

**Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Longcot Parish Council
held in the
Village Community Room, Kings Lane, Longcot
on Thursday 21 May 2015 at 7.30pm**

Present: Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, John Bridge, Nathan Boyd, Alan Rich, CC Yvonne Constance, DC Elaine Ware, 4 parishioners and Tina Brock, Clerk.

100/15 Apologies for Absence. DC Simon Howell. This apology was received.

101/15 Declarations of Interests. None.

102/15 Report from Longcot Parish Council Chairman. See annexe 1.

103/15 Report from District Councillor Elaine Ware. See annexe 2.

104/15 Report from County Councillor Yvonne Constance. See annexe 3.

Parishioners complained about the withdrawal of the 65 bus service through Longcot and the dangerous bus stop on the A420. Complaints were made that sometimes the 66 service would not always stop at the top of Kings Lane because it was too dangerous. The Villages Shopperbus was too restrictive and was not a good alternative to the withdrawn 65 bus service. CC Constance would contact Stagecoach to see if the 66 service could go through Longcot or alternatively the bus that services Fernham could include Longcot. The Chairman had brought this issue up at a recent Neighbourhood Action Group meeting.

Followed by:

Meeting of the Annual Meeting of Longcot Parish Council

105/15 Election of Chairman. The retiring Chairman asked for nominations for the office of Chairman. Andi Cunningham was proposed by John Barneby and seconded by Alan Rich. There being no other nominations Andi Cunningham was duly elected to the office of Chairman.

106/15 Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

107/15 Local Code of Conduct. Register of Members Interests. Members were reminded that, under the Council's Local Code of Conduct, Members have an obligation to register any gifts and hospitality over the value of £25, which they received in their capacity as a Parish Councillor. The receipt of all such gifts and hospitality must be registered within 28 days. A form for such registration may be obtained from the Clerk who would also provide advice if any Member was uncertain of the exact requirements.

108/15 Declarations of Interest. Personal interest for:

Minute 132/15 ii and iii John Bridge lives close by.

109/15 Terms of Reference. Council agreed that the Terms of Reference had been reviewed and approved at a meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2015.

110/15 Council Procedures. Council agreed that the issues of the Council Procedures had been reviewed and approved at a meeting held on Thursday 12 February 2015.

111/15 Council Information & Guidance Documents. Council agreed that the issues of the Council Information and Guidance Documents had been reviewed and approved at a meeting held on Thursday 12 February 2015.

112/15 Standing Orders (SO). Council agreed that a new set of SOs to replace the Council's existing SOs had been approved at a meeting held on Monday 8 December 2014. The new SOs were consistent with the relevant Model Orders prepared by NALC.

113/15 General Power of Competence. Council agreed to review this next year.

114/15 Financial Regulations. Council agreed that a new set of Financial Regulations to replace the Council's existing Regulations had been approved at a meeting held on Monday 8 December 2014. The new Financial Regulations were consistent with the relevant Model Orders prepared by NALC.

115/15 Register of Assets. Council agreed that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on Monday 8 December 2014.

116/15 Risk Assessment – Insurance. Council agreed that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on Monday 8 December 2014.

117/15 Subscriptions to other Bodies. Council agreed the subscription for 2015/16 were acceptable.

118/15 Dates & Venues of Future Meetings to May 2016. Council agreed to change the time of meetings to 7pm this was agreed.

FINANCE

119/15 Expenditure for a New Mower. Council agreed that at the present time this expenditure was not needed. £4,000 would be allocated to Dedicated Reserves for the purchase of a mower at a later date.

120/15 Expenditure of a Storage Container. This item fell as a storage container had been donated to the Council which was located on Mr McBain's property.

121/15 Insurance Renewal. Council agreed to take advantage of Came & Co Local Council Insurers, 3 year long-term agreement.

122/15 Audit. Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2015. The Council accepted the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 and the Chairman and Clerk signed sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return.

123/15 Update on Other Current Matters. The Clerk informed the meeting that a cheque from SSE for £4,000.00 had been received in settlement of a wayleave across the Village Green.

COUNCIL

124/15 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16 April 2015 were agreed and signed by Nathan Boyd, Acting Chairman at the meeting as a correct record.

