

**Longdon Parish Council
Environment Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held at
7.00pm on Tuesday 6 November 2018 at Longdon WI Hall, Longdon.**

Parish Councillors; G Duckett, H Hulme, K Taylor, P Couchman and Will Rose
Committee members; -
Apologies; Cllr. A Fullwood and H Meere
Clerk; Ellen Bird
Public; -

Min No.	Item	Action
028	Apologies for Absence	
028.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. A Fullwood and H Meere.	
028.2	Due to the absence of Cllr A. Cliffe, Cllr G Duckett took the Chair.	
029	Declarations of Interest	
029.1	There were no declarations to receive	
030	Chairman to Close Meeting for Public Session	
030.1	No Public in attendance.	
031	Minutes from the Environment Committee 4 September	
031.1	The minutes were read and approved. It was noted that Stile had been misspelt – this was amended by hand. In addition, Benhill Press was amended from Beamhill Press. Resolved, (subject to the above amendments) to approve the minutes of the Environment Committee 4 September 2018 as a correct record of the meeting. These were signed by the Chair.	
032	Matters Arising from the Minutes	
032.1	<u>024.9 Timescales for Reinstating footpaths on farmers land</u> Mr Rose reported that a farmer had 14 days from the first period of disturbance to re-instate a path across his land. If there were further disturbances the period was much shorter. Councillors reported that footpath 54 (between Brereton Hill Lane and A51 at Brereton Cross) had been planted over for approximately 6 weeks. Resolved to ask the Clerk to report this issue to SCC enforcement.	EB
033	Risk Assessment Review	
033.1	Councillors reviewed the risk register and all items scheduled for review were elsewhere on the agenda. They discussed ref 4.5 on the register regarding walks promoted by the Parish are walked at least once a year. It was suggested that a programme be developed to ensure this was done.	

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	<p>Resolved to</p> <p>a) set up a programme to ensure the walks were walked at least once a year asking Councillors, local residents and ramblers association to complete a form reporting any faults, and;</p> <p>b) approve the risk register.</p>	
034	Transfer of Land	
034.1	<p>The Chair reported that in order to proceed with the Land Transfer, the Parish would need to appoint a solicitor.</p> <p>Resolved to ask the Chair to bring details of a solicitor willing to act on behalf of the Parish on this matter to a future Parish meeting.</p>	Cllr Duckett
035	Projects	
035.1	<p><u>Best Kept Village</u></p> <p>Councillors discussed the positive and negative actions in the BKV feedback report for 2018.</p> <p>Resolved to:</p> <p>a) Ask the Chair to liaise with the Village Hall to address the weeds issues mentioned</p> <p>b) Ask Mr Fullwood to refurbish the benches (varnish/clear weeds) prior to next year's competition</p>	Cllr Duckett EB
035.2	<p><u>Grass Cutting Tender Process</u></p> <p>Councillors felt it was important to include the collection of the first cut in the mowing contract for next year.</p> <p>Resolved to ask the Clerk to start the Tender process.</p>	EB
035.3	<p><u>Gateways – Phase 2</u></p> <p>Councillors discussed comments regarding the back of the recently installed Gateways but noted that the suppliers had warned that attaching anything else to them may invalidate the warranty.</p> <p>Resolved to ask Cllr Duckett to investigate options with the supplier.</p>	Cllr Duckett
035.4	<p><u>A51 Footpaths</u></p> <p>Councillors discussed the poor condition of the footpath on the A51.</p> <p>They recognised that there was limited footfall on the paths which contributed to the overgrowth that made them difficult to use.</p> <p>They recognised that the County Council did not have the necessary funds to complete the required work and the cost would be prohibitive for the Parish Council.</p> <p>Mr Rose raised the issues he had described at the September meeting regarding the Traffic Lights on A51. (Minute 018.1 refers). Staffordshire County Council could not provide a timeframe for when the work would be completed. Councillors felt they could take urgent action on this small area to ensure that the pedestrian crossing was safely accessible. The Chair also reported that the Hedge at the High Street exit onto the A51 needed cutting back to ensure site lines were clear.</p>	

