

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD
IN THE W. I. HALL, LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2011

Present: Cllr. S. K. Welch (who, in the absence of the Chairman, chaired the meeting)
Cllr. B. J. Butler; Cllr. R. A. G. Clarke; Cllr. Mrs. H. A. Meere;
Cllr. M. J. Nash; and Cllr. K. C. Taylor.

Also present were the Clerk, Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District
Council; and Mr. Philip Couchman, Bradley Lakes, Longdon.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. C. D. Cherry; Cllr. Mrs. G. D. Duckett; and Cllr. A. J. Juxon.

Cllr. Clarke reported that Cllr. Cherry was making good progress and hoped to be fit enough to attend the next meeting of the Council.

The Clerk reported that the Chairman had returned to hospital for further corrective surgery to her foot, and Cllr. Juxon was at present convalescing abroad following his recent illness.

The Council also heard with great regret of the death the previous Sunday of Mr. Ray Hemmingsley, a former Chairman of the Council, and it was agreed that the Council should be represented at his funeral.

Cllr. Clarke raised the possibility of involving Councillors absent as the result of a long-term illness in the procedures of the Council through video-conferencing. While Councillors recognised the advantages of this innovation, they were also aware of some disadvantages, and the Clerk was instructed to seek advice on, amongst other factors, its legality.

2. REVIEW OF CURRENT PRACTICES AGAINST RISK ASSESSMENT REGISTER

No new activities having been embarked upon, the current risk levels remained unchanged.

3. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on July 12th, 2011, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Clarke and seconded by Cllr. Taylor, approved and signed.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Acting Chairman welcomed Mr. Couchman to the meeting and asked him if he wished to address the Council.

Mr. Couchman said that, having applied to be considered for co-option, he had come both to introduce himself and to observe the proceedings of the Council.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Retaining Wall in Grange Hill

It was reported that work on building this wall had now been completed, and it remained only for the protective barriers to be removed.

It was felt that the work had been of a high standard and that the wall had been very sturdily built.

(ii) Computer Course

Cllr. Clarke reported that the regular attendance at this course had been five, though, one week, there had been six.

The first two sessions had taken place in the W. I. Hall, but the signal had not been strong enough, and, for the next two weeks, the class had, at the invitation of Mr. Walters, moved to the dining-room of "The Swan with Two Necks", where the signal had been stronger.

He thought that those attending had found the course useful, an assessment endorsed by Cllr. Mrs. Meere, who had attended the course and said that she felt that there had been very good interaction.

Cllr. Clarke concluded his report by saying that, already, four parishioners had booked places on the next course, which, he hoped, would be in early December or early January, and would once again take place at "The Swan with Two Necks".

He was warmly congratulated on organising a successful course.

(iii) No. 2, Byron Court

It was reported that both ancillary buildings, the one formerly a swimming pool, the other formerly a billiard room, were now occupied by paying tenants.

While it was doubtful whether planning permission had been needed, both buildings probably being deemed part of the main dwelling, there was a requirement for both to be registered as tenancies and therefore liable for Council Tax, and Cllr. Roberts suggested that the Clerk should contact Ros. Robb, a senior officer at the Planning Department, to establish whether they had been so registered.

(iv) Road Sign on the A51

It was confirmed that the damaged roadside sign on the A51 warning motorists that they were approaching the junction with Brook End and Borough Lane had now been replaced.

(v) Opening of Amazon Supply Centre at Rugeley

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Cllr. Cherry re-iterating his concern over the potential impact of an influx of delivery vehicles travelling along the A51 past Longdon.

Cllr. Butler confirmed that he had already recorded instances of 38 tonne trucks travelling at more than 50 mph past the village, as well as cars travelling in excess of 70 mph, and even of a motor-cycle travelling past Cleat Hill at 125 mph, a speed too fast to be caught; and he urged the Council to call for greater police and safety camera surveillance.

Cllr. Roberts said that Longdon Parish Council's concern was also shared by Armitage Parish Council, and he suggested that the Clerk might contact the Armitage Clerk with a view to preparing a joint statement of concern.

