

LONGDON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee of Longdon Parish Council
held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 29 September 2015 at the WI Hall Longdon**

Present: Councillors: Mrs J Cleaver, P Couchman, Mrs H Meere, K Morgan and K Taylor

Public in attendance: Mr & Mrs Fulwood

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllr Clarke, Cllr.Cherry, Mr S. Welch (co-optee), Mr P Young (Clerk). Leave of absence was granted to Cllr Clarke on the grounds that he could not attend the meeting due to mobility problems. It was noted that Cllr Clarke, Mr P Young, Mr S Welch had all submitted reports for various items.</p>	
2.	<p>Declaration of Interest None</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes The Minutes of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising on the Minutes, and Action List These were addressed as agenda items.</p>	
5.	<p>Meeting Dates Next meeting date: Tues 1st Dec. ; proposed Mon 1st Feb. - tbc;</p>	Cllr Morgan
Highway matters		
6.	<p>Upper Longdon Gateway Speed Reduction Scheme The meeting reviewed the proposal from SCC, and the public participation was most welcome and constructive. It was noted that the proposed scheme was:- sympathetic, not too intrusive, and value for money. The scheme required revised village gateway signs; improvements to warning signing; various improvements in road marking; small reduction in road width. To make recommendations to Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Approval of the Scheme (subject to any comments arising from public consultation.</i> <i>b. To hold a consultation event prior to a Full PC – date to be confirmed.</i> <i>c. Approval of funding of £2,000 from Longdon Parish Council.</i> <i>d. That SCC are requested to produce a document comparing situations before the scheme and after the scheme.</i> <i>e. That commitment is requested from the Chief Constable for enforcement</i> 	<p>a, b, c = PC</p> <p>d, e = Clerk and Cllr Tittley</p>
7	<p><u>a) Home to School Bus Fares for pupils aged over 16</u> Clerk reported that there is no statutory obligation for this. Under national legislation pupils over 16 have to pay for their travel between home and school. There are certain exceptions, and the potential for costs to be paid for pupils whose families are on low incomes. There is a booklet “Home to school travel and transport guidance - Statutory guidance for local authorities” which sets this out in full.</p>	

No.	Item	Action
	<p>There seems little that the PC can effectively do about this. It was suggested that parents should apply to local charities for support.</p>	
	<p><u>b) Potholes</u></p> <p>The details of potholes repaired in the parish during August were presented (information from SCC website).</p> <p>Clerk has sent an email to Tim Heminsley – no reply to date</p> <p>It was noted that SCC have a website page where they list the road repairs undertaken, and the reports received requesting road repairs. They list weekly data for the past 4 weeks. It can be found at</p> <p>http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/roadworks/schemeinfo/Potholes.aspx</p> <p>It was also noted that faults can be reported at:</p> <p>https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault</p> <p><u>c) Parish Wide Road Safety Review</u></p> <p>County Councillor Tittley had suggested that the parish council should submit a formal request to Tim Heminsley, (with copy to him) for a parish wide road safety review. Clerk has sent an email 24 September 2015 to Tim Heminsley, with no reply to date.</p>	<p>Clerk to make request</p>
	<p><u>d) A51 Lay-by:</u></p> <p><u>Waiting time effectiveness and enforcement of the new 1 hour waiting restriction</u></p> <p>The Clerk reports that the Police can only enforce moving traffic offences, so the enforcement of 'no waiting' relies on the civil parking enforcement team.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
	<p><u>e) Hedge of 'Sunny Corner', Upper Way, Upper Longdon</u></p> <p>Cllr Taylor reported that the house is now rented, and that he had spoken with the tenant. The tenant has agreed to cut the hedge.</p>	
	<p><u>f) Cast iron sign posts – vintage fingerposts</u></p> <p>These were the heritage signs owned by the Parish Council. Mr Steve Welch had inspected all of the signposts, and submitted a report with photographs. The meeting agreed that Mr Welch would obtain a quotation for the repairs required. .</p>	<p>Mr S Welch</p>
	<p><u>g) Priorities at T junction Horsey Lane and Borough Lane by Grand Lodge</u></p> <p>Clerk has emailed Tim Heminsley at SCC Highways (copy to Cllr Tittley) 10 September 2015, requesting SCC to investigate this matter, stressing that this was a highway safety issue. No reply to date.</p>	
	<p><u>h) Parish Maps</u></p> <p>The clerk reported that he has registered the Council under the PSMA (Public Sector Mapping Agreement). This provides public bodies with free access (for their own use only) to Ordnance Survey digital maps.</p> <p>Unfortunately the PC will need software to read them. So I have also signed up the Council for a free 30 day evaluation of Parish Online 2. Parish Online is a very much simpler package.</p> <p>In addition, Parishes can download mapping data from LDC for things like public footpaths, listed buildings, SSIs, planning applications etc. and it seems this can be</p>	<p>Cllr Taylor</p>