125/15 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21 April 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

126/15 Matters arising:

i. **Payments of accounts.** It was RESOLVED to authorise the payments below:

	Net Cost	VAT	Total £
Payments received:			
SSE (wayleave)			4,000.00
Payments now due:			
Thames Water Utilities Ltd			33.82
T Brock April & May salary & reimbursements			352.50
MRH Services (play area inspection)			30.40
RSW Farm Supplies (padlock for storage container)	12.00	2.40	14.40
Broker Network Ltd (parish insurance)			711.00

As at 21 May 2015 the Current Account had a credit balance of £3,801.99 and the Deposit Account a credit balance of £6,890.76.

ii. **Matters not otherwise on the Agenda.** The Chairman informed the meeting that two Sycamore trees that border a horse field near to the King & Queen public house would be felled. Information had been received that the seeds of the sycamore were poisonous to horses.

127/15 Safeguarding Policy for Parish Councils. Council agreed to defer this item as the wording was not felt to be appropriate.

HIGHWAYS

128/15 Erosion of Village Green. The Chairman reported that the Enforcement Officer had been supplied with evidence that Roadside Farm has never had a kerb in front of the property. Kerbstones and turf been installed without permission reducing the width of the road causing vehicles to mount the Village Green causing damage.

129/15 Update on Other Current Matters.

- i. OCC Highways would mow verges twice a year unless there was a known vision problem at junctions.
- ii. The grass verge outside the King & Queen public house has had top soil put down and would be cut by the landlord in the future.
- iii. On the Village Green there was raised ironwork that was a potential trip hazard. The Chairman would take a picture and report to the appropriate utility company.

PLAY AREA

130/15 Grass Cutting & Strimming Update. Nothing to report.

131/15 Play Equipment Inspection. Observations raised:

Brambles needed cutting back. This would be carried out in September.

Bark around slide needed. The bark would be raked as Council felt that it had compressed.

132/15 Update on Other Current Matters. None.

PLANNING

133/15 Submitted Planning Applications. The Council would submit the following observations:

i	P15/V0912/FUL	Pear Tree Cottage, Kings Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7SY <i>Residential re-development to replace existing house.</i> OBJECTS to this planning application for the following reasons: Council objects to this planning application. At a meeting with the Planning Officer and Council Chairman on 27 May 2015 Council was advised not to submit comments as the Vale would be requesting that the applicant re-submits his design.
ii	P15/V0974/LB	Stone Farm, Majors Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TR
iii	P15/V0973/HH	<i>Rear extension, internal re-ordering and alterations to road access and landscaping.</i> NO OBJECTIONS. John Bridge did not comment on this planning application.

134/15 Public Right of Way across The Dash. David Jaecock had requested additional information. The Chairman and Councillors would make a site visit and report back to the Clerk.

135/15 Update on Other Current Matters. None.

ALLOTMENTS

136/15 Update on Current Matters. None.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

137/16 Oral Report. The Chairman reported that there would be a new Sergeant and Area Commander attending this week's NAG meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

138/15 The next Meeting of the Council will take place on **Thursday 25 June 2015** at **7.00pm** in the **Village Community Room, Kings Lane, Longcot.**

Further Parish Council meetings are due to be held in **2015** at **7pm** in the **Village Community Room, Kings Lane, Longcot** on **Thursdays: 30 July, 3 September, 8 October, 12 November** and **17 December** in **2016** **21 January, 25 February, 31 March, and 7 April.**

The **Annual Parish Meeting** and the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** will take place on **Thursday 12 May 2016** at **7.00pm** in **Village Community Hall, Longcot.**

139/15 ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION. None.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

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

Report from the Chairman.

Longcot Parish council are working hard to work to try and get the best outcome for the village where ever we can.

We belong to the vale small village alliance. We have come together to employ the best traffic advice for instance, so that we can be assured that on top of all the planning applications that we have in the parish, we also need to feed into the infrastructure policies made, especially regarding the A420 for instance.

We have submitted many detailed comments on consultations that will have a direct impact on our village. When we looked at the CIL charging consultation, we realized that no upgrade of facilities would be included, only new projects, which is just not the best practice for our village when we have an increase of population and therefore cars, we don't need a new road, but we do need good maintenance. We have fed into the Swindon expansion consultation as this will have a big impact on our village. We had a good outcome here with one of the village alliance members able to sit on the committee that will feed into this expansion.

With regard to the latest public transport policy, Longcot has lost its 65 bus. There will be a more frequent 66 service. We will be looking at the safety issue of this 66 bus stop, which is one mile from the village. We have been given a shopper bus service to access Swindon centre, but this is not suitable to get to the doctors/dentist etc in Faringdon.

As the Vale does not have a 5 year housing supply or adopted local plan, we have to fight for every condition that we can achieve from the planning committee for the best possible outcome for the village.

