

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF  
LONGDON HELD IN THE W. I. HALL, LONGDON, ON TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2005

Present: Cllr. S. K. Welch (Chairman); Cllr. The Rev. J. R. Andrews;  
Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. R. C. Hemmingsley; Cllr. A. J. Juxon;  
Cllr. Mrs. M. G. Nichols; Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons;  
Cllr. H. C. M. Reynolds; and Cllr. N. Stanfield.

Also present were The Clerk and County Councillor F. W. Lewis;  
Mr. Stephen Hill, Development Executive, and Mrs. Christine Hibbs,  
Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement), both of Lichfield District Council,  
were also in attendance.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere; and Cllr. N. J. Roberts.

2. PRESENTATION BY MR. HILL AND MRS. HIBBS

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Hill and Mrs. Hibbs to the meeting and invited them to address the Council.

*Mr. Hill* said that the number of planning applications received each year had now reached 1500, of which ninety per cent were, in line with Government guidance, delegated to officers for a decision.

The District Council was under a legal obligation to consult designated statutory consultees such as parish councils, environment agencies and drainage bodies.

Twenty-one days were allowed for consultation, and no comment was ignored, though they had to be weighed against planning policy.

Of paramount consideration in all planning applications were the overall benefits of the application, and this was always a delicate balancing act.

Within Development Control there were two teams, North and South, each with a Principal Planning Officer acting as Leader and two Senior Planning Officers.

Building Control and Conservation & Urban Design were two other aspects of planning development in which planning officers were required to make decisions.

*Mrs. Hibbs* said that, in matters of enforcement, the Directorate took advice from Central Government, set out in documents like PPG18 and Circular 10/97.

The Council had signed up to the Enforcement Concordat, which set out general principles such as the need to treat everyone equally.

A database was kept of all cases being dealt with.

Enquiries were investigated, reports prepared and vetted by the Council Solicitor, and notices issued. Occasionally, prosecutions followed, but more generally retrospective planning applications were submitted and conditions previously ignored or overlooked were complied with.

In 2004 384 complaints had been received, an average of one a day. Of these 334 had been resolved. The average time taken to resolve a complaint was fifty-nine days.

In 2003, sixty-seven retrospective planning applications had been submitted, of which forty-eight had been approved and eighteen refused. The remaining application had been withdrawn.

In 2004, fifty-four retrospective planning applications had been received, of which thirty-five had been approved, seventeen refused and one withdrawn, and, so far this year, forty-seven retrospective planning applications had been received, of which twenty-six had been approved, nine refused and one withdrawn.

Government advice had remained unchanged: only when development would be detrimental to the community should planning permission be refused. The issue of human rights had always to be taken into consideration.

Information on enforcement was available on the District Council's website.

The recent appointment of another officer, as well as that of a full-time solicitor, ninety per cent of whose time was devoted to planning issues, was already having an impact on the effectiveness of the Section, which depended on local informants to alert them to breaches of planning regulations, though the information provided had to be in writing.

Questioned about the role of the Inspectorate, who seemed to be increasingly favouring the appellant, Mr. Hill said that, as the result of their wide experience, the Inspectors brought an informed view to any appeal, and he found that their interpretation of planning law was generally helpful.

At the conclusion of their presentation, the Chairman thanked Mr. Hill and Mrs. Hibbs for attending and clarifying many of the issues surrounding enforcement. Mr. Hill and Mrs. Hibbs then left the meeting.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, which took place in Christ Church, Gentleshaw, on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Andrews, approved and signed.

### 4. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

No parishioners were present.

### 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### (i) Public Bridleway No. 15 - Farewell and Chorley Parish

The Clerk reported that he had received from Chris Cheeseman, Rights of Way Technical Assistant, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005, advising the Council that all matters concerning this bridle path were currently still under investigation by her Department and promising to forward copies of all relevant reports as soon as possible.

It was agreed that this item should be included on the agenda of October's meeting.

#### (ii) Longdon Churchyard

Cllr. Juxon said that he would be arranging a site meeting with the Rev. Michael Jefferson as soon as both had returned from holiday.

#### (iii) Community Paths Initiative 2005/2006

The Clerk reported that he had received from Paul Lawlor, Principal Rights of Way Assistant, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005, reminding him that confirmation had not been received of the landowner's agreement to the installation of a kissing gate.

