

Longdon Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of Longdon Parish Council held 7.00pm on Tuesday, 9 October 2018 at WI Hall, Longdon

Present: **Parish Councillors:** H Hulme, K Taylor, B Butler and P Couchman.
Other Councillors: Councillor Tittley, Staffordshire County Council (SCC) arrived 7.45pm
 Councillor I Pritchard, Lichfield District Council (LDC) arrived 7.50pm
Clerk: Mrs E. Bird.
Public Attendees: 4 (3 stayed for items 064 – 066 only)
Councillor Apologies: G Duckett, H Meere, J Watkins-Smythe, C Webb, A Fullwood and A Cliffe

Min No.	Item	Action
064 065.1	<p>Apologies & Acceptance of Absence</p> <p>Councillor G Duckett, H Meere, J Watkins-Smythe, C Webb, A Fullwood and A Cliffe submitted apologies for the meeting. Councillors Tittley and Pritchard apologised for their late arrival.</p> <p>Noted and resolved, in the absence of Councillor Duckett, to ask the vice-chair to chair the meeting.</p>	
065 065.1	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
066 066.1	<p>Chairman to close meeting for public session</p> <p>Complaints/Concerns about Parish Council</p> <p>Local Parishioner Jennifer Ford attended the meeting. She had previously written to the Parish Council by letter. Her concerns were discussed at the Council’s September meeting. Cllr Taylor, as a representative of the Parish Council had been to speak to Mrs Ford about the points she had raised.</p> <p>Whilst recognising that Councillors were volunteers, Mrs Ford raised the following points for consideration by the Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her disappointment and frustration that emails through the Parish Website had gone unanswered. <p>The Clerk reported she had searched the Council’s email system and no correspondence had been received from Mrs Ford since February 2018. Just prior to this meeting, an email had been received which the Clerk had responded to immediately. Details of phone numbers and a P.O. Box address were available on the Website also. The Clerk agreed to report this issue to the external Website Administrator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Ford reported a Google search of Longdon Parish Council brought up several websites and it was unclear which was related to this Parish. <p>The Clerk reported that Longdon only had one Parish Council website.</p>	

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- Mrs Ford was disappointed with the Council’s response to her concerns regarding Stockings Lane. Mrs Ford explained the issue was not with potholes but with the collapse of the road surface at the edges of Stockings Lane and the need for the hedges to be cut back.

Councillors said that Stockings Lane was a single-track lane utilised by tractors which were likely causing the reported problems at the side of the road. The hedges were the responsibility of the land owner and the Parish Council had no powers to cut them back. They advised these issues should be reported directly to SCC.

- Mrs Ford did not feel the recent referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan had been well publicised. She was disappointed that the notices in the village had the incorrect date on them. She felt the turnout had been very low and that the details of the results should have been recorded in greater detail in the minutes.

The Chair said there had 3 pages dedicated to the plan in the last Longdon Life as well as numerous consultations and updates whilst the plan was being developed. The Neighbourhood Plan referendum was the responsibility of LDC. The incorrect notices put up by the Parish Council had been replaced as soon as the issue had been brought to their attention. The turnout was reasonable in comparison with other Neighbourhood Plan referendums around the country.

- She wished to see the local newspaper ‘The Mercury’ be re-instated in Upper Longdon.

This was outside the Parish Council’s remit and this issue should be raised with the newspaper directly.

- Mrs Ford queried what was happening to phase 2 of the proposed to the traffic calming scheme in Upper Longdon.

The Chair reported that Phase 2 was not currently being progressed by SCC as their initial results had demonstrated that the speeding issues reported were not as great as they were perceived to be.

[Cllr Tittley spoke later in the meeting about his efforts to progress some of the traffic calming issues around the Parish, but Mrs Ford had left the meeting by this point.]

Mrs Ford provided the Clerk with a copy of the statement she had read to the Parish.