(vi) Gentleshaw Green

Asked what the next stage was in the management of the Green, Cllr. Welch said that it was time to ask the pupils of the School what they would like to do.

Cllr. Clarke said that he would be visiting the School the following week and would arrange alternative times for a meeting with the children.

He added that an illustrated article on the planting, based on one which he had submitted, had appeared in "The Lichfield Mercury" of 11th of August.

(vii) Co-option of Councillors

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Couchman dated 7th September 2011, formally requesting to be considered for co-option.

He had lived at Bradley Lakes for the past fourteen years and felt that it would be to the advantage of the Council to have a Councillor living in that part of Longdon.

Cllr. Welch thanked him for his interest and expressed the hope that, at the end of meeting, he would feel encouraged to pursue his application.

(viii) Nomination of School Governor for Gentleshaw Primary School

The Clerk reported that he had, as instructed, written to Mrs. Maureen Hemmingsley, inviting her to accept the Council's nomination, but she had declined, saying that she did not feel that she had enough time to carry out the duties of the post.

The Clerk added that, upon receipt of Mrs. Hemmingsley's letter, he had written to Wendy Maddox, Administrative Assistant, Governor Services, Education Transformation, Staffordshire County Council, informing her that the Council would not on this occasion be making a nomination, those being the Council's instructions in the event of Mrs. Hemmingsley's refusal.

Cllr. Clarke informed the Council that there was still a vacancy for an LEA-appointed Governor, but the Governors were looking to invite someone with experience in industry, it being their prerogative to vary the composition of the Governing Body.

(ix) Cotton Almshouses Trust – Appointment of Trustee for Gentleshaw

The Clerk reported that, by his calculations based on a study of the Deed of Trust, Cllr. Andrews's term of office might not end until 2013, and he was not aware that a formal letter of resignation had been received.

It was agreed that he should write to the Chairman of the Trustees asking whether a vacancy had been declared.

(x) Parish Website

Cllr. Clarke said that, now Cllr. Cherry was gathering strength, it might be time to resume the updating of the Parish Website.

He thought that the first step should be to contact local organisations and businesses to find out if they would like to have an entry on the Website or to have an existing entry updated.

(xi) Identity Cards

It was agreed that the concept had been approved and the means of realising it now needed investigating.

It was agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

(xii) Overgrown Bushes in The Grange

Cllr. Butler reported that these had now been cut back.

(xiii) Reduction in Number of Organisations

Cllr. Clarke presented a paper on this topic, pointing out that his researches had shown that the Council received information from no fewer than sixteen different organisations, with the result that much of the information was duplicated, which was, he thought, a waste of resources.

The Council could start to reduce this by withholding subscriptions from some of the organisations.

It was agreed that Councillors should study Cllr. Clarke's paper and return to the subject at the next meeting.

6. PLANNING

(i) Report of Working Group

The Working Group had considered the following applications:

11/00792/ABN: Mr. P. Boston: Extension to existing building to provide additional fodder storage: Hawcroft Grange Farm, Hood Lane, Longdon

While some reservation had been expressed over the resulting increase in the total area of development at this site, the general view had been that it would be acceptable from a visual point of view.

However, the Council had subsequently received a copy of a letter from the Development Control Manager, Development Services, Lichfield District Council, to Bagshaws, Derby Road, Uttoxeter, the applicant's agents, dated 26th July 2011, confirming that, following consideration of the details submitted, it had been determined that prior approval was not required and that the development could therefore proceed in accordance with the submitted details and stated agricultural use.

11/00863/FUL: Mr. M. Lewis: Retaining boundary wall (Amendment to approval no. 10/01073/FUL): 2 The Grange, Upper Longdon

There had been no objection to this amendment.