As soon as confirmation was received, a cheque for £300.00 would be forwarded.

The Clerk added that Cllr. Mrs. Meere had told him that she was not yet in a position to say in which field the kissing gate would be located, but a final decision would be made when her husband and Cllr. Bird had walked the route a second time.

#### (iv) Parking outside Gentleshaw School

The Clerk reported that he had written to Inspector Mike Kozam, at Chasetown Police Station, urging him to instruct PC Andy Brown, the local Community Beat Officer, to make

early appointment to meet the Head Teacher at Gentleshaw School once the Autumn Term had begun to discuss ways in which the problem of parking outside the school could be alleviated.

(v) Flooding in Shaw Lane

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the Superintendent at the Lichfield Highways Depot, who had, in error, visited Shaw Lane, Hanch, but would now investigate the problem in Gentleshaw.

6. PLANNING

(i) Report of Working Group

Cllr. Hemmingsley reported that, since the last meeting, the Working Group had considered the following planning applications:

02/00699/COU: Minor amendment to provide three parking spaces to the east of Unit 3 and utilise garage for storage area: Unit 3, Horsey Lane Farm, Horsey Lane, Upper Longdon

No reason had been seen to object to this application.

05/00729/FUL: N. Hyslop: Single-storey side utility extension: 61A Upper Way, Upper Longdon

No reason had been seen to object to this application.

05/00758/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Bate: Proposed residential dwelling (Outline): Pine Ridge, Brereton Hill Lane, Upper Longdon

It was felt that the site was inadequate for the proposed development, which would be outside the Village Plan.

05/00764/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Deeley: Demolition of part of existing stable/storage block and convert to storage, stable and garage: The Bungalow, Dark Lane, Longdon

There was no objection to this application provided that the alterations and conversion were sympathetic to the area and in keeping with existing surroundings.

05/00821/FUL: Mr. N. Stanfield: Proposed retention of existing building and conversion to domestic garage and agricultural store: Hawthorne Cottage, Chapel Lane, Gentleshaw

There was no objection to this application provided that the conversion was in keeping with existing buildings and sympathetic to the surrounding area.

*It was stressed that, though a member, Cllr. Stanfield had taken no part in the Working Group's consideration of this application.*

05/00827/FUL: Mrs. K. Eddows: Provision of new chimney to fireplace: Chancery House, Bradley Lakes, Longdon

No reason had been seen to object to this application.

(ii) For Consideration

The Council then considered the following planning application:

05/00979/FUL: Neil Stevenson: Demolition of garage, removal of roof and upper floor and replace with new two-storey rear extension and first floor to form two-car garage, five bedrooms, bathroom, study and en suites: 61 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

It was noted that the property occupied a very prominent site on the skyline, and the proposed extended dwelling would be highly visible over a wide area. The Council was therefore greatly concerned over the likely visual impact, particularly as it would overlook – and be viewed from – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

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

05/00441/OUT: Miss S. J. Boston: Erection of single-storey dwelling (siting and means of access): Forge Cottage, 38 Brook End, Longdon

05/00534/COU: Mr. A. Rowe: Change of use of agricultural field to land for grazing horses for recreational purposes and formation of all-weather exercise area for horses: Land opposite The Cottage, Dark Lane, Longdon

05/00618/COU: Mr. Hollinshead: New racehorse training gallop track: Lodge Farm, Stockings Lane, Upper Longdon

05/00627/FUL: Mr. Bird: First-floor side study and en suite extension: 61 Brook End, Longdon

05/00692/FUL: G. Linnel: Conservatory to rear: I Moor View, Commonside, Gentleshaw

05/00729/FUL: Mr. N. Hyslop: Single-storey side utility extension and continuation of pitched roof over carport: 51A Upper Way, Upper Longdon

(iv) Refused by Lichfield District Council:

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

05/00363/OUT: Mrs. S. Evans: Outline permission for a detached dwelling: Land at rear of “Sunny Corner”, Upper Way, Upper Longdon

05/00721/FUL: Mr. and Mrs. Cope: Conservatory: Olde Croft Barn, Rookery Farm, Borough Lane, Longdon

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Objection to proposed boundary changes in Upper Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had received from Peter Howells, of "Levanto", 93 Upper Way, Upper Longdon, a letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2005, enclosing a copy of a letter written on his behalf by George McDonic, Chartered Town Planner, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, to Mrs. L. Renshaw, Development Plans and Implementation, Development Services Directorate, Lichfield District Council, and dated 25<sup>th</sup> July 2005, objecting to the proposed Settlement Development Limits for Upper Longdon on the grounds that it left no land for further development in the village.

