

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS
COMMITTEE OF LONGDON PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE W. I. HALL,
LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, MAY 20TH, 2008

Present: Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere;
and Cllr. N. Stanfield.

Also present were Mr. Will Rose, co-opted member of the Committee,
and the Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. B. J. Butler.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Meere and seconded by Cllr. Bird,
Cllr. Stanfield was elected Chairman of the Committee.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Thursday,
March 20th, 2008, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Meere and seconded by
Cllr. Bird, approved and signed.

4. FOOTPATH SURVEY

Mr. Rose reported that there were eighty-three footpaths and bridleways in the
parish of Longdon, of which fifty-one had been surveyed.

To date, there had been complaints relating to fifteen of them; problems included
ploughed fields where the footpath had not been re-instated; unsafe or obstructed
stiles; loose dogs; and a missing bridge.

He handed the Clerk copies of completed survey forms recording these problems
for forwarding to Stafford.

He had been sent a copy of the County Council's Rights of Way Improvement
Plan, but had found difficulty in accessing it on the County Council's website. He had
referred this difficulty to Stafford.

Mr. Rose then produced copies of photographs which he had taken of dog-friendly
stile in the grounds of Charlecote Park, in Warwickshire. He pointed out that the
advantage of this kind of stile was that it did not need more space than a traditional
stile.

It was agreed that, when forwarding the survey forms to Paul Rochfort, the
Principal Rights of Way Assistant at Stafford, the Clerk should ask that any
replacement stile should include a dog-gate.

5. COMMUNITY PATHS INITIATIVE

The Chairman reported that a bid had been submitted under the Community Paths Initiative for a grant towards the cost of upgrading the footpath across the Glebe Field off Church Way, but the outcome would not be known until July.

In any case, the maximum grant awarded under this scheme was £1000, so the Parish Council would be faced with meeting the majority of the cost, although other sources of revenue, such as the Community Council's Community Chest, might be sought.

The specifications of the favoured bid submitted by D. McCarthy Brothers, of Lichfield, was examined in detail and two refinements suggested: the footpath be edged at an additional cost of £1250 to prevent a scattering of the stones used to surface the path, and the level of the footpath be topped up to counter sinking.

The Chairman said that he would seek clarification from the firm.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Diocesan Glebe Committee informing them of the proposal and seeking their consent.

6. NOTICE-BOARDS

The Chairman reported that the notice-board intended for Stockings Lane was at present in the possession of Cllr. Hemmingsley, who was not happy with the beading used to edge the notice-board and intended replacing it with a more durable wood.

Cllr. Mrs. Duckett said that the Longdon Village Hall Management Committee favoured an enclosed notice-board in the Hall car park and was prepared to meet the difference in cost which this would make.

She would provide a sketch of the preferred design for authorisation at the next meeting of the Council.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Emptying of Dog Waste Bins

The cost of emptying the parish's dog waste bins was considered too high, and it was agreed that an alternative arrangement should be sought.

(ii) Roadside Hedge in Briertey Hill Lane, Gentleshaw

The Chairman reported that the overgrown hedge at Coldwell had been cut back, but the hedge opposite Watery Farm was still causing a problem.

He believed that the owner responsible for its upkeep was a Miss Edge and he would try to find out where she lived.

(iii) Driveway to Longdon Hall

Cllr. Mrs. Duckett reported that she had spoken about the problem of school traffic lining up in Church Hill at the entrance to Longdon Hall each morning because of the narrowness of the gates, but Ocean View Properties, the owner of the premises, seemed unwilling to do anything about it since access was already adequate for their purpose.

(iv) Footpath 33

Mr. Rose reported that nothing had changed and public access remained permanently restricted by wire and a padlock.

The Clerk reported that Mr. Rochfort was still trying to establish the exact line of the footpath, which was currently being disputed by the land-owner, and was consulting his Department's Map Technician in an attempt to reach some agreement with him.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 29th, 2009, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.