

**Minutes of the Longcot Parish Council
held in the
Village Community Room, Kings Lane, Longcot
on Wednesday 16 December 2015 at 7.30pm**

Present: Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, John Bridge, Alan Rich, and Tina Brock, Clerk.

216/15 Apologies for Absence. Nathan Boyd (unwell), CC Yvonne Constance (prior commitment) and DC Elaine Ware (prior commitment). These apologies were received.

217/15 Declarations of Interests. Prejudicial interest for:

Minute John Bridge

Personal interest for:

Minute John Barneby

218/15 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12 November 2015 with a minor change were agreed and signed as a correct record.

219/15 Matters Arising:

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

	Net Cost	VAT	Total £
Payments now due:			
T Brock (Clerk's December salary)			144.00
HM Revenue (TAX & NI) Oct,Nov,Dec			108.00

As at 10 December 2015 the Current Account had credit balance of £2,231.09 and the Deposit Account of £12,893.66.

b. Matters not otherwise on the agenda. None.

REPORTS

220/15 Report from County Councillor. CC Constance sent an email report which the Chairman read out.

OCC continues to work through the next major reduction in its Government Rate Support Grant. £50 million more savings must be found for 2016/17.

OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER initiative aims to engage the Town/Parish Councils to work out how/when to take up delivery for any OCC services within the villages. OCC will no longer provide grass cutting, or snow clearance WITHIN the villages but will supply salt/grit for village spreading as before and will continue to grass cut verges on the Highway outside village boundaries (2 cuts per year down from 4) and will snow clear the major routes (A and B roads mainly). If Longcot still has any OCC services, you should contact tim.shickle@oxfordshire.gov.uk who is the officer co-ordinating village responses, and he'll steer you to any possible collaboration with other villages (e.g. Watchfield? Fernham?) which might increase delivery possibilities.

TALKING OXFORDSHIRE is a separate initiative to explain to Town/Parish Councils and residents on-line the background to this next round of £50 million savings. Government reductions of 53% in next year at a time when children in care/care plans have doubled (since the CSE troubles) and our aging population increases every year. 50% of OCC revenue is now spent on 2% of the population, so every effort must go into most efficient delivery of services. 44 Children's Centres will be restructured into 8 hubs with all professional staff available and out-reach from the hubs to cover the territory - maybe even a play bus to visit the villages.

Adult Social Care has been restructured to deliver through private providers who meet OCC standards, but there is a serious shortage of home carers who are needed everywhere.

Roads will continue to be maintained at 'safe' standards (pot holes 30mm+ repaired within 24 hours) with hopes that OCC will get a good grant from the Chancellor's 'permanent' pothole fund. The resurfacing programme will be directed to include unclassified roads and will be resurfaced ahead of breaking up, as it's found to be longer-lasting and more effective use of money.

COUNTY COUNCIL TAX (by precept) will rise by the permitted 1.99% without a referendum but unlikely as that costs £800,000 to deliver and the rise required would be sure to be voted

down. In addition OCC is now permitted to raise Council Tax by 2% specifically for Adult Social Care, which we are almost certain to do but this is funding to pay for Living Wage to carers and is known not to be enough to cover the increased cost. So expect 4% rise in the OCC part of Council Tax.

SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES consultation had a massive number (2600) of responses – and resulted in total withdrawal of ALL subsidies but rural bus routes have been identified as the priority for any funding that can be found (sadly not to revive Bus 65) and negotiations are now starting with the bus companies. There is some hope that re-routing, consolidating and sharing will save some services.

STANFORD TIP and all 7 waste tips are safe until end 2017. It seems OCC did not expect 3000 responses and they note the increased risk of fly-tipping. Actually for all the publicity it's not really a decision - the tips were always going to stay open to end of 2017: the consultation was about what to do AFTER 2017! So you will need to respond again when the next plan is presented, and I hope you will all be ready to re-state the importance of Stanford. By the way it is really the best in the south for extension and re-development to cope with demand from any closed tips and for new growth. There is even a disused road round the back which could be re-opened to cope with queueing traffic. It's an ideal site and I will keep reminding them!