It was observed that the only land in Upper Longdon currently available for development belonged to Mr. Howells, who had been responsible for much of the recent development in the village.

#### (b) Proposed Conservation Area – Brook End

The Clerk reported that he had received from Dan Brown, Conservation and Urban Design Manager, Planning, Development, Building Control and Business Investment, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> August 2005, concerning the Parish Council's request that Brook End should be designated an Area of Conservation.

In it, he informed the Council that his Council's Senior Conservation Officer had made a preliminary visit to the proposed area and that the initial impression had been that justification for the designation appeared minimal.

He had added, however, that an assessment of the area which the Council had defined would be conducted in the next few weeks and had asked the Parish Council to contribute to this process by defining the special interest of the proposed area.

To help the Parish Council in this task, he had attached an extract from a publication by English Heritage entitled "Conservation Area Practice", which offered guidance on the management of Conservation Areas.

It was agreed that a working party should be set up consisting of Cllr. Stanfield, who would act as convenor, Cllr. Juxon and Cllr. Reynolds.

Reminded of its commitment to inform parishioners of its intention to seek designation as an Area of Conservation for Brook End, the Council agreed that it was not yet ready to provide an answer for all the questions which might be asked and that it should first seek to broaden its own understanding of the process for and the consequences of making an application.

## 7. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

No reports were presented.

## 8. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that he had received notice of the following meetings:

(i) Lichfield District Parish Forum: Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005, in the Committee Room, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, commencing at 7. 15 p.m.

Cllr. Mrs. Nichols and Cllr. Stanfield hoped to attend this meeting.

(ii) Annual General Meeting – Community Council of Staffordshire: Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2005, in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.

Cllr. Mrs. Nichols expected to attend this meeting.

(iii) St. Giles Hospice Service of Thanksgiving: Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005, in Lichfield Cathedral, commencing at 3. 30 p.m.

(iv) Older People's Forum: Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2005, at Elford Village Hall,

from 2. 00 p.m. to 4. 30 p.m.

(v) Lichfield Area Committee: Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005, in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.  
Cllr. Andrews and the Clerk expected to attend.

(vi) Staffordshire County Council Chairman's Annual Informal Reception: Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2005, in the County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford, 7. 30 p.m. to 8. 00 p.m.

This year's charity would be Dogs for the Disabled; tickets would cost £12. 50, to include wine and savouries.

The Chairman would see if he was free to attend.

(vii) Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2005, at Stafford Rugby Union Football Club, commencing at 2. 00 p.m.

The guest speaker would be Nic Scott, Rugby Development Officer for Staffordshire Rugby Football Union.

The Clerk hoped to attend.

(viii) Brereton and Ravenhill Parish Council Civic Service: Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2005, at St. Michael's Church, Main Street, Brereton, commencing at 4. 00 p.m.

This invitation was limited to Chairman and partner.

(ix) Seminar – Play and Leisure Provision for Parish Councils: Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2005, at The Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Stafford, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.

This seminar was being organised by SMP (Playgrounds) Limited, Egham, Surrey.

The Clerk hoped to attend.

(x) Newcastle-under-Lyme Community and Voluntary Support Conference – “The Changing Agenda of the Voluntary Sector”: Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005, at the University of Keele, from 9. 30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Fees: Newcastle CVS Members £30. 00; Other Community Organisations £40. 00;

Other Voluntary Organisations £60. 00; Statutory Organisations £100. 00.

A discount of ten per cent was being offered for bookings made by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

### (i) Heavy Traffic Use in Borough Lane

The Clerk reported that he had received a copy of a letter written to Cllr. Lewis by Russell Fox, of Borough Lane, Longdon, dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005, in which he had drawn attention to the heavy use of Borough Lane by motorists commuting to and from work and asking for a raised kerb to be installed outside his and neighbouring properties to prevent further erosion of the verge.