<p>066.2</p>	<p>Resolved to</p> <p>a) ask the Clerk to contact the Web Site Administrator to try to address the issues raised regarding the email form on the website and copies of emails sent not being available to the sender.</p> <p>b) ask the Clerk to respond to any further issues in the statement by Mrs Ford.</p> <p><u>Best Kept Village</u></p> <p>Diane Howell, attended the meeting on behalf of the Women’s Institute in Longdon.</p> <p>She had heard that the weeds outside the WI Hall had been criticised by the Best Kept Village Judges. She explained that if they were pulled up the roots brought up the tarmac in the road and that they were concerned about using weed killer in such a public space.</p> <p>Councillors reported that the judges had produced a report which detailed learning points and that this was just one of the suggestions for improvement in future competitions. They looked forward to working with the WI on future competitions.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>EB</p> <p>EB</p>
<p>066.3</p>	<p><u>Complaint regarding Neighbourhood Plan Referendum</u></p> <p>Local Parishioner Michael Neil attended the meeting to raise complaints regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.</p> <p>He raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2 week notice period for the referendum was in his view insufficient. • Notices in the Parish had displayed the wrong date. • He had not been able to access the link to look at the relevant documents on the Council Website. • The incorrect documents were on the Lichfield District Council Website. • He only accessed the documents 48 hours in advance of referendum and therefore chose not to vote as he had been unable to study the documents to his satisfaction. <p>The Chairman informed Mr Neil that the organisation of the referendum had been run by LDC and not the Parish Council. As previously reported, signs had been amended as soon as the typing error regarding the date had been raised.</p> <p>Resolved to ask the Clerk to raise issues regarding the link to the documents on the Parish Council’s site with the Web Administrator.</p>	<p>EB</p>

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066.4	<p><u>Speedwatch</u></p> <p>Greg Owens, a local resident, attended the meeting to discuss his proposal to develop a 'Speedwatch' scheme to tackle excessive speeding on the A51.</p> <p>Councillors had discussed the proposal put forward by Mr Owens at their September meeting. The Chair explained that at the September meeting the Councillors had discussed their experience of running the Speedwatch scheme, which some Councillors had been involved with for many years. Councillors had become frustrated with the Speedwatch Scheme as they felt it lacked any real power and they received very aggressive and intimidating abuse from the public whilst participating in the scheme. The Parish Council had decided to explore other methods to reduce speed on the A51 with the Gateway Features, exploring whether SCC could raise the central reservation on A51 and requesting the police camera van visit the area.</p> <p>Councillors did not feel they had the capacity themselves to run the Speedwatch Scheme. They were very willing to support Mr Owen if they could by publicising his efforts and offering advice and support.</p> <p>Resolved to offer the Council's support to Mr Owen in running the Speedwatch Scheme and to ask him to keep the Council informed of his progress. If there was an area he thought the Council could help with specifically (e.g. publicity) he was asked to contact the Clerk.</p>	
067	<p>Minutes of Monthly Full Council Meeting held on 11 September 2018.</p> <p>067.1 The minutes were approved as a correct record. Proposed: Councillor K Taylor seconded: Cllr B Butler</p> <p>It was resolved to approve and accept the minutes of the full Parish Council meeting held on 11 September 2018.</p>	
068	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>068.1 All matters had been dealt with or were to be/had been discussed on the agenda.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
069	<p>Outside Body Representatives' Feedback</p> <p>069.1 Councillor Taylor reported he had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Cannock Chase ANOB annual conference on Friday 14 September 2018 at the Aquarius Ballroom in Hednesford. The Conference included an update on the Partnership's activities, a presentation about the national family of AONBs and work across the country, plus Councillor Taylor had the opportunity to help identify the priority actions for the partnership over the next 5 years.</p> <p>Noted</p>	