(ii) For Consideration

11/00783/FULM (Full Application (Major)): Windmill Farm: Erection of agricultural building: Land at rear of Windmill Farm, Stockings Lane, Upper Longdon

Comment on this application was deferred.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

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

11/00455/LBC:Dr. J. Ellis: Works to listed building to enable the replacement of the main site entrance gates: Hanch Hall, Lysways Lane, Hanch

11/00471/FUL: The Executors of Mrs. D. Miller: Conversion and alterations to existing ancillary accommodation to form a new two-bedroom dwelling: 13 Brook End, Longdon

11/00472/LBC: The Executors of Mrs. D. Miller: Works to listed building to enable the conversion and alterations to existing accommodation to form a new two-bedroom dwelling: 13 Brook End, Longdon

11/00475/FUL: Mr. & Mrs. Dean: Single-storey extensions and alterations to form porch, kitchen, utility and bedroom: 21 Upper Way, Upper Longdon

11/00522/LBC: Dr. J. Ellis: Works to listed building to enable the replacement of the floor, plaster and guttering to chapel building set in the grounds of Hanch Hall: Hanch Hall, Lysways Lane, Hanch

(iv) Refused by Lichfield District Council:

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, Lichfield District Council had issued no Notices of Refusal of Planning Permission relating to the Parish of Longdon.

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Chorley Springs Fishery

The Clerk reported that he had received from Chris Hibbs, Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement), Lichfield District Council, an email dated 10th August 2011, stating that “the case officer is currently discharging conditions and some further information is awaited”.

So far, he had not been informed of the outcome of the case officer's investigation and would enquire further.

(b) Withdrawal of Application

The Clerk reported that he had received notice of the withdrawal of application (Extension of time for 05/00441/OUT) for the erection of single-storey dwelling at 38 Brook End Longdon.

This application had been withdrawn on 29th July 2011.

(c) Planning Portal News

The Clerk reported that, in the Planning Portal News of 5th August 2011, it had been stated that minister had announced proposals for a planning 'guarantee' designed to ensure that no application for planning permission took longer than twelve months to be determined, including any appeal.

7. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) Lichfield District Parish Forum

Cllr. Nash gave a report on a meeting of the Lichfield District Parish Forum which had taken place in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, on Thursday, 1st September 2011.

The main item on the agenda was a presentation by the Forum's Chairman, Cllr. David Smith, Ward Member for Stonnall, on the Localism Bill.

He began by outlining the developments given by Greg Clark, the Minister for Decentralisation. The neighbourhood plan, to be voted on by referendum, would enable the development of strategies for local communities, such as the Parish Plan. Parish Councils and District Councils would come much closer. It was not a strategy for objecting but would give developments that were right for the communities; communities would have the right to build.

Councils needed to ask themselves what they wanted to see in their parishes in ten years' time.

At Stonnall, ten challenges had been identified: leisure; young people; ageing communities; corner shop; highways and transport; safer communities; going green; church; communications. For instance, under 'safer communities', they had introduced Smartwater, for which there had been a massive take-up. They were now looking at a tree-lined Jubilee Walk.

Cllr. Smith concluded by urging parishes to put together a community strategy in consultation with their communities.

An Open Forum followed, led by Cllr. Mike Wilcox, Leader of the Council, and Clare Eggington, Principal Development Plans Officer, Cllr. Wilcox said that they were looking for partnership to help set up a community strategy and investigating any funding possibilities.

Ms. Eggington made reference to the Local Development Framework, together with the Parish Plan or Village Plan. She said that funding for villages and communities was available from www.villagesos.org.uk/competition. Funding bids had to have the support of the District Council, and she would be glad to help, though applications must be supported by community. Richard King, Strategic Director – Democratic, Development and Strategic Services, said that the Localism Bill was still under consultation, especially the area concerning planning.

From the floor, concerns were expressed about the power of developers; in reply, it was said that the Localism Bill proposed consultation on appeals on planning approvals. However, the recommendations of the planning inspectorate would not be binding, a change from the current situation.

There was also concern over who would run and pay for referendums, which Lichfield District Council had no budget to cover.

Asked for a definition of ‘sustainability’ Ms. Eggington said that a localism fact sheet was being prepared for all parish councils.

The next meeting of the Forum would take place on 19th January 2012 and would be dedicated to changes in planning.

At the end of the discussion which followed Cllr. Nash’s presentation, it was agreed that Ms. Eggington should be invited to address the Council.