Cllr. Lewis said that he had referred this suggestion to Ken Owen, the Divisional Highway Manager.

### (ii) Overhanging Trees in Upper Way

The Clerk reported that, following the failure of the two householders in The Grange to take any action, he had written to Ken Owen, the Divisional Highway Manager, asking him to use his authority to ensure that these trees were cut back.

He had subsequently received a letter from Pam Evans, Support Services Manager at the Lichfield Highway Office, dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2005, informing him that she had asked the Highway Inspector to visit the locations and on his return he had written to the two addresses asking them to cut back the offending trees within fourteen days.

The Clerk added that this had been done within the specified period.

(iii) Roadside Sign – Longdon Green

The Clerk reported that he had received from Alison Richards, Project Implementation, Planning, Development, Building Control and Business Development, a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2005, informing the Council that the District Council were pleased to offer a grant of £535. 26 (that is, seventy-five per cent of the cost) towards the £711. 00 quoted by Leander Architectural for repairing and restoring the cast-iron roadside sign on Longdon Green.

(iv) Management of Land between Footpath and No. 12 Berkeley Way & No. 13 Beech Walk, Longdon

The Clerk reported that he had sought advice on the best way to manage the strip of land at the side of the footpath between these two properties and had been recommended to lay a membrane and then cover it with wood chippings.

For the area running alongside No. 12 Berkeley Way, approximately twenty yards in length and one yard in depth, he had priced a membrane at between £20. 00 and £27. 00. The cheapest wood chippings would cost £3. 99 for 100 litres, and he had calculated that ten 100-litre bags would be needed to cover this area.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Juxon and seconded by Cllr. Reynolds, the Clerk was instructed to contact Alan Johnson, of Aqua Jet Services, and ask him to provide the Council for a quotation for the work, a limit of £120. 00 being set.

(v) Road Improvement Schemes – Longdon and Upper Longdon

Cllr. Lewis reported that there had been some delay in implementing the scheme for Upper Way owing to the departure of the Cannock Chase AONB Lead Officer, but, following a visit to the Peak District, where similar schemes had been introduced, it had now been decided that this work should go ahead in November.

A Village Gateway would be built in Startley Lane, and a pedestrian walkway laid down as far as “The Chetwynd Arms”.

Cllr. Lewis further informed the Council that David Grain had decided to take early retirement and Alan Chapman would assume responsibility for implementing the scheme for the A51.

(vi) Damaged Roadside Sign at Junction of A51 and Borough Lane

The Clerk reported that he had been given the name and address of the motorist whose vehicle had left the road at this junction and uprooted the roadside sign which carried the newly-erected signs pointing to Longdon Post Office, damaging one and destroying the other.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Bird and seconded by Cllr. Stanfield, the Clerk was instructed to issue instructions for their replacement and to send the invoice to the motorist’s insurers for payment.

(vii) Staffordshire Highways Remodelling

The Clerk reported that he had received from David Wilson, Deputy Corporate Director (Staffordshire Highways), Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, advising the Council that the structure of Staffordshire Highways had just been remodelled following the entering into partnership with two major contractors, Accord and Wrekin Construction.

The new structure would reflect the County Council’s emerging “Localities” Agenda, and front-line delivery, whether maintenance or new construction, was now organised geographically, based on District Council boundaries.

Lichfield and District was included in the East Area, whose Area Highway Manager was Clive Thomson and Divisional Highway Manager Ken Owen.

## 10. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

### (i) Gentleshaw Common

Cllr. Hemmingsley reported that a parishioner had presented him with a petition critical of the District Council's proposed management scheme for Gentleshaw Common.

Unfortunately, the petition alleged proposals for which there was no foundation in fact – for example, that exercising dogs and riding horses would be banned.

Cllr. Hemmingsley added that he understood that a similar petition had been handed to Marieke Tomlin, the District Council Countryside Officer.

The Clerk said that he had e-mailed Mrs. Tomlin, setting out the text of the petition and asking for her response; in her absence on maternity leave, her replacement, John Smith, had replied, confirming that Lichfield District Council was the full and outright landowner of Gentleshaw Common following purchase of the land from the 7<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Anglesey in 1955 by its predecessor, the Rural District Council of Lichfield.