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<p>035.5</p>	<p>Resolved to ask Mr Fullwood to clear overgrowth around the traffic lights on A51 and to cut the hedge back to clear site lines on High Street exit onto A51.</p> <p><u>Feasibility Study Longdon Green</u></p> <p>The Parish had received advice from Lichfield District Council that the easiest way to evict Travellers from the Common was to use Common Law.</p> <p>The Chair reminded Members that the Travellers had stayed longer than normal on the Common because of the hot weather which made moving the horses on difficult. Councillors could not remember another time over the last 30 years when Travellers had stayed longer than a few days.</p> <p>As no work had been completed on a feasibility study to put preventative measures in place.</p> <p>Resolved to cancel the proposed feasibility study and to review if there was a significant problem in future.</p>	<p>EB</p>
<p>035.6</p>	<p><u>Weed Killer on Footpaths</u></p> <p>Mr Rose reported he had bought some weed killer and applied it to the necessary areas.</p> <p>Resolved to ask the Clerk to send Mr Rose an Expenses Claim form.</p>	<p>EB</p>
<p>036</p>	<p>Update on current projects</p>	
<p>036.1</p>	<p><u>Footpath – Glebe Field</u></p> <p>Resolved to ask the Clerk to request an invoice for the work on Glebe Field.</p>	<p>EB</p>
<p>036.2</p>	<p><u>Information Boards</u></p> <p>Resolved to ask Cllr Duckett to chase the printing of the Map to enable the Information Boards to be completed</p>	<p>Cllr Duckett</p>
<p>037</p>	<p>Update on Footpaths and Bridleways</p>	
<p>037.1</p>	<p><u>Walk 9</u></p> <p>Walk 9 was now with Benhill Press waiting for final approval</p>	
<p>037.1</p>	<p><u>Footpath 51 Lower Way - Redhill</u></p> <p>Mr Rose reported that Rights of Way had replaced the stile with a gate.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor was disappointed he had not been consulted prior to works being done. Mr Rose agreed to call Cllr Taylor if he knew that works were to be completed in his Ward.</p>	
<p>037.2</p>	<p><u>Footpath 31 Hilltop – Hanch</u></p> <p>Mr Rose reported a new gate was required</p>	

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037.3	<u>Footpath 38</u> Work was required to replace a rail on a stile.	
037.4	<u>Footpath 41 – back of Longdon Hall</u> The footplate and supporting legs on the stile were wobbly. Resolved to note the update and to ask Mr Fullwood to complete the works detailed above in line with the procedure agreed below.	EB
038	Pricing Strategy for Footpath Work	
038.1	Councillors agreed a pricing structure for work to be carried out on footpaths. They suggested the following process be put in place to ensure a paper trail for the work <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Rose to liaise with Mr Fullwood to agree work to be completed and the pricing band; 2. Mr Rose to email the Clerk/Chair with the cost, type of work and place of work; 3. Clerk to raise a purchase order if no objections received from the Chair; 4. Mr Rose to confirm completion of works. Resolved to approve the pricing structure in Mr Rose’s email of 09.10.18 (attached on minute book) and the procedure for conducting the work detailed above.	
039	Correspondence	
039.1	The Clerk reported receipt of the following correspondence not reported elsewhere in the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local Parishioner reported an unsightly, dead tree on Shavers Lane Resolved to ask Cllr Taylor to remove the tree and ask the Clerk to explore tree planting schemes to see if a replacement can be found. • Aboriculturalist LDC regarding land owned by the Parish. Resolved to ask the Clerk to report that Berkley Green was the only land owned by the Parish. • Staffordshire County Council regarding changes to grass cutting procedures. Noted 	Cllr Taylor/EB EB
040	Items for future Agendas	
040.1	Resolved to ask Councillors to contact the Clerk with items for future meetings.	
041	Date of Next Meeting	
041.1	To be determined.	

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Councillors are reminded of the National Association of Local Council's 3 Objectives for Parish Councils:

1. Representing their Community.
2. Delivering services to meet local needs.
3. Striving to improve the quality of life of people in their community.

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