

**Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Longcot Parish Council
held in the**

**Village Community Room, Kings Lane, Longcot
on Thursday 12 May 2016 at 7.30pm**

Present: Andi Cunningham, Chairman, Nathan Boyd, John Barneby, Alan Rich, District Councillor Simon Howell, District Councillor Elaine Ware and Tina Brock, Clerk.

67/16 Apologies for Absence. John Bridge (prior commitment) and Yvonne Constance (prior commitment). These apologies were received.

68/16 Report from Chairperson. See Annexe 1.

69/16 Report from Outside Bodies;

i. County Councillor Constance. See Annexe 2.

ii. District Councillors Howell and Ware. See Annexe 3.

70/16 Questions from Electors. None present.

CC Howell and Ware left the meeting.

Followed by:

Meeting of the Annual Meeting of Longcot Parish Council

71/16 Election of Chairperson. The retiring Chairman asked for nominations for the office of Chairperson. Andi Cunningham was proposed by John Barneby and seconded by Nathan Boyd. There being no other nominations Andi Cunningham was duly elected to the office of Chairman.

72/16 Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

73/16 Apologies for Absence. John Bridge (prior commitment) and Yvonne Constance (prior commitment). These apologies were received.

74/16 Variance of Order of Business. None.

75/16 Declaration of Interest. None.

76/16 Terms of Reference. All Councillors had received copies of the current Committee Terms of Reference. Council RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference were fit for purpose.

77/16 Council Procedures, Information & Guidance Documents. Council noted that documents were due for review in October 2018.

78/16 General Power of Competence (GPC). The Clerk is currently enrolled on the Certificate in Local Council Administration course.

(Clerk's Note: The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it gives Councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. It applies to all principal Councils (District, County and Unitary Councils etc). It also applies to eligible Parish and Town Councils. It replaces the wellbeing powers in England that were provided under the Local Government Act 2000. An eligible council is one which has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification ie a Certificate in Local Council Administration, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Policy, Certificate of Higher Education in Local Council Administration or the first level of the Foundation Degree in Community Engagement and Governance (University of Gloucestershire)

79/16 Standing Orders (SO). Council RESOLVED that the SOs were fit for purpose.

80/16 Financial Regulations. Council RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations were fit for purpose.

81/16 Register of Assets. Council agreed that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on Thursday 12 November 2015.

82/16 Risk Assessment – Insurance. Council agreed that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on Thursday 12 November 2015.

83/16 Subscriptions to other Bodies. Council RESOLVED to approve the following subscriptions for 2016/17: Community First (ORCC), Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils and Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

84/16 Dates & Venues of Future Meetings to May 2017 were approved by Council. See Annexe 4.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

85/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14 April 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

86/16 Payments of Accounts. It was RESOLVED to authorise the payments below:

Spending power		Net Cost	VAT	Total £
	Payments now due:			
LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	T Brock (Clerk's Apr salary)			144.00
LGA 1972 s140	Came & Co (Council insurance)			741.82
LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19	MRH Service (service inspection play parks)			30.40
LGA 1972 s111	The Net Result (payroll)			75.50
LGA 1972 s142	Ucan Network Ltd (Annual domain registration and hosting fee website)	50.00	10.00	60.00

As at 12 May 2016 the Council's bank accounts held credit balances of:

Current account £4,539.52

Deposit account £12,896.33

FINANCE

87/16 Update on other current matters. The Council's Thames Water Utilities account has in credit to the amount of £77.93, due to an over estimated water bill.

HIGHWAYS

88/16 Roads and Pavements. Councillors would report potholes via the fixmystreet website.

89/16 Litter Picking. Fernham and Longcot School would be carrying out a litter pick on 14 June.

90/16 Speed Surveys. Council RESOLVED to approve the commissioning of speed surveys at Majors Road and Shrivenham Road at an expenditure of £100 each.

The speed survey results for Kings Lane near to the allotments showed that drivers exceeded the 30mph speed limit. The speed survey results for Fernham Road outside Priory Mead showed that there drivers complied with the speed 40mph speed limit.

91/16 Update on current matters. The Chairman would email residents requesting that when walking across the fields' residents keep to the designated path. Recently planted crops are being tramped down.

The Chairman had received a drainage map of Old Wharf Road for Council's records.

PLAY AREA

92/16 Grass cutting and strimming. Nothing to report

93/16 Play Inspection Update. MRH Services April service inspection has highlighted that the cradle and flat swing seats need replacing. Council RESOLVED to purchase new cradle and flat swing seats.

94/16 Update on current matters. None.