221/15 Report from District Councillor. DC Ware sent an email report which the Chairman read out:

Didcot Garden Town – Didcot and the surrounding areas are set to get major infrastructure funding to help with the delivery of 15,000 new homes and 10,000 high-tech jobs in both the Vale and South Oxfordshire. The Housing and Planning Minister, Brandon Lewis MP visited the town on Monday 7 December to announce that the joint District Council bid for Garden Town status had been successful.

Recycling - It is official residents of South and Vale continue to be the best in the country for recycling. The figures announced by DEFRA show that South Oxfordshire are top with 67.3% and the Vale in second place with 65.6%. This is the third year running that both councils have been in the top three.

As Cabinet Member for Waste Elaine would ask Parish Councils to encourage as much recycling as possible please. The Vale wants to improve so the more we can recycle the nearer we get to that top spot!

Go Active Gold – The Vale has launched the Go Active Gold project that is aimed to help people over the age of 60 in rural areas to become more active. Full details of the first activities on offer will be announced shortly. If you know of anyone that may be interested in volunteering to assist with the set up or spread the word please contact Annalie Thomasson on 07766 991487 or Email: annalie.thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk There is more information on a launch video which may be viewed on the Council's website by typing in go active gold in the search box.

The Beacon Wantage – If any residents have visited The Beacon in Wantage over the past 12 months there is a Have your Say customer feedback survey currently being undertaken. Please encourage people to respond by 15 January.

Grant Funding - The next round for grant applications is now open until 15 January. If there are any community projects that require a funding boost please either go to the grants page on the Vale website or contact the Grants Team on 01235 540525. Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan – For information Faringdon Town Council has re-submitted its Neighbourhood Plan after making changes that had been recommended by an independent examiner. Residents of the town have until 11 January to comment on the updated plan. For more information go to the Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan webpage.

As you know we don't hold surgeries but we are always available to help with any issues that arise. We can be contacted by telephone Simon (01793 784401) Elaine (01793 783026) or Email. Simon.howell@whitehorsedc.gov.uk elaine.ware@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

FINANCE

222/15 Wayleave Update. Nothing to report at present.

223/15 External Auditor. Council agreed, subject to cost, to have an External Auditor appointed by the Sector Led Body audit procurement, which has been set up by NALC with SLCC and the Association of Drainage Authorities, when the current contract with BDO in Oxfordshire expires after the completion of the 2016/17 audit.

224/15 Update on other current matters. John Barneby verified the bank reconciliation and bank account statements.

PLANNING

225/15 Submitted Planning Applications. The Council would submit the following observations:

i	P15/V0912/FUL amended	<p>Pear Tree Cottage, Kings Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7SY <i>Residential redevelopment of 2 houses to replace existing house (as amended by drawings accompanying letter from agent received 18 Nov 2015).</i></p> <p>APPROVED for the following reasons: No drainage plans were submitted with the planning application and Council would request that before approval of this proposal is considered that Peter Dela can assure the Council that the development fits in with the Longcot Flood Plan. Council also requests that the views of the neighbours are taken into consideration</p>
ii iii	P15/V2717/LB P15/V2716/HH	<p>Clover Cottage, 1 Church View, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TA <i>Demolition of unlisted rear extension to replace with a single-storey side and rear extension, replacement porch and rebuild chimney.</i></p> <p>NO OBJECTIONS to this application but wish the following comments be taken into account: No drainage plans were submitted with the planning application and Council would request that before approval of this proposal is considered that Peter Dela can assure the Council that the development fits in with the Longcot Flood Plan. Council also requests that the views of the neighbours are taken into consideration and that the Conservation Officer is satisfied with the proposal.</p>
iv	P15V2330/FUL amended	<p>Stone Farm, Majors Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TR <i>Conversion and limited demolition of existing agricultural buildings to create 4 dwellings consisting of 3x3 bed dwellings (2 with workspace) and 1 x 4 bed dwelling. Dwellings to be provided with amenity space along with associated landscaping, manoeuvring and parking areas.</i></p> <p>OBJECTS to this application for the following reasons: The amendment does not address any of Councils previous concerns and therefore Council objects to the amendment for reasons submitted previously as follows: Council objects because</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drainage plans were not supplied. 2. The planned balcony overlooking Hill view requires to be re visited. Council has received requests for balconies in the past and feel it is best to have no ability to overlook anyone's property from a balcony. 3. The drawings delivered are not up to date. Council has been informed that the barn design has been changed. 4. It is in the curtilge of Stones farm itself which is listed, so Council requests that the Conservation Officer to be across any conversions. This is an area that does flood, please find attached 2 pictures (previously supplied) taken from the other side of the road in 2007. In times of high rainfall this is an area that needs to be carefully managed for the adjoining properties as well as the ones being proposed. <p>Council cannot accept the reference to "soakaways" in the</p>