We have a good flood policy in place and this is known by the vale who ensure that all the applications for planning are looked at with regard to ensuring that the new builds do not put the older housing stock at risk, and that the new builds have adequate SUD systems in place.

Longcot attends the NAG meetings, it is a good system where community safety is the prime concern and we are able to ensure that we work with TVP. This is important, especially now that CSE has been more fully understood. Everyone needs to have a system in place that can help to reduce the possibility of this terrible crime.

Longcot has a fantastic community that is looking after the village, there are 4 volunteers that are mowing the grass. We have had residents that have housed the mower, and this not only saves us money, it is great to have such a community.

There is a fantastic Longcot 800 group, and we are very proud of all the things that they do and achieve, and where ever possible we will always support them.

REPORT FROM VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (SHRIVENHAM WARD) TO PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES 2015

Introduction

The past twelve months have again been challenging with a significant amount of time and effort invested in representing the views of the Parishes that we represent on a wide variety of subjects. The workload seems to have dramatically increased this year and jointly we spend about 50-60 hours a week representing the Ward.

Both Elaine and Simon have represented Shrivenham ward with 100% attendance at Council Meetings.

Simon continued as Chair of Audit & Governance Committee and West Area Committee. Elaine continued as the Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure, Property and Technical Services.

Planning

2014/15 has been another difficult year for our local communities. Planning issues have again been top of the agenda for all four villages and we continued to do our best in representing the views of our residents. The lack of a five year land supply has continued to cause significant concerns throughout the Vale.

Speculative developers have taken advantage of the situation and unfortunately many planning applications have reluctantly been agreed. Currently there are three applications being considered for Shrivenham. These are in Townsend Road (116), Highworth Road (260) which is a strategic site identified in the Local Plan Part 1 and the Golf Course (136). These are in addition to the 410 that have already been approved.

Watchfield has 120 houses currently being built in Majors Road and a further 16 have been approved. 100+ houses are in the process of being built at Cowan's Camp. The original application included a residential care facility for 50 people and two houses containing a total of 17 rooms for people with learning difficulties. However, the applicant has submitted a change to the original plan and has indicated that there is no longer a requirement for the care facilities and wishes to build an additional 35 homes instead. Currently this application is under consideration by the Vale.

Fortunately applications for Longcot and Bourton have been on a relatively small scale. Longcot has recently had 6 homes approved and a further 15 are under consideration. In Bourton Pinewood School are seeking to increase the size of the car park and replace 2 temporary storage units with a purpose built single unit. In addition a recent Environment Impact Assessment screening option for a solar farm at Lower Bourton was submitted and it was agreed that an assessment would not be required.

Of course housing in Swindon also impacts on us and the Eastern Expansion is now a reality. Following approval of Swindon's Local Plan a total of 8000 dwellings will be built. The application for the new village of Rowborough and the expansion of South Marston is expected to be forthcoming shortly along with the Redlands Airfield site at Wanborough. "The Hub" at Gablecross has received approval and is expected to be operational within the next three years.

There is of course grave concern regarding the impact that all these new homes and The Hub will have on the A420 and representations are being made at the highest level to identify how the impact on this road can be alleviated. Indeed our County Councillor Yvonne Constance has made reference to the A420 at every possible opportunity and it features as a high priority in the County Councils Local Transport Plan 4.

The Vale's Local Plan Part 1 has recently been submitted for public examination and it is anticipated that it will be approved later this year. The submission of the Plan will hold some weight in terms of speculative applications but until a five year land supply is proven there remains a risk.

The Local Plan Part 2 is expected to be consulted upon later this year.

Policing

We are pleased to report that the Vale of White Horse continues to be one of the lowest crime areas in the country.

The local Neighbourhood Police Team work closely with the community and indeed rural crime is top of their agenda. They have developed a close working relationship with farmers and gamekeepers to ensure that crimes such as hare coursing are dealt with in a coordinated manner. A number of arrests have been made during the past year.

Elaine is a member of NAG1 (Neighbourhood Action Groups area1) and if Parish Council's or residents have any specific issues they would like raised please let her know.

Recycling

The Vale continues to be in the top three in the whole of the country for the % of recycling material and have received awards for its success.

Changes at Abbey House Offices

In early 2014 many of the staff who worked in Abbey House in Abingdon moved to offices at Crowmarsh Gifford Wallingford (the offices of South Oxfordshire District Council). This move did not have any significant effect on the services provided by the Council. Most front line staff e.g., planning officers were still at Abbey House and residents continued to arrange appointments with specific officers. The main reason for the move was that Oxfordshire County Council wished to have a greater presence in Abingdon. As Abbey House had a large amount of underutilised accommodation an agreement was reached whereby the County lease part of the building for at least 10 years. The lease arrangements provides residents of the Vale with access to both levels of Local Government under one roof. It also brings significant financial benefit to the Vale which in turn assists with providing value for money services to all its residents.