(ii) Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr. Butler than gave a report on a meeting of the Beaudesert Sports Field and Recreation Ground Trust which had taken place at The Park Gate Inn, Park Gate Road, Cannock Wood, on Monday, 5th September 2011.

The field consisted of 6.4 acres of grass and belonged jointly to Cannock Wood (in the Cannock Chase District) and Gentleshaw (in the Lichfield District).

At present, the Trustees were trying to obtain the original deeds for insurance purposes and to forestall the possible acquisition of the land for some other purpose.

The field was well used by both football and cricket clubs, and the Trustees were at present trying to obtain three large pieces of outdoor equipment which could be used by older people to strengthen parts of the body. One piece was also designed for use by wheelchair users.

In addition, the Trustees were raising funds for a swing for very young children. The estimated cost, including installation and a soft floor to prevent accidents, would be approximately £5000.

Other immediate problems appeared to be the failure of owners to pick up dog faeces, and horses being ridden on the field, mainly by young people, who were often rude when approached. The Trustees were looking into whether it was legal to exclude one or both from the field.

Cllr. Butler concluded his report by saying that it had been a very interesting meeting and he had been particularly impressed by the endeavours of the fund-raiser, Avril Green, who seemed to have an extensive knowledge of possible contacts.

At the conclusion of their reports, Cllr. Welch thanked Cllr. Nash and Cllr. Butler for attending these meetings and presenting such detailed reports.

8. NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, he had received notice of the following meetings and other events:

(i) Community Council of Staffordshire Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, September 28th, 2011, in the Village Hall, Station Road, Stowe-by-Chartley.

Light refreshments would be served at 7. 00 p.m., and the formal business would commence at 7. 30 p.m.

(ii) St. Giles Hospice Service of Thanksgiving: Sunday, October 9th, 2011, at Lichfield Cathedral, commencing at 3. 30 p.m.

(iii) Staffordshire Playing Fields Association Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, 19th October 2011, in the Dave Boulter Room, Rugeley Leisure Centre, Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, commencing at 2. 00 p.m.

Cllr. Clarke said that he would be attending this meeting.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Visit of the Neighbourhood Highways Team

The Clerk reported that he had received from Kevin Wawrzynczyk, Community Highway Liaison Officer, Highways, Staffordshire County Council, an email dated 24th August 2011, advising him that the Neighbourhood Highways Team would be working in Longdon during the week beginning September 12th and in Gentleshaw during the week beginning September 19th.

After inviting suggestions for tasks from Councillors, he had listed clearing Church Hollow and the paved footpath in Church Hill.

(ii) Damaged Roadside Sign (Chevrons)

The Clerk reported that Mr. Wawrzynczyk had also raised an order to repair the damaged roadside sign at the side of the A51 close to the entrance to Hood Lane.

(iii) Damaged Street Nameplates

The Clerk reported that he had advised John Roobottom, Technical Adviser, Operational Services, Lichfield District Council, of the need to repair or replace damaged street nameplates at Smithy Lane, Giddywell Lane and Dollymakers Hill.

In an email dated 25th August 2011, Mr. Roobottom had replied that he would arrange for them to be repaired or replaced as required.

Cllr. Taylor reported that the bridleway sign at Byron Court had been snapped off and needed restoring.

He also pointed out that a house agent's sign had been fixed to the street nameplate at the bottom of Grange Hill.

(iv) Phone App for Dog Bins

The Clerk reported that he had received from Lezley Hogg, Technical Officer, Operational Services, Lichfield District Council, an undated letter informing the Council of an approach from Latebird Limited, a phone which developed phone apps, expressing a wish to create a free application on a phone for dog users to help them identify quickly and easily the location of dog bins in the District.

Ms. Hogg had asked whether the Council wished to confirm its agreement for the company to use its location data or if its preference was that the data were not provided.

There was considerable doubt amongst Councillors as to the value of such a service, since the location of the Council's own dog bins was well known to dog walkers, and it was decided to take no action.

10. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Mowing Contract

The Clerk reported that he had received from Graham McCulloch, the Council's mowing contractor, a report dated 30th July 2011 informing the Council that the fifth cut had been completed the previous day and that everything had been left tidy.