PLANNING

95/16 Permitted Planning Application(s) were noted:

i	P16/V0507/FUL	Land south of Red Gables, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7SS
ii	P16/V0475/LB	<i>Proposal to extend and convert the former stables into a four bedroom dwelling.</i>
iii	P16/V0622/HH	Waylands, Shrivenham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TW <i>Demolition of existing garage and erection of proposed. Oak barn as private garage and store.</i>
iv	P16/V0161/LN	3 Church View, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TA <i>Add shower to bathroom. Loft hatch to main bedroom to increase insulation</i>

96/16 Update on Other Current Matters. None.

ALLOTMENTS

97/16 Update on current matters. The allotment are under water at present.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

98/16 Oral Report. None.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Exclusion of Press and Public

To move the following resolution, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting and they are requested to withdraw.

99/16 Personal Matters. None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

100/16 The next meeting of the **Parish Council** would take place at **7pm** on **Thursday 9 June 2016** in the **Village Community Hall, Longcot.**

Further meetings are due to be held in **2016** at **7pm** in the **St Mary's Church, Longcot**, on **Thursdays: 28 July, 8 September, 20 October, 8 December** and in **2017: 12 January, 23 February and 30 March.**

The **Annual Parish Meeting** and the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** would take place on **Thursday 11 May 2017** at **7.00pm** in **St Mary's Church, Longcot**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

Annexe 1

Chairman's report. Longcot Parish Council

May 2016.

Firstly, I am very honoured to chair Longcot Parish Council. We have an excellent team of councillors who really care about their village.

The past year has been very busy and we are very grateful to our Parish clerk, who has had to work very hard to ensure all procedures and protocols are in place that are required in today's local government.

We had the delight of the introduction of Superfast broadband to Longcot with the blow that it was to only half the village, so cabinet 13 that goes to the school was activated, but cabinet 4 that comes from the A420 was not even known about or so it appeared. We have been told that this will be corrected by May 2017. We have it in writing from BT and it appears that it is in planning. We have a good pressure group that will keep track on this. However, the news that SF rollout in rural areas is no longer a requirement, we will need to ensure our promise is delivered.

We have had the bus that used to come through the village axed. So now we just have the 66, which although is a good service from Swindon to Oxford, it is a terrifying bus stop on the A420 which is one mile from the village green. So through the winter months that's a long and dark walk to catch a bus. Some people walk to Watchfield to catch the bus from there

but again Majors Road is getting to be faster and busier and without pavements. I would say that we are not a sustainable village where public transport is concerned.

We have seen the arrival of Network Rail in our Parish, who have moved into a site by the Bridge at Longcot Locks. This is all to do with the railway electrification and so they supersede all the usual planning courtesies. The amount of heavy traffic that now deliver to this site has greatly impacted on our roads. The bridge flooded more easily due to the hard standing laid on the site area, and we have worked very hard to ensure that OCC and NR keep the drains under the bridge clear.

Alongside the NR traffic, we have had further increases in heavy traffic using our roads, contributing to this is the building of a new grain barn (TMP in place) and site construction traffic from Uffington that have been using Old Wharf Road as a preferred route, and enforcement at the vale appear to have no traffic management plan in place to protect our community. Of course a construction site not in our area when granted permission is not required to ask our opinion. However, we will continue to ask both the County and District councils for some level of joined up processes.

Our flood plan has again been very reliable this year, with some more ditches cleared and this will have to be an endless procedure to ensure the water courses keep running. I have no idea what the impact of the proposed flood defences in Abingdon will be on our village. These are the sort of things that can have unintended consequences.

I am most proud of our amazing team of grass cutters, our village is so proud of Nigel, Ian and John who maintain all our grass and do it for nothing. They and all the supporters of this team lead the way in community resilience.

We very sadly had a death of a resident on Longcot Road, Shrivenham last year. The coroner's report did point out the uneven road surface. We have been requesting that our speed limits around the village are lowered and that the pot holes are maintained. The road surfaces are hampered by the increase of heavy traffic and to lower the speed appears to be almost impossible due to the OCC budgets.

Longcot PC continues to chair the local NAG group and have good working relationship with TVP. The allocation of resources are now around threat, risk and harm. The safeguarding procedures are now flagged up much more efficiently with a multi-agency approach, especially with regard to children. Rural roads continue to have a high death rate nationwide, and until the Highways agencies incorporate ability to monitor roads this trend will continue. There was a death of a cyclist only last week a few miles away and one that has life changing injuries. With the summer coming and the OCC policy to only cut verges twice a year, there will be less visibility of horses and cyclists on our rural roads.

We on the parish council will continue to work hard to highlight all the issues that we are suffering and flag them with both the district and county councils, and as both of these councils are now in a power play for who runs what in the future, I fear I will have to shout even louder to be heard.

Annexe 2

Report of County Councillor for 2015/2016

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has been rethinking provision of all services in response to unexpected reductions in its grant from central Government. Savings of £292 million per annum have already been made, but the grant was further reduced by £70 million between Dec 2015 / Feb 2016. A transition allowance of £4 million was allowed in time for the budget-setting Council on 16th Feb which will be used to ease the reductions in social services. OCC has increased its Council Tax by 1.99% plus 2% permitted specifically to meet the impact of Living Wage from April 2016, but the impact is severe and OCC now spends 50% of its revenue on 2% of the population (adult and children's social care.) The Council has

decided to withdraw from providing services within the villages and all bus subsidies and negotiate with bus companies serving rural areas. Pot hole patching will continue as necessary and Gov has made special funds available.

OXFORDSHIRE TOGETHER: aims to agree formal arrangements with Town/Parish Councils to support them to develop their own grass-cutting, gritting and snow-clearance within the villages; OCC will continue to cut grass on the verges outside village (2 cuts per year) and to grit and snow-clear on major routes (mainly bus routes). Some villages are planning to provide this service also. By April 140 Town/Parish Councils have expressed interest and will now sign S.101 Local Agency Agreements for formal transfer to undertake highway services, initially for 3 years. It is promoted on basis of:

providing services according to local priorities, with local decision-making;

improved quality of service from more responsive service;

generating local employment opportunities;

'ownership' of local area;

increased satisfaction and pride in local area

OCC will continue to provide highway safety services.

BUS SUBSIDIE: OCC has withdrawn all bus subsidies from July, and is negotiating with the bus companies to re-route and consolidate services (possibly with school bus service) to keep open some connections for rural villages. Bus 66 is already commercially viable; Bus 67 will continue on A417 Wantage to Faringdon on developer funding, but there is currently no plan to serve villages along B4507. The schools service may be adapted.

STANFORD TIP: is again reprieved until 2024! I am requesting that some developer money (S.106) be spent to improve the facility.

RESTRUCTURING LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN OXFORDSHIRE: Reduced Government funding makes clear that local government must reorganise to better use the funding available. OCC report in 2014 showed that £25-£32 million is tied up in two-tier administration and a unitary authority is a better solution. In December, OCC and the health commissioner (OCCG) together applied for devolved powers and budgets, but Gov requires Unitary or an elected Mayor for devolved powers. There was a (long) pause

The Oxfordshire District Councils with Oxford City organised themselves to propose 4 District-based unitaries in February 2016 and have commissioned PWC to conduct a viability study, expecting a report by end of June.

The County Council has decided to conduct a separate study on the case for a single county-wide unitary, One Oxfordshire, which is still to be announced.

There are advantages in District-based unitaries: more local decision making reflecting local needs more closely (better roads and infrastructure and closer management of S.106 agreements!) but not clear how best to provide county-wide social services effectively and efficiently from 4 Districts with no experience of delivering these services currently.

A single One Oxfordshire structure with 650,000 residents currently, and expected to grow to about 850,000 by 2030, would be the biggest unitary in the country (currently Cornwall with 550,000 is the biggest.) That structure would have to provide for local input in the districts (esp. for planning decisions) and we await proposals after OCC's study.

I support the decision to get a separate OCC study. Despite the spend in very tight times, 'opposing' proposals will deliver best evidence of each proposal and better decisions will be made. This will be the new structure for Oxfordshire for the next generation- we must have best evidence to make it!

The decision lies with Secretary of State (Greg Clark at DCLG) who expects to have clear proposals to consider by the end of the year. I will keep you informed.

Cllr YVONNE CONSTANCE

25 April 2016

Annexe 3

REPORT FROM VALE OF WHITE HORSE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (WATCHFIELD & SHRIVENHAM WARD) TO PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLIES 2016

Introduction

The 2015 Local Election included boundary changes within the Vale. The Shrivenham Ward was expanded from four (4) Parishes to twelve (12) and re-named Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward. Elaine and Simon were re-elected to represent the new ward which comprises Watchfield, Shrivenham, Bourton, Longcot, Fernham, Ashbury, Little Coxwell, Great Coxwell, Coleshill, Buscot, Eaton Hastings and Compton Beauchamp.

Once again the past twelve months have been challenging with a significant amount of time and effort invested in representing the views of the Parishes that we serve on a wide variety of subjects.

Following the election Simon continued as Chair of Audit & Governance Committee and the Faringdon Area Committee. Elaine continued as a Cabinet Member but with a change of responsibility to Corporate Strategy including grounds maintenance and Waste.