No.	Item	Action
	<p>added to the Parish Online maps.</p> <p>Parish Online is very much cheaper (£56 a year plus a one-off £20 set up fee), and if the PC is thinking of preparing a new grounds maintenance contract it would enable you to have much better quality maps than are in the current contract. It will also do things like tell you the area of the land you have marked out. (E.g. ...a specimen map of Berkeley Way Green using the evaluation Parish Online, shows that the Green is 1,900 sq metres).</p>	
8	Open Spaces	
	<p><u>a) The green at Longdon Green - update on tracing ownership.</u></p> <p>Cllr Cherry had previously reported that the land was unregistered but it was thought that ownership may have passed with the Lordship of the Manor. Cllr Mrs H Meere was to seek some clarification, via Mrs G Nichols, with the potential owner. No update was available from Cllr Meere.</p>	Cllrs Meere and Cherry
	<p><u>b) Best Kept Village Competition</u></p> <p>Of the 15 villages entering in Lichfield and Cannock Chase Districts, Longdon/Longdon Green came second in the Large Village category. The winners were Kings Bromley, and Alrewas was third. Upper Longdon was "highly commended".</p> <p>To consider arrangements for 2016 competition. Nothing was reported.</p>	Cllr Cherry
	<p><u>c) The Green area front of Longdon Hall School</u></p> <p>The Clerk has exchanged detailed emails with Steve Welch over what exactly was needed (and which piece of land was meant).</p> <p>The Clerk has emailed to the School. To date the Clerk has heard nothing, and does not know if it has yet been cut.</p>	Mr S Welch Clerk
	<p><u>d) Flower tubs Brooke End Green – to arrange replacements for broken tubs.</u></p> <p>Cllr J Cleaver agreed to find review flower tubs.</p>	Cllr Cleaver
9	Footpaths & Bridleways	
	<p><u>a) Mesh on Stiles</u></p> <p>The Clerk contacted Paul Rochfort, SSS Principal Rights of Way Officer and received a reply as follows:</p> <p><i>Thanks for your email. Dogs are regarded as a natural accompaniment on a right of way although neither the County Council nor the landowners are under any legal duty to provide access for them. Some landowners do not like to encourage access for dogs primarily because of the irresponsible attitude of some dog owners who allow their dog to use the path as a toilet and to leave the path line which amounts to trespass against the landowner. Many landowners with livestock also express concerns about dogs which worry and intimidate their cattle or sheep.</i></p> <p><i>I'm afraid we do not have any powers to force landowners to remove the mesh. In cases such as this we normally say that if the Parish Council can reach agreement with the landowner to modify the stiles then we would be happy for the County Works Unit to make the necessary adjustments. There may also be the possibility that the stiles can be replaced with kissing or wicket gates to make easier access for all although this will depend on both the landowner's agreement and funding from the rights of way budget.</i></p> <p><u>b) Footpath 25 accessibility</u></p>	

No.	Item	Action
	<p>This is to consider the possible options which would allow removal of the concrete block. Due to limited time available in the meeting, this was not discussed, and held over for next meeting.</p> <p><u>c) Footpath leaflets – update on storage and distribution</u> Cllr Mrs Meere reported that Mr & Mrs Juxon are happy to continue to store and restock leaflets as required. Stock levels for Leaflets 1, 2, 3 are getting low.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Annual Maintenance Plan</u></p> <p>It was considered that a comprehensive annual maintenance plan was needed for all routine issues. This would take some time to prepare, but would then hopefully avoid many issues being raised as ‘one offs’ and would facilitate employing a contractor to undertake the works, without requiring individual works instructions.</p> <p>Cllr Cherry agreed to lead this work, and Cllr Taylor to work support Cllr Cherry.</p> <p>No update was available from Cllrs Cherry or Taylor, and with the absence of Cllr Cherry, then Cllr Taylor agreed to take the lead. Spend history and asset register to be used.</p> <p><u>High Street Notice Board</u></p> <p>Cllr Meere to inspect and report back with recommendation/actions</p>	<p>Cllr Taylor</p> <p>Cllr Meere</p>

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:10 pm

Signed (Chairman):

Date: