

**Minutes of the Longcot Parish Council  
held in the  
Village Community Room, Kings Lane, Longcot  
on Monday 8 January 2015 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, John Bridge, Alan Rich, County Councillor Yvonne Constance and Tina Brock, Clerk.

**01/15 Apologies for Absence:** District Councillor Elaine Ware (prior commitment). This apology was received.

**02/15 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 17 December 2014** were agreed and signed as a correct record.

**03/15 Matters Arising:**

- i. OALC have confirmed that the Council's Asset list should record an asset at its original purchase cost and remain unchanged until disposal.
- ii. The polling station for the 2015 May elections would take place in the Longcot Methodist Chapel

**a. Finance Payment of Accounts.** It was RESOLVED to authorise the payments below:

	Net Cost	VAT	Total £
<b>Payments now due:</b>			
The Net Result (payroll Oct - Dec)			55.50
T Brock (December salary)			144.00

As at 8 January 2015 the Current Account was in credit at £5,085.71 and the Deposit Account was in credit at £3,889.46.

**REPORTS**

**04/15 Report from County Councillor.** CC Constance reported:

- i. The dropped kerb to be installed opposite Longcot and Fernham School would be funded from the Area Stewardship Fund and Councillors Community Budget. These sources of funding would cease in the next financial year.
- ii. Network Rail. The new bridge at Challow had been installed on time. Work to the Compton Bridge had been delayed until May, the bridge for Shrivenham would be built off site with only a couple of days closure, the Uffington Station Bridge would be closed for 6 months and the tracks would be dropped under the bridge at Bourton.
- iii. Local Transport Plan 4. There would be an opportunity to comment on the plan at the end of January.
- iv. A formal request had been made on the behalf of the Council for a speed limit of 40mph on the B4508, Longcot Road and Old Wharf Road.
- v. Broadband. Even with funds from Government, OCC and VWHDC it was thought that the funding would not stretch to connect rural villages to faster broadband.
- vi. NHS England had allocated £33.5million to Better Care Funding for reablement services to improve out of hospital care.

CC Constance left the meeting at 8.40pm

**05/15 Report from District Councillor.** DC Ware had sent an email to inform the Council that:

- i. VWHDC's consultations on the Local Plan 2031, Design Guide Review and CIL closed on 19 December 2014. Comments were being collated and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate along with the plan and supporting documents in February.
- ii. Broadband was still an issue for rural areas and business. A further update is due in March.

**COUNCIL**

**06/15 Chairman's address to Council.** The Chairman said that communication was key between Councillors, meetings with neighbouring parishes and VWHDC must be attended to ensure that the Council is informed and that it acts within its powers and duties for the benefit of the community. The vacancy for a Councillor would be filled by co-option. Two

nominations had been received. The Council agreed that it was important to inform the candidates that the Council was not political. The Clerk would contact the candidates and invite them to the Council's February meeting when their nominations would be considered

## **FINANCE**

**07/15 Estimates 2015/16** were approved. The Council discussed employing a gardener to cut the grass areas in the parish as storing the mower in a container may not be possible. The Clerk would obtain quotes for the cutting and strimming of the grass areas.

**08/15 Precept 2015/16.** The Council formally approved a precept for 2015/16 of £6,000 to cover all expected expenditure.

**09/15 Bank Reconciliation as at 2 January 2015** was approved.

**10/15 Update on other current matters.**

- i. David Jeacock, Solicitors had written to Thames Water on behalf of the Council, as workmen acting on behalf of Thames Water had started to dig a trench on The Green without permission. The solicitor informed Thames Water that this work constitutes as trespass and that Council is entitled to seek injunctive relief and damages.
- ii. The Clerk had completed the relevant details of the bank mandate for John Barneby's name to be added to the signatory list. John Barneby would sign the mandate and return it to Lloyds Bank with proof of ID.
- iii. Council approved transferring £3,000 from the current account to the deposit account.

## **PLANNING**

**11/15 P14/V0627/FUL and P14/V0628/LB Roadside Farm Barns, The Green, Longcot.**

The Chairman reported that the installation of kerbstones without permission was being investigated by the Enforcement Officer, OCC. The Planning Inspectorate, Bristol had noted the unauthorised development of the barn at the site and had requested that VWHDC enforce the condition. The Chairman had formally requested that the Enforcement Officer, VWHDC investigate this matter.

**12/15 Review of Conditions of Right of Way** across the strip of land belonging to the Council in front of Holly Cottage, The Dash, Longcot was permitted with the following in conditions in 2010:

- This is not a transfer of land to you
- The land would be reinstated to its original condition upon the reasonable request of the Council
- This letter be attached to the deeds of Holly Cottage, The Dash, Longcot for future reference.

The Council has concerns over the permanency of the hedging and the Clerk would seek advice on how to approach this concern.

**13/14 Update on other current matters.** None.

## **WAR MEMORIAL**

**14/15 Ownership and Future Maintenance.** Council does not own the War Memorial but would consider requests for funding towards any maintenance if required. Robert Baker would forward information he holds on the War Memorial for Council's records.

## **PLAY AREA**

**15/15 Update on current matters.** John Bridge would check the swing chains and repair/replace as necessary.

## **HIGHWAYS**

**16/15 Update on current matters.** Work would be carried out on the B4508 to reduce standing water.

Concerns were raised over the eroding of The Village Green by contractors' vehicles during the works at Roadside Farm Barns. The Chairman would obtain pictures showing the area of the Village Green several years ago and compare them to the size of the Village Green now. A letter requesting that the developer reinstate the Village Green to its original size would be sent.

**ALLOTMENTS**

**17/15 Update on current matters.** The Chairman suggested requesting the assistance of allotment holder Gary Holcombe to monitor the allotments. This was agreed.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP**

**18/15 Update on current matters.** The next meeting would take place on 19 January 2015.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**19/15** The next meeting would take place at **7.30pm** on **Wednesday 21 January 2015** in the **Village Community Room, Kings Road, Longcot.**

Further Parish Council meetings are due to be held at **7.30pm** in the **Village Community Room, Kings Road, Longcot** in **2015** on **Thursdays: 12 February and 26 March.**

**21/15 ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION.**

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed..... Date.....2015