Planning

2015/16 has been another difficult year for our local communities. Planning issues have again been top of the agenda and we continue to do our best in representing the views of our residents. The lack of an adopted Local Plan and 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. Where applications have been refused developers have been quick to appeal and the results so far have not been positive.

Currently there are a number of major applications under consideration in the Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward and we will make representations to the Planning Committee when these are considered.

Of course housing in Swindon's New Eastern Villages will have a significant impact on our villages and the Eastern Expansion is now a reality. Following approval last year of Swindon's Local Plan a total of 8000 dwellings will be built in 8 villages and South Marston will expand. "The Business Hub" now known as Symmetry Park at Gablecross is currently under construction. It will provide new industrial/warehouse facilities over an area of 1,000,000 sq.ft. and is expected to be fully operational in the not too distant future.

There is of course grave concern regarding the impact that all these new homes and Symmetry Park 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 it is included as a high priority in Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 4. A major concern that has been forthcoming in the last few weeks is the proposed number of traffic lights from the Oxfordshire boundary to the White Hart Roundabout. The proposal is for six (6) sets.

Local Plan

The Vale's Local Plan Part 1 has been through its inspection and the final report is awaited. The Inspector has requested some additional information and some modifications which may require further consultation. Should the Plan be confirmed as "sound" it will then be adopted by the Vale later this year. Once adopted the Plan will hold weight and therefore be a tool to resist speculative applications. The Local Plan Part 2 is expected to be prepared and consulted upon after the adoption of Part 1.

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 is No.2 in the whole of the country for the % of recycling material and has received awards for its success. The No.1 council is South Oxfordshire with whom the Vale shares its services. The latest initiatives with the recycling of old textiles and small electrical items have been a great success and residents are encouraged to use these new services.

Corporate Services

The Vale has entered into a contract partnership with four other local authorities namely, South Oxfordshire, Hart, Havant and Mendip for the provision of a number of back room services. The services include HR, IT, Car Parking, Property Management, Accountancy, Revenues and Benefits. The services will be provided by two suppliers – Capita and Vinci. It is anticipated that over the 9 year period of the contract there will be savings of in excess of £50m for the five councils. The Vale and South Oxfordshire will be the first Councils to use the new contracts commencing on 1 August.

Accommodation Changes

Following the fire at the Crowmarsh Gifford offices of South Oxfordshire DC in January 2015 arrangements were made to take a four year lease on offices at 135 Eastern Avenue Milton Park. Staff moved into the new offices during May and June and have settled well. This has given staff some stability after the upheaval of the fire and working in temporary accommodation.

Shortly there will be a change to the telephone numbers at the Vale. It had been expected for these to change in early May but unfortunately there has been a delay and new numbers will not be available until later in the month or early June. There will be a press release once the date is confirmed.

Devolution

At the end of February details were announced of a proposal to Government to create 4 Unitary Authorities for Oxfordshire. The authorities would be Cherwell with South Northamptonshire, West Oxfordshire with Cotswold, Southern Oxfordshire (Vale and South) and Oxford City.

Currently expert consultants PricewaterhousesCooper (PwC) have been engaged to examine proposals and report back by the end of June. The proposal has created some concern amongst local communities and indeed Oxfordshire County Council who, although invited to join with the other authorities, has decided to undertake a report of its own. Further information about the devolution proposal is available on www.oxford.gov.uk/devolution

Retirement of the Chief Executive

David Buckle will be retiring this summer and recruitment is currently taking place to replace him. David has been CEO for both the Vale and South Oxfordshire for over 8 years and has dealt with many interesting, challenging and changing times. Once an appointment has been made there will be a formal press release.

Finance

Financial diligence has again enabled the Vale to keep the Freeze on Council tax for 2016/17.

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.

Cllrs. Simon Howell and Elaine Ware
April/May 2016

Annexe 4

2016/2017 Bank Holidays

Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 30 May 2016
Summer Bank Holiday	Monday 29 August 2016
Boxing Day	Monday 26 December 2016
Bank Holiday substitute for Christmas Day	Tuesday 27 December 2016
Bank Holiday substitute for New Year's Day	Monday 2 January 2017
Good Friday	Friday 14 April 2017
Easter Monday	Monday 17 April 2017
Spring Bank Holiday	Monday 1 May 2017

DATES of MEETINGS

COUNCIL Thursday 7.00pm at Village Community Hall
2016
16 June
28 July
Venue St Mary's Church
8 September
20 October
8 December
2017
12 January
23 February
30 March (also Allotment meeting)
11 May (also Annual Parish Meeting)

The Staffing Committee meeting will take place in October at a date and venue to be advised.