He had also enclosed a copy of a letter of reassurance sent by Lichfield District Council to each signatory of the earlier petition who could be identified from the personal details provided on the petition.

It was agreed that, although everyone who had signed the petition would have been misled by the text, it should not be ignored and that the petition should be sent to Mr. Smith so that similar letters of reassurance could be sent by the District Council to its signatories.

## 11. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2005

The Clerk reported that, in the Lichfield and Cannock Chase District of the Competition, Longdon and Longdon Green had once again finished second in the Large Village Class, and, in the Small Village Class, Upper Longdon had received a "Highly Commended".

He had written on behalf of the Parish Council to all participants, thanking them for their contribution.

## 12. PARISH WEBSITE

Cllr. Hemmingsley gave an update on the use of the Parish Website. He reported that, although the number of visits was slightly down on last month's, many of them were much longer and he was very encouraged by the response.

One of the visits, he had noted, had come from the Seychelles!

The Clerk reported that he had received from Jenny Dalloway, of Feckenham, in Worcestershire, an e-mail dated 12<sup>th</sup> August 2005, in which she said that she thought that it was a good website, with some good information and links to other sites.

## 13. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Andrews, payment of the following accounts, received since the last meeting, was approved:

?\*Lichfield District Council    Contribution to Summer Playscheme                    £130. 00

*Lichfield District Council	Emptying Dog Waste Bins	£611. 00
*Salute Limited	Independent Internal Auditor's Fee	£ 80. 00
*Aqua Jet Services	Re-roofing Bus Shelter at Longdon Green	£457. 00
?*Insta Print, Rugeley	Printing 650 copies of "Longdon Life" and inserts	£212. 75
?*Hazel Crosbie	Delivering "Longdon Life" and inserts	£ 35. 00
?*A. J. Juxon	Editor's Expenses	£ 15. 00
*Lichfield District Council	Election Expenses	£ 38. 25
*G. C. McCulloch	Mowing – July 22	£200. 00
*G. C. McCulloch	Mowing – August 20	£200. 00
Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall	£ 12. 00
W. B. Sullivan	Salary: £187. 50; Photocopying: £86. 47; Postage: £31. 92.	£305. 89
? Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Membership Renewal	£ 33. 00
Cannock Wood & Gentleshaw Village Hall Management Committee	Grant	£500. 00
* Confirmation	? payment made under Section 137	

(ii) Payments Received

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, he had received the following payments:

Aqua Jet Services	Advertisement: "Longdon Life"	£15. 00
D. Harris (Plasterer)	Advertisement: "Longdon Life"	£ 7. 50

(iii) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a: £746. 06;                      The Halifax d/a: £16057. 91

(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

The Clerk reported that none had been received.

(v) Final Report of Independent Internal Auditor

The Clerk reported that he had received from John Blount, the Independent Internal Auditor, a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005, enclosing his final report, copies of which he had sent to Councillors.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Nichols and seconded by Cllr. Welch, the report was accepted without reservation.

The Council took note of its contents, particularly Mr. Blount's recommendation that the Clerk's salary should be reviewed.

Cllr. Reynolds said that it was important that the Clerk's status as employee should be made clear.

(vi) Meeting of Finance & General Purposes Sub-Committee

It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee should be held on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005, at the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.

(vii) Registration of Gross Interest

The Clerk reported that he had received from June DuPont, Savings Operation, Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax, a letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2005, in which she confirmed that the Parish Council's account had been amended to Local Authority Status and registered for gross interest.

#### 14. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Mandy Riley, Chair, PPI Forum, Staffordshire Ambulance Service, a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2005, giving details of the Community First Responder Scheme, in which importance was given to obtaining local community approval and support.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Maria Bailey, Principal Development Plans Officer, Planning, Development, Building Control and Business Investment, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2005, notifying the Parish Council that Lichfield District Council had adopted Supplementary Planning Documents on Residential Extensions and on Trees and Development on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Alison Richards, Implementation Projects Co-ordinator, Planning, Development, Building Control and Business Investment, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005, in which she invited suggestions for small-scale public enhancement projects to improve the character and appearance of conservation areas.

It was agreed that, currently, there was no immediately obvious project in the parish.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Maria Bailey, Principal Development Plans Officer, Planning, Development, Building Control and Business Investment, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005, notifying the Parish Council that Lichfield District Council had adopted Supplementary Planning Documents on Telecommunications and on the Re-use of Rural Buildings on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received from Mrs. Lyn Hammant, Parks Administration Officer, Community, Communications and Culture, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005, offering the Parish Council the opportunity of combining with Lichfield District Council's annual inspection of play equipment.

In the absence of any outdoor play equipment in the parish, this offer was without relevance to Longdon.

(vi) The Clerk reported that he had received from Kevin Yates, Parks Manager, Community, Communications and Culture, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 2005, enclosing a poster advertising the forthcoming "Proms in the Park" event being held in Beacon Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2005.

This poster had been displayed on the notice board at Brook End.

(vii) The Clerk reported that, in his latest report, Graham McCulloch, the Council's mowing contractor, reported that he had been asked by the licensees of "The Chetwynd Arms"

whether mowing the verge in front of the pub car park was included in his contract, since they did not believe it was within the pub's curtilage.

The Clerk was instructed to refer the enquiry to Ken Owen, the Divisional Highway Manager.

(viii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Ray Smythe, Clerk to Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council, a letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2005, thanking him for sending his Council a copy of Longdon Parish Council's comments on the proposed wind farm at Heath Hayes and adding that his own Council had raised similar concerns.

(ix) The Clerk reported that he had received from Richard King, Corporate Director – Democratic and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2005, informing him that, with effect from 8<sup>th</sup> September 2005, agenda, reports, minutes and Executive decisions would be available on the internet and that from 20<sup>th</sup> September 2005 no documents would be posted to him.

(x) The Clerk reported that he had received from Stephen Bradbury, Lighting and ITS Manager, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005, reminding the Council that decorations installed in or over the highway require a licence under the provisions of Section 178 of the Highway Act and that, as the Highway Authority, the Directorate was responsible for issuing these licences.

(xi) The Clerk reported that he had received from G. Cowdell, of Beech Close, Handsacre, a letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005, explaining his desire as someone who was brought up in Longdon and still had family connections there to return to live in the village and asking for the Parish Council's support for his application to Homezone to provide him with rented accommodation.

Acknowledging that, under the existing points system, he had not yet, as a married man with a single child, accumulated a sufficient number of points to qualify for one of the three-bedroom properties in Bradley Lakes, he argued that local connections were being taken into account as an added factor in the allocation of homes in Kings Bromley, and he asked the Council to put this argument on his behalf to Homezone.

The Clerk added that Cllr. Roberts was already aware of the situation and had taken up Mr. Cowdell's case with Homezone himself.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chief Executive of Homezone enclosing Mr. Cowdell's letter and asking for his comment.

## 15. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

Report of Corporate Director – Development Services for Meeting of Council on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005;

Report of Corporate Director – Development Services for Meeting of Council on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2005;

Minutes and Reports for Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005;

Appendices for Council Meeting on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005;

Annual Report 2004-05;

Agenda for Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005;

Executive Arrangements – Forward Plan 2005/2006 – August – Version 1 (to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005);

Executive Arrangements – Forward Plan 2005/2006 – August – Version 2 (to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005);

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 24<sup>th</sup> July 2005;

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2005;  
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 18<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

(ii) From The Corporate Director – Development Services, Lichfield District Council:

Lichfield District Statement of Community Involvement  
(Submission Document).

(iii) From The Electoral Registration Officer, Lichfield District Council:

Register of Electors 2005 – Monthly Applications for 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005;  
Register of Electors 2005 – Monthly Applications for 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005.

(iv) From The Chief Executive, Staffordshire County Council:

The Corporate Strategy – A Summary 2005-2008.

(v) From The County Ranger Service, Staffordshire County Council:

Poster: Countryside Walks and Events: August.

(vi) From The Passenger Transport Unit, Development Services Directorate,  
Staffordshire County Council:

Public Transport News – August 2005 (2 copies);  
Public Transport News – September 2005 (2 copies).