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<p>070</p> <p>070.1</p>	<p>Speedwatch</p> <p>This issue had been discussed during public participation detailed above.</p>	
<p>071</p>	<p>Parking on Gentleshaw Green</p> <p>The Chair reported that as the Council did not own the land at Gentleshaw yet they would be unable to put any measures in place to prevent parking on the site.</p> <p>Resolved to add this item to the Environment Committee agenda</p>	<p>EB</p>
<p>072</p>	<p>The Memorial Hall</p> <p>Councillors noted receipt of a further letter from the Chairman of the Memorial Hall Committee regarding their Freedom of Information request.</p> <p>Councillors felt the response sent by the Chair on 14 August 2018 had responded to the Freedom of Information request.</p> <p>The Chair reminded Councillors that the reason the Council had become involved with the Memorial Hall was because they had been approached by Parishioners regarding the Adverse Possession of the Hall by the Committee.</p> <p>At the September meeting Councillors had proposed a formal letter to be sent to the Committee requesting that the Hall be returned to Trust Status.</p> <p>Resolved to ask the Clerk to draft a letter reflecting the views of the Council. Councillors to approve the draft by email prior to it being sent.</p>	<p>EB</p>
<p>073</p> <p>073.1</p>	<p>Longdon Life Autumn Edition</p> <p>Councillors noted the Editor of Longdon Life was unable to produce the Autumn Edition for personal reasons.</p> <p>Noted</p>	
<p>074</p> <p>074.1</p>	<p>Correspondence Report</p> <p>The following correspondence was reported by the Clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation from Leader Lichfield District Council to meet Cabinet and Parish Forum meeting invite – to Chair/vice-chair Noted the Chair and Vice-Chair would attend • A51 Raised Central Reservation – Update Noted that SCC were exploring the request from the Parish regarding raising the central reservation on A51. Councillor Tittley reported the plans were currently with the engineers and he was exploring whether other speed calming issues could also be put in place in the Parish. • Burntwood Town Council – Carol Concert Invitation to Chair. Noted that the Chair could not attend. 	

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Date:.....

- HS2 Information events – information regarding HS2. **Noted**
- Grounds Maintenance Tender – Request for information. **Resolved to ask that the Environment Committee begin the Tender process at the November meeting.**

Councillor Pritchard reported that the Neighbourhood Plan had gone to LDC Cabinet and would now go to the Full Council.

Noted

075
075.1

Accounts for Payment

The Parish Council approved the following accounts for payment at their meeting on 11.09.18. A cheque book was received in early October and the cheques were written on 03.10.18.

Payee	Invoice No	Cheque Number*	Net	VAT	Total
Mr McCulloch – cuts 5,6 and 7 at £360	-	2361	£1080	-	£1080
Lichfield District Council	M0007501193	2362	£780	£156	£936
Staffordshire County Council	1000015549	2363	£390	-	£390
Mark Fullwood	-	2364	£22.50	-	£22.50
Ellen Bird Expenses	-	2365	£18.26	-	£18.26
Ellen Bird Wages September	-	Paid in cash 12.09.18	£477.14	-	£477.14
WCAVA	20190148	2366	£120.50	£1.10	£121.60

The Council are asked to approve the following accounts for payment at their meeting on 09.10.2018:

Payee	Invoice No	Cheque Number*	Net	VAT	Total
G C McCulloch – 2 x Cuts and collection grass Longdon Green	38, 59 and 65	2367	£910	-	£910
Mazars	1447059-SB05394	2368	£200	£40	£240
Ellen Bird Expenses	-	2369	£33.45	-	£33.45

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	Ellen Bird September pay and pay rise (back paid to July)	-	2370	£1064.70	-	£1064.70		
	WCAVA (Payroll and HMRC Payment)	20190172	2371	£375.60		£375.60		
	<p>Income Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longdon Life Advert Payments - £70 <p>Resolved to note the payments from 03.10.18 which had been approved at the September meeting and to approve the accounts for payment for 09.10.18</p>							
076	Planning Applications							
076.1	<u>18/00846/FUL - Gentleshaw Primary School, Darlings Lane, Gentleshaw, Rugeley</u>							
	Councillors had no comments.							
076.2	<u>18/01401/FUL - 59 Brook End, Longdon, Rugeley.</u>							
	Councillors had no comments.							
076.3	<u>18/01388/FUL - Timbers, High Street, Longdon, Rugeley</u>							
	Councillors had no comments.							
	Noted							
077	Items for future meetings							
077.1	There were none.							
	Resolved for Councillors to contact the Clerk with future agenda items.							EB
078	Dates of future meetings							
078.1	The following meeting dates were agreed:							
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 November 2018, 7pm, Environment Committee, WI Hall Longdon 13 November 2018 (at 6,30pm) Administration Committee – WI Hall, Longdon 13 November 2018 (at 7pm) Longdon Parish Council, WI Hall, Longdon 							

The meeting ended at 20.15pm

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