		<p>application under 12. Assessment of flood. Council runs a flood plan and every resident understands the risk Longcot has of flooding in properties as well as roads. There is a well-known level and run off issue at the cross roads and with the huge increase of water use this will have to be planned really carefully with the experience of Mr Dela who understands Longcot drainage issues. (Council also notes that the area around the bridge and canal requires much work if this is planned to be used with regard to pipe sizes, fall and flow.)</p> <p>The refusal notice for the application of a house on a paddock close to Stones Farm is attached (previously supplied). Council understands however, that this was for a new build and not for the conversion of farm buildings that already exist, which the NPPF does allow.</p> <p>However the transport remains unsustainable and since this appeal Longcot has no buses. Buses can only be accessed from the A420</p>
v	P15/V2601/FUL	<p>Cedar Bungalow, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TG</p> <p><i>Temporary permission for caravan for 5 years.</i></p> <p>NO OBJECTIONS to this application.</p>

226/15 Permitted Planning Application was noted.

i	P15/V2266/FUL	<p>Galleyherns Farn, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7QT</p> <p><i>Erection of 2 x 65.4m long, 36m wide and 12.2m high steel portal framed buildings for grain storage with associated concrete apron, gas storage tanks and landscaping.</i></p>
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227/15 Naming/Numbering of Dwellings. Erection of 1 new residential dwelling to be named Treetops, The Green, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7SY and erection of 1 new attached residential dwelling to be numbered 12A Church Close, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TN were noted.

228/15 VWHDC Local Plan (Part 1 Strategic Sites and Policies) Examination in Public Stage 2 hearing session will re-open on Tuesday 2 February 2016 at 9.30am in The Beacon, Wantage was noted.

229/15 Update on Other Current Matters. None.

COUNCIL

230/15 Installation of CCTV. Deferred.

231/15 Installation of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). Deferred.

HIGHWAYS

232/15 Application for Public Path Diversion Order Consultation – public footpath Longcot no 345/6, Galleyherns Farm, Longcot, to divert a short section of the footpath to enable approved development to take place. Council had no objection to the application.

233/15 Update on current matters.

- i. The Chairman reported that she had received a drainage map of Longcot which has reference numbers which relate to a camera reference.
- ii. Council agreed to install Longcot nameplates at the perimeter of the village. Suitable locations and cost would be sourced along with obtaining permission to erect the nameplates.

PLAY AREA

234/15 Update on current matters. Council approved expenditure of £380 for maintenance work to the basketball by Craig Gaynor.

ALLOTMENTS

235/15 Update on current matters. None.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

236/15 Oral Report. The Chairman gave the following report:

A new Area Commander started on 1 December and he paid a visit to our area to discuss safety issues.

Borderless policing has started and it has been very successful. Our area leads the way in collaboration and how partner agencies would be working in the future.

There are still car thefts, especially from our beauty sites, so we have to be very careful and ensure tourists are aware.

Everything regarding policing is now “threat, risk and harm” and only those will be prioritised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

237/15 The next meeting of the **Parish Council** would take place at **7pm** on **Thursday 21 January 2016** in the **Village Community Hall, Longcot.**

Further meetings are due to be held in **2016** at **7pm** in the **Village Community Hall, Longcot**, on **Thursdays: 25 February and 31 March.**

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

238/15 ANY OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION. None.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed..... Date.....2016