The Clerk also reported that he had received from Mr. McCulloch a further report dated 30th August 2011 informing the Council that the sixth cut had been completed the previous Sunday and every thing had been left tidy.

The centre of Longdon Green had been cut earlier in the month and the grass collected.

(ii) Cannock Chase AONB – Upcoming Events

The Clerk reported that he had received from Emma Beaman-Green, Assistant AONB Officer, Cannock Chase AONB Unit, an email dated 18th July 2011, giving an update of forthcoming events.

She had added that volunteers were still needed for Fixed Point Photography monitoring and the Visitor Survey.

11. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(i) Ideas for marking the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Clerk reported that he had received a suggestion from Mr. Will Rose that the Queen's Diamond Jubilee might be commemorated by the planting of a wild flower meadow in the Glebe Field.

He had already approached the tenant with the idea and found him interested.

Mr. Rose estimated that the cost to the Parish Council of laying out the meadow would be no more than £200. 00.

Councillors felt that the idea merited consideration. Cllr. Clarke reminded the Council that his proposal to lay out floral gateways had been embraced by the Council, but no action had yet been taken.

It was agreed that a committee comprising of Councillors and other interested members of the community should be set up to consider proposals.

12. LAW AND ORDER

(i) Neighbourhood Watch

There had been two houses burgled in the Longdon area in July, and more volunteers were needed by the Neighbourhood Watch network, especially in Brook End, where there had recently been a lot of suspicious to-ing and fro-ing.

Anyone wishing to take part in the scheme should ring the local co-ordinator, Rob Nunn, on 01543 234576.

13. BEST KEPT VILLAGE REPORT

(i) Results

The Clerk reported that Longdon/Longdon Green had been placed first in the Large Village Section of the Lichfield/Cannock Chase District, but had not been the overall winners, the trophy having been awarded to Edingale, the winners of the Small Village Section.

Upper Longdon third in the Small Village Section.

He had written to all the volunteers thanking them for their efforts.

14. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Accounts for Payment

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

*Instaprint, Rugeley	700 newsletters, 600 inserts	£ 466. 00
*Hazel Crosbie	Delivering "Longdon Life"	£ 45. 00
*A. J. Juxon	Editor's Expenses	£ 15. 00
*Audit Commission	Audit Fee	£ 162. 00
*G. C. McCulloch	Mowing of greens and verges - July 29: £270. 00 Mowing Gentleshaw Green – July 29: £ 90. 00	£ 360. 00

*AquaJet Services	Providing new notice-board at Gentleshaw	£ 165. 00
G. C. McCulloch	Mowing of greens and verges (August 27 th): £270. 00 Mowing Gentleshaw Green (August 27 th): £ 90. 00 Mowing and collection of grass from centre of Longdon Green: £170. 00	£ 530. 00
Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall –September 13th: £12. 00 Hire of Hall for 2 sessions of the Computer Course: £ 24. 00	£ 36. 00
W. B. Sullivan	Clerk’s Salary: £350. 00 less tax: £140. 00	£ 210. 00
HM Revenue & Customs	Employer Payment	£ 140 00
W. B. Sullivan	Expenses	
	Photocopying: £ 50. 95 Postage: £ 40. 24	£ 91. 19
Longdon Produce and Flower Show Committee	Hire of Village Hall and W. I. Hall for Show	£ 210. 00
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Membership Renewal	£ 39. 00
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	Annual Subscription	£ 15. 00

(*confirmation #payment made under Section 137)

(ii) Payments Received

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, the following payment had been received:

C. T. & L. Marshall	2 Advertisements in “Longdon Life”	£ 10. 00
A. I. D. Fuel Oils Ltd.	Advertisement in “Longdon Life”	£ 9. 00
N. J. Sutcliffe	Advertisement in “Longdon Life”	£ 8. 00

A. W. Johnson	Advertisement in "Longdon Life"	£	6. 50
Paul Adams	Advertisement in "Longdon Life"	£	5. 00
	Donation	£	5. 00

(iii) Requests for Grant Aid

The Council reported that no applications for grant aid had been received since the last meeting.

