

To be approved PAPER 1

Minutes of the Longcot Parish Council held in the Village Community Room, Kings Lane, Longcot on Wednesday 20 July 2016 at 7pm

Present: Andi Cunningham, Chairman, Nathan Boyd, John Barneby, John Bridge and Tina Brock, Clerk.

128/16 Apologies for Absence. Alan Rich (prior commitment). This apology was received.

129/16 Variation on Order of Business None.

130/16 Declaration of Interest. Pecuniary interest for:

Minute John Bridge is the applicant.

131/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9 June 2016. Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were agreed and signed as a correct record.

132/16 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 23 June 2016. Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were agreed and signed as a correct record.

133/16 Payments of Accounts. It was RESOLVED to authorise the payments below:

		Net Cost	VAT	Total £
Spending Power	Payments now due:			
LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19	B & S Chains (cradle swing seat)	128.86	25.77	154.63
LGA 1972 s112Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Staff related costs (Clerk's salary June/July TAX & NI Apr/May/Jun)			396.00
LG (Financial Prov) Act 1963 s5	Clerk's reimbursements			78.08
LG and Rating Act 1997	Oxfordshire County Council (speed surveys)	166.67	33.33	200.00
LGA 1972 s111	The Net Result (payroll)			55.50

As at 20 July 2016 the Council's bank accounts held credit balances of:

Current account £3,264.67

Deposit account £12,897.45

134/16 Public Participation. None in attendance.

REPORTS

135/16 Report from County Councillor. None in attendance.

136/16 Report from District Councillor. None in attendance.

FINANCE

137/16 Internal Auditor. Council RESOLVED to appoint Mr Philip Hood FMAAT as the Council's internal auditor for the financial year 2016/2017.

138/16 Reconciliation of Council's Various Bank Accounts as at 11 July 2016 were verified by Nathan Boyd.

139/16 Update on other current matters. See annexe 1 report from John Barneby on attending Oxfordshire County Council Unitary Workshop on Wednesday 29 June 2016.

PLANNING

140/16 Submitted Planning Applications. The Council RESOLVED to submit the following observations:

i	P16/V1617/RM	Land at King's Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7SZ <i>Erection of 15 no dwellings (layout and means of access only).</i> No Objections but wish the following comments to be taken into account: No drainage plans were submitted with the original planning application and Council requests that the Vale's Drainage Officer ensures that the proposal fits in with the Longcot Flood Plan.
ii	P16/V1698/HH	Hill View Cottage, Longcot Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TP <i>Oak framed garden room extension to side.</i> No Objections but wish the following comments to be taken into account. No drainage plans were submitted with the planning application and Council would request that as usual the Vale's Drainage Officer ensures that the proposal fits in with the Longcot Flood Plan ensuring all run off has suitable plans. John Bridge left the room during Council's discussion of this planning application.

141/16 Permitted Development Rights Application(s) were noted:

i	P16/V1237/PAR	Thatcher's Barn, Cleveland Farm, Shrivenham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TW <i>Prior notification for approval for change of use from agricultural to dwelling.</i>
---	---------------	--

142/16 Naming of Property. Demolition of property known as Pear Tree Cottage, Kings Lane, Longcot and erection of 2 new residential dwellings to be known as: Pear Tree and Barrington Cottage, Kings Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7SS was noted.

143/16 Update on Other Current Matters. None.

HIGHWAYS

144/16 Roads and Pavements. Council discussed the deterioration of roads in and around the parish and the frustration that Highways are doing nothing to improve the road surfaces.

145/16 Speed Surveys. Results were due for road surveys carried out on the Shrivenham and Majors Roads.

146/16 Update on current matters. None.

PLAY AREA

147/16 Play Inspection Update. Nothing to report.

148/16 Update on current matters. None.

ALLOTMENTS

149/16 Update on current matters. Nathan Boyd reported that the allotments were looking great. Council asked Nathan to pass on the Council's thanks to Gary Holcombe who was managing the allotments on the Council's behalf.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

150/16 Oral Report. The Chairman reported: The NAG 1 group has been looking at buying a SID due to the increase in speeding through villages. NAG 2 have one and have excellent volunteers that work hard to build evidence around the increases in rural safety.

