

"Local Council Review": Volume 56, No. 4 - November 2004;
Annual Review and Accounts;
DEFRA Rural Services Review - Reviewing Standards 2004.

(vii) From Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit:

AONB Unit Annual Review 2003-4;
AONB News: Autumn 2004.

(viii) From The Campaign to Protect Rural England:

Newsletter: Autumn 2004.

(ix) From Homezone:

Annual Report 2003-2004.

(x) From The Local Channel:

Publicity Material.

(xi) From The Open Spaces Society:

“Open Space”: Autumn 2004 - Volume 28, No. 1.

(xii) From The Community Council of Staffordshire:

“Staf FORWARD shire”: Issue 5, Autumn 2004 (12 copies);
“Rural Views and News”: Autumn 2004 (12 copies);
“SBAP Five Years On”: Review of the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan 1998-2003.

(xiii) From The Ministry Team, St. James Church, Longdon:

Invitation to take part in joint village venture, “A Christmas Pageant”, on Sunday, December 12th, 2004, at 4. 00 p.m.

13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) PC Brown said that there would be more speed checks in Upper Way.

He reported that there had been a number of thefts in the parish recently, including one of tools from the shed in the churchyard and another of an antique fireplace from Longdon Hall.

Asked about parking on pavements, he explained that the pavement was part of the highway and therefore parking on it was not in itself an offence unless it caused unnecessary obstruction.

(ii) Cllr. Butler asked whether it would be possible to provide a small bus to take children in Upper Longdon to the local school, pointing out that this would reduce the number being taken by car.

It was pointed out, however, the provision of school buses was a matter for the education authorities.

(iii) Cllr. Butler asked whether a small roadside notice indicating where the village shop could be found might be placed at the side of the A51.

It was suggested that a brown sign might be approved by the highways authorities, but it was important that their permission should be sought first.

(iv) Cllr. Bramley reported that the post box on Longdon Green was being obscured by a yew tree.

It was thought that the responsibility of pruning it fell on the owner of the land on which it stood.

(v) Cllr. Parsons referred to the continuing presence of a wind-driven generator and hard-standing in Stockings Lane and asked whether there had been any progress in establishing whether Lichfield District Council intended to pursue the matter any further.

It was agreed that the Clerk should take the matter up with Cllr. Roberts, though the Chairman reminded Councillors that the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was urging planning authorities to negotiate rather than resort to enforcement.

(vi) The Clerk reported that he had received a phone message from Mrs. Molineux, of Batesway, Upper Longdon, informing him of her concern over mud on the road outside her property.

As she had already reported her concern to the highways authorities, it was felt that the Parish Council need take no further action, though the Clerk would monitor the situation.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 14th, 2004, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.