(iv) Current Balances

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

NatWest c/a: £1605. 44 The Halifax s/a: £7032. 70

There were no uncleared cheques

(v) Report of External Auditor

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor had signed off the Annual Return on 4th July 2011 and that a notice of Completion of Audit had been displayed on the Parish Council notice board for the required period of at least fourteen days.

(vi) Important Notice to Staffordshire County Council Suppliers

The Clerk reported that he had received an undated letter from Cath. Oakley, Payments Manager, informing the Council that, as a company that had been identified as having carried out business with Staffordshire County Council over the past eighteen months, she was advising the Council that schools converting to academies would no longer be part of Staffordshire County Council and should be treated as an independent company in its financial system.

15. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

(i) The Clerk reported that he had received from Darran Hine, Sales Director, Sovereign, an undated letter introducing his company as a leading supplier of playground equipment to education which was striving to break into the local authority sector and was seeking sites in which to install its new range of equipment for other councils, schools and local authorities to view.

It was agreed, however, that no suitable site was available in Longdon.

(ii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Sue Sheppard, Biodiversity Officer, Environment and Countryside, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 15th July 2011, in which she provided an update on planned works on the Cannock Chase Country Park this summer and through the winter period.

These included bracken control, bramble and scrub control, heath management, tree clearance and woodland management work, a survey of features of historical interest and phytophthora disease management.

(iii) The Clerk reported that he had received from David Pott, Project Leader, Two Saints Way Project, an email dated 18th July 2011, informing the Council that the Two Saints Way website was now up and running and could be accessed on www.twosaintsway.org.uk.

(iv) The Clerk reported that he had received from Stephanie Bould, Secretary, Longdon Pre-School, a letter dated 22ⁿ July 2011, thanking the Parish Council for its donation of £50. 00.

She had added that the children had enjoyed participating in colouring the posters for the BKV Competition and it had been nice to see the posters around the village.

(v) The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Neil Cox, Planning Policy Manager, Lichfield District Council, an email dated 29th July 2011, informing the Council that the District Council had commissioned Neil Allen Associates to carry out a 'refresh' on the Playing Pitch strategy that covered Lichfield District.

He urged the Council to respond to the company's request for information as soon as possible after it had been received.

The Clerk added that he had already received a phone call and had endeavoured to provide the caller with helpful information, while stressing that no suitable site had been identified in Longdon.

(vi) The Clerk reported that he had received from Ruth Evans, Head of Community and Development, The Royal Horticultural Society a letter dated 5th August 2011, inviting the Parish to take part in the RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign.

However, it was concluded that Ms. Evans was writing speculatively and had no first-hand knowledge of the Parish.

(vii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Derek Loweth, Group Secretary, NFU, a letter dated 10th August 2011, writing on behalf of Kevin Healey and confirming his intention to mow the grass in the Glebe Field for a hay crop when the weather permitted.

He added that Mr. Healey believed that he was co-operating in a reasonable manner as far as the footpath was concerned.

(viii) The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Mr. Will Rose, of The Croft, Longdon, a letter dated 31st August 2011, in which he expressed concern over the Government's intention to change from Retail Price Index to Consumer Price Index for calculating pension increases.

He had enclosed a document taken from The National Federation of Occupational Pensions magazine, copies of which, at Mr. Rose's request, he had forwarded to Councillors.

(ix) The Clerk reported that he had received from Sue Perry, Customer Support, The Parking Shop, Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, a letter dated 31st August 2011, in which she introduced her company, specialists in providing Parish Councils with a variety of outdoor products, varying from dog waste and litter bins to shelters.

The company's details were noted for possible future reference.

(x) The Clerk reported that he had received from Sue Venables, of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust, informing the Council that, on 1st September 2011, the Trust had been officially constituted as an independent organisation.

(xi) The Clerk reported that he had received from Peter Craddock, Chairman, CPRE East Staffordshire District Group, a letter dated 2nd September 2011, enclosing copies of a poster publicising a meeting which was being held at St. Mary's Centre, Market Square, Lichfield, on Thursday, 6th October 2011 in which the growing threat to the rural landscape would be discussed.