(vii) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Advisory Notes and Newsletter: Issue 103, 2005;  
SPCA Publicity Leaflet;  
Notice of AGM and Conference;  
Booking Form for Special Event for Clerks and other interested persons  
- "What are these training courses all about?" – Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005,  
in the Peel Buildings, St. Chad's Place, Stafford, from 7. 00 p.m. to 9. 00 p.m.;  
Presentation of "What's on the agenda?", the National Training Strategy video  
- Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005, at St. Lawrence's Church Hall, Congleton Road,  
Biddulph, from 7. 00 p.m. to 9. 00 p.m.;  
Booking Form: "Planning – the new Local Government Framework: Tuesday,  
27<sup>th</sup> September 2005, at The White Eagle (Polish) Club, Riverway, Stafford,  
from 10.00 a.m. to 1. 00 p.m. or 1. 30 p.m. to 4. 00 p.m.  
Fee: £50. 00 all day, £27. 00 half-day;  
Block Booking Form for Monitoring Events; Autumn Semester 2005;  
The New Local Development Framework Seminar Booklet 2005;  
Publications List 2005/2006;  
NALC Legal Topic Note Index 2005;  
NALC: Local Council Documents and Records;  
Leaflet: University of Gloucestershire Local Policy Course;  
SCC leaflets: "Help Us Keep Staffordshire's Roads Safe"/"Take Pride in  
Staffordshire";  
Leaflet: "Old Parish Boundaries of Staffordshire", by Tim Cockin;  
Leaflet: "A well written newsletter will always be well read1" (Community News  
and Print);  
"Speaking Out": West Midlands Regional Assembly Newsletter – Issue 9,  
September 2005.

(viii) From The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:

"Staffordshire Wildlife": No. 94, August 2005;

“Natural World”: Issue 74, Summer 2005;  
SWT Report and Financial Statements for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005;  
Wildlife What’s On – September to December 2005;  
Nature Reserve Volunteer Workparties: September to December 2005;  
Cannock Group Newsletter and Autumn Programme;  
Registration and Sponsorship Form: Heather Hike – Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2005;  
“Please Help” – an appeal for magazine deliverers;  
Raffle Tickets: Autumn Raffle 2005;  
Catalogue: “Nature Products” (Ernest Charles, Crediton, Devon).

(ix) From The Staffordshire and West Midlands Heathland Partnership:  
Heath Week Events 10<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

(x) From The Secretary, Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Trust:  
  
Minutes of meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2005.

(xi) From The West Midlands Rural Community Network:  
  
Invitation to consultation event at the County Showground, Stafford, on  
Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

(xii) From The Development Plans and Policy Unit, Cannock Chase District Council:  
  
Cannock Chase Local Development Framework: Draft Statement of  
Community Involvement.

(xiii) From Cannock Chase AONB Unit, Shugborough Park, Milford:  
  
AONB Annual Review 2004-5.

(xiv) From The Events Co-ordinator, Central Midlands EEAC:  
  
10 Home Energy Survey forms;  
10 leaflets promoting the Warm front Grant;  
1 poster promoting the Warm Front Grant,

(xv) From Local Works, London N1:  
  
“Local Works”: a campaign newsletter in support of the Sustainable  
Communities Bill.

(xvi) From SMP (Playgrounds) Ltd., Egham, Surrey:  
  
Leaflet: Nexus, the next generation of play equipment.

(xvii) From The Local Channel, Salisbury:  
Leaflet: “Win £500 for your Community and develop your own website  
for FREE”.

## 16. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Parsons drew the attention of the Council to an encroachment onto the highway verge outside 17 Upper Way, where the householder had built a low wall.

He was reminded that this matter had been brought before the Council before and that no action had been thought necessary.

However, the Chairman said that he would look once again into the matter.

(ii) Cllr. Juxon reported that two drains in Borough Lane between his property and Giddywell Lane were blocked and could no longer accommodate surplus surface water.

The Clerk was instructed to refer the problem to Ken Owen, the Divisional Highway Manager.

(iii) Cllr. Hemmingsley reported that the notice-board opposite Gentleshaw School was in need of renovation.

The Clerk was instructed to invite Alan Johnson, of Aqua Jet Services, to inspect it and submit an estimate for its repair.

## 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.