NAG 1 has requested help from the authorities to help with the A420 after the death of 4 people in May. NAG 1 arranged a community led interaction day and had 2 TVP police horses stable in Longcot that did 2 days of patrols taking in many villages and involving a lot of the NAG team that represent the varies villages which included Watchfield and Uffington. We included the TVP West berks NH teams as we are working hard to promote open border police zones. This was highlighted when Wiltshire Police were first on the scene in May for the accident on the A420, which also included the Wiltshire fire service and the Wiltshire air ambulance. See annex 2 Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter August 2016.

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.

151/16 Personal Matters. See confidential minute.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

152/16 The **Annual Parish Meeting** and the **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** would take place on **Thursday 8 September 2016** at **7.00pm** in **St Mary's Church, Longcot.**

Further meetings are due to be held in **2016** at **7pm** in **St Mary's Church, Longcot** on **Thursdays: 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 **7pm** in **St Mary's Church, Longcot.**

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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

County Council Unitary Workshop for Parish and Town Councils

I attended this workshop at the Beacon Wantage on the evening of Wednesday 29 June 2016. The workshop was the last of a series being held by OCC to try to judge the appetite of parishes for change when a Unitary Council which will provide all council services is introduced. At present there are a number of competing plans for Unitary Councils to replace the existing system of OCC handling things like Social Services, education, highways and transport planning and district councils handling planning, waste collection etc. OCC is promoting a single Unitary authority for most of Oxfordshire (with possibly Oxford City also being an authority surrounded by the new authority). The district councils are promoting 3 or 4 Unitary Councils (Oxford City, Vale and South, and either West Oxfordshire and Cherwell together or separately). There are various consultants producing reports on these proposals which will eventually be considered by the Secretary of State. One thing pushing the proposals is money. It is estimated that by changing the system some £30 million could be saved in admin costs. At present there are over 300 local councillors in Oxfordshire. This could be reduced to less than 100 in a new system. In order to make sure that local areas are properly represented it is hoped that more use can be made of the local knowledge of Parish and Town Councils.

About 18 people attended the workshop and most were from Wantage and Grove as this session had been scheduled to cater for them. Others had been held earlier in Faringdon and Abingdon amongst other places. The session was chaired by John Jackson (Head of OCC Social Services). After introductory remarks we were split in to two groups which were facilitated by Bev Hindle (Director for Strategy and Infrastructure planning) and Benedict Leigh (Strategic Commissioner, Social and Community service).

In his introductory remarks John Jackson drew our attention to Wiltshire where a unitary council is in existence. This consists of 18 Community areas and 3 hubs. Parishes apparently work together in clusters but details are on the Wiltshire website

In my group we were all vociferous in making clear that at present local voices as provided by Parish councils were ignored in all decision making by the County and District Councils. I gave as examples how we have been ignored on highways over speed limits, road repairs, flooding at the railway line, transport plans for building works, diversion plans for the A420 reconstruction, housing requirements when we were overruled when asking for smaller houses. Others had similar complaints. We were asked if we wanted more executive authority to make decisions. In general, it was felt that given the nature of the voluntary membership of Parish Councils it was better if they had an advisory role rather than a decision making role although some argued that if a local parish plan was in place and a planning application met the requirements of the plan, the Parish Council could give a go ahead. There was also a bit of discussion about things like grass cutting on local roads where people felt that some councils could arrange these things if insurance and funding was sorted out centrally. There was a discussion on the lack of enforcement of planning decisions taken by the District Council. Another point that we made was that because Parish Councils were ignored, it was very difficult to recruit members as most people felt that they were wasting their time.

At the end we had a summing up of the views of both groups which were remarkably similar and apparently reflected the views expressed at the other forums. These were.

- 1 Parish Councils have specialist local knowledge and expertise in their area.
- 2 These local voices should be listened to and involved in decision making
- 3 Parish Councils would have the Capacity to be involved if they were listened to as more people would be interested in joining them.
- 4 Parish Councils should be able to trigger enforcement actions for planning
- 5 A Unitary council should provide a central buying service for Parish Councils to avoid having to get three quotes for minor things

I understand that we will be sent a summary of how OCC saw the outcome of this and other forums (probably should be Fora but as we are no longer European I don't know!). I will circulate this when I get it.

John Barneby