He had posted a copy of this poster on each of the Parish Council's notice-boards.

(xii) The Clerk reported that he had received from Matt Garner, an email dated 8th September 2011, giving notice of a meeting at the Barbican, London, on Thursday, 17th November 2011, at which industry experts would talk about possible ways of improving our railways.

There would also be an opportunity to debate key policies and projects and explore how to improve our railways.

No time was given for this meeting.

16. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

- (i) From Heather Gibbons, Democratic and Legal Services Officer, Democratic, Development and legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 31st July 2011;
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 14th August 2011;
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 28th August 2011;
Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 11th September 2011;
Forward Plan – Version 1 – Issued 15th July 2011 – Effective for the Period 01. 08. 2011 – 30. 11. 2011;
Forward Plan – Version 1 – Issued 17th August 2011 – Effective for the Period 01. 09. 2011 – 31. 12 – 2011.

- (ii) From The Licensing Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 1st July 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 8th July 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 16th July 2011;

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 22nd July 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 29th July 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 5th August 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 12th August 2011;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 19th August 2011;
Licensing Act Applications Registered during w/e 26th August 2011.

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

Register of Electors 2011 –Notice of Alterations (September 20110).

(iv) From Carol Pepper, Administration Assistant, Lichfield District Council:

Voiceit – New consultation added.

(v) From Lyn Hammant, Parks Administration Assistant, Department of Leisure, Parks and Play, Lichfield District Council:

Lichfield Proms in the Park – 3rd September 2011: posters and leaflets.

(vi) From Jan. Wright, Administration Assistant, Lichfield Community and Voluntary Support Sector:

S3SN: NHS Consultation Live;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 24/11 – 14th July 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 25/11 – 21st July 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 26/11 – 28th July 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 27/11 – 4th August 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 28/11 – 11th August 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 29/11 – 18th August 2011;
S3SN – E Bulletin – Issue No. 30/11 – 26th August 2011;

(vii) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

“Staffordshire Cares” – A3 landscape poster, A5 leaflet;
Land and Society Commission Report;
E Bulletin, July 2011;
L06-11: The future of standard of conduct of members of local authorities in England;
Latest news on the Localism Bill;
P20-11: Localism Bill – progress so far;
P21-11: DEFRA Issues Natural White Paper;
P22-11: Open Public Services White Paper;
P23-11: Planning for Traveller Sites;
P24-11: Relaxation of Planning Rules;
Staffordshire LINK – Volume 3, Issue 3, June/July 2011;
Future Friendly Awards;
Registered Community Games 2011;
A51 Campaign – No HGV through traffic;
Rural Policy Making;

Aspire Customer Awards;
Weekly Update (3rd August 2011);
NALC Update;
Code of Practice 1: Disciplinary and grievance procedures;
Making the most of community-led planning;
Flier: Planning for Non-Planners;
British Red Cross – personal resilience project;
The registration of new town or village greens: a consultation;
Weekly Update (10th August 2011);
NALC Policy Consultation P28-11: Local Government Resource Review;
SSAFA Forces Help;
Weekly Update (18th August 2011);
NALC Policy Consultation P)-31: Localising Support for Council Tax in England;
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Education Training Courses, Autumn/Winter 2011;
CVS Make A Difference Day 2011;
SPCA Annual Report and Accounts 2010-2011;
Ballot and proposed motions for AGM;
Letter from County Councillor Matthew Ellis: “Engaging Communities Staffordshire”;
Leaflet: engaging communities Staffordshire” (12 copies);
Weekly Update (23rd August 2011);
Nomination form for members of SPCA Executive;
Motions for Debate;
Free electric blanket testing;
Advertisement for Clerk for Kings Bromley Parish Council;
Weekly Update (8th September 2011).

(viii) From The National Association of Local Councils:

“LCR”: Summer 2011, Volume 63, No. 2.

(ix) From The Staffordshire Playing Fields Association:

Annual Report and Accounts 2010/2011;
Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting.

(x) From The Community Council of Staffordshire:

Notice of Annual General meeting;
Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting;
Nomination for Election Form 2011;
Notes on Nomination to the Board/Consent to Nomination to serve on the Board;
Voting Slip/Form of Proxy;
Attendance/Apology Form;
Feedback Form;
Annual Report 2011-2011.