Although the move to Crowmarsh was successful the impact of the fire in the early hours of Thursday 15 January cannot be underestimated. The fire, which was an arson attack caused over 80% of the building to be damaged along with the loss of many irreplaceable documents. Since that time staff have managed to operate from three locations with the minimum of impact on services. Arrangements are now in place for all staff to move to 135 Milton Park in Didcot. At the end of May the Planning Department will relocate and by the end of June all staff will have taken up occupation.

Finance Matters and Council Tax

Financial diligence has again enabled the Vale to keep the Freeze on Council tax for 2015/16.

Conclusion

Along with your local Parish Councillors we work relentlessly for our communities and deal with numerous issues that affect the area.

We attend a variety of meetings and make representation to various Vale Committees, Swindon Borough Council, the County Council and other organisations. We work tirelessly to get our voice heard and our views listened to.

We continue to provide assistance and advice to residents when they have any problems or concerns. We may not advertise what we do on a daily basis but as locals we have our local community at heart and will serve you all as best we can.

Update from the Vale

Following the recent election the new Council is now 29/9. The reduction from 51 to 38 Councillors has resulted in a number of boundary changes and for the Watchfield and Shrivenham Ward the number of parishes has increased from 4 to 12.

Councillor Simon Howell will remain the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and have been selected to remain on the Cabinet but with a different portfolio. Previously I had Economy, Leisure, Property and Technical Services. I now have Corporate Strategy and Waste. Corporate Strategy includes a number of areas such as communications, grants, health and safety, youth services, consultations etc..

The next four years will see a number of challenging projects including the proposed new leisure centre in Wantage and ensuring that the necessary infrastructure is forthcoming in order to support the housing that has already been approved as well as that proposed in the Local Plan.

Annexe 3

CC Yvonne Constance

The recent election makes me your District Councillor for the new RIDGEWAY Ward as well as the County Councillor for Shrivenham Division.

WVHDC is responsible for planning, council tax collection, electoral roll registration, leisure services and waste collection.

PLANNING is likely to become more important issues as Vale Council moves to Part 2 of the Local Plan, to allocate smaller sites (of 50 -100 houses) after the strategic sites of 200 or more in Part 1. Local Plan Part 1 has been submitted for Examination (end March) and latest news is that it is delayed and not likely to be approved until early next year. Part 2 will begin after that.

Approval of Local Plan Part 1 will bring into force the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is a development tax on every square foot of new build, except affordable housing. The CIL is payable up-front and is intended to provide flexible funding for improvements/new infrastructure as it does not have to be specific to the site developed. The Vale has set CIL at £120 per sq ft in the Science Park, and about £90 west of Wantage.

COMMUNICATIONS: please let me have details of any Parish Newsletter so I can keep all informed about general news/developments. Contacting me is best on landline: 01235 752 475 or by email: yvonneconstance@tiscali.co.uk.

I plan a hand-over session with St. John to be up to date on any individual problems that still need solving.

COUNTY COUNCIL is responsible for highways and transport, non-Academy schools, social services, and waste collection. The new LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 (LTP4) is now fully consulted, and progressing to decision by full Council in September. It's very important to

have a new policy in place to ensure that the big developers make proper contributions to new/improved infrastructure. I chaired the LTP4 working group and we have set up a A420 Corridor Group to make sure of careful attention for this important route. We will meet on 29 May ahead of any decisions by OCC Cabinet.

WASTE DISPOSAL may become an issue again. OCC must find reductions of £60million more and the recycling tips are on the 'long list'. There will be no change for 5 years, but I intend to press for a 'pay-to-use' service to be sure we have a convenient tip at Stanford. The County is obliged to provide only ONE free tip, which would certainly be central (Kidlington or Drayton??) and I propose that all others become pay-to-use to keep them open. In my days in Craven Ward we did establish this as preferred policy, but I must be sure in my new ward too!

HIGHWAYS: I hope you notice that potholes are being filled promptly all over our area. I have pressed for repairs by Network Rail to damage from diverted traffic during closure of A417. A sum has been agreed, but I have still to hear where it will be spent. I press for repairs to the road edges, which are not treated as 'potholes' but are sharp and can cause real damage.