(xi) From Sara Green, Development Officer, Community Council of Staffordshire:

Broadband Consultation.

(xii) From Staffordshire Police:

Partnership Community Reassurance: “Working together to keep our communities safe”;

Community reassurance: “Keeping you informed, keeping you safe”;

Business reassurance: Keeping you updated and reassured”.

(xiii) From The Staffordshire Wildlife Trust:

“Staffordshire Wildlife”: Summer 2011, No. 112;

Annual Review 2010;

Wildlife What’s On – September to December 2011;

Family What’s On – September to December 2011;

Annual Raffle 2011 (2 books x 5 tickets @ £1. 00 each).

(xiv) From The Public Sector Mapping Agreement Team:

PSMA Newsletter 2 – July 2011;

Invitation to members’ conference;

PSMA Newsletter 3 - August 2011.

(xv) From Marie Hitchin, sustainablegov.uk:

Public Service Efficiency Update (14th July 2011);

Newsletter – 21st July 2011;

Newsletter – 28th July 2011;

Newsletter – 11th August 2011;

Newsletter – 18th August 2011;

Newsletter – 25th August 2011;

Newsletter – 1st September 2011.

(xvi) From The Historic Towns Forum:

HTF Events – Seminar: “Understanding Localism”;

Newsletter – September 2011;

Seminar; “Using Social Media to improve knowledge sharing”.

(xvii) From Navigus Planning, Manningtree, Essex:

“Journal of Local Planning”: The National Planning Policy Framework.

(xviii) From Steve Shaw, steve.shaw@unlockdemocracy.org.uk:

“Please help persuade the government re: proposal to empower local councils.

(xix) From DCK Beavers Ltd.:

Payroll Services.

(xx) From GOPAK, Hythe, Kent:

Promotion Card.

(xxi) From Proludic, West Bridgford, Nottingham:

“Book now to meet Roger Black and Steve Brackley at Saltex”.

(xxii) From Matta Products, Bedford:

Playground Refurbishment;
Make your budget go further.

(xxiii) From Russell Play, Lymington, Hants.:

Silhouette – Transforming Urban Spaces;
“Check out our new online catalogue”.

(xxiv) From Notts Sports:

“Save pounds on your mounds”

(xxv) From furniture@work, Sittingbourne, Kent:

Sale catalogue.

(xxvi) From Mark Thompson, Sustainable Options:

Making sustainability commercial sense (outdoor furniture).

(xxvii) From IOGSALTEX:

“One week to IOG SALTEX 2011” (Royal Windsor Racecourse,
6-8 September).

(xxviii) From SMP Playgrounds Ltd., Egham. Surrey:

Parish and community news.

(xxix) From Luke Clarke, Midlands and South Wales, Play Consultant, eibe Ltd.,
Hurtmore, Surrey:

“Develop your Parish Play Spaces for Children and the Community”.

(xxx) From Mark Thompson, Sales Manager, Barkstan Plastic Ltd., Leeds:

Sustainable Options range of construction materials and outdoor furniture.

17. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

(i) Cllr. Clarke reported that he had received complaints about inconsiderate parking in Ford Lane by parents delivering to and collecting their children from the School.

As a consequence, refuse lorries had not been able to access properties and residents were being made late for work.

He had established with Staffordshire Highways that Ford Lane was an adopted road and had been advised to call the police, but hoped that he would be able to resolve the problem amicably.

However, the problem did seem to highlight the inappropriateness of using the entrance to the School opposite the Village Hall instead of using the main entrance.

(ii) Cllr. Taylor reported that he had received complaints about encroaching vegetation in Lower Way and Grange Hill, which he had now cut back.

He also reported that a lot of pot holes in Stockings Lane outside Longdon Lodge which were, he thought, particularly dangerous on a bend.

The Clerk was instructed to refer this problem to Staffordshire Highways.

He had also received a complaint about crowing cockerels, which he himself thought was to be expected in a rural area.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 11th, 2011, in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.