

**Minutes of the Longcot Parish Council
held in
Longcot Chapel
On Wednesday 30 October 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present: Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, Amy Cooper, Alan Richards, CC Yvonne Constance, DC Elaine Ware, DC Simon Howell and Tina Brock, Clerk.

148/19 Apologies for Absence. Nathan Boyd (prior commitment). This apology was received.

149/19 Variation on Order of Business. None

150/19 Declaration of Interest. None.

151/19 Minutes of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 September 2019. Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

152/19 Matters Arising from the Minutes. None.

153/19 Public Participation. None.

REPORTS

154/19 Report from County Councillor. Report CC Constance.

The Energy Strategy has been launched which aims to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Connecting Oxford Proposal has received 3,000 responses.

155/19 Report from District Councillor. Report from DC Howell and Ware.

Climate Emergency - Following the agreement to a Climate Emergency in February the new administration has created a new Climate Emergency Advisory Committee. The proposal for this Committee was approved by full Council on 17 July. The new Committee will be non-decision making but will make recommendations to Cabinet. The inaugural meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 October at Milton Park. The agenda includes Options for the Future and next steps, Scene setting and Background and Recommendations to Cabinet. This is a public meeting and will commence at 6pm.

Local Plan Part 2 – As previously report the Planning Inspector has declared that the LPP2 is sound and is subject to local democratic approval. The new administration has spent a great deal of time to understand the implications of adopting or not and the options available. The Plan was considered by the Vale Cabinet on Friday 4 October and the decision to adopt the Plan was agreed by full Council on Wednesday 9 October.

However, there is still an issue with regard to South Oxfordshire's Local Plan which is currently with the Planning Inspectorate. There have been numerous problems over this plan and as a result South Oxon's new Cabinet has recommended that the plan be withdrawn and a completely new plan prepared. A decision on the plan was due to be made at a full Council meeting on 10 October but the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Kenrick wrote to the Leader of South Oxon directing the Council to not make any step in connection with the adoption of the plan. For the time being the Plan is on hold. As Parish Councils in the Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward know there are a number of issues that would directly affect the local area and indeed across the whole of the Vale if South Oxon should withdraw their plan. The first would affect the five year land supply. This is because included in Local Plan Part 1 there is a proposal for 4000 dwellings to be built at Valley Park in Didcot. This development is reliant on additional Government funding to provide a new River Thames crossing at Culham. Culham is in South Oxfordshire and if they have no adopted plan the funding for the bridge and other infrastructure monies will not be forthcoming. The Leader of the Vale has written to the Leader of South Oxon reminding her of the unintended consequences of the recommendation. Her letter is available on the Vale's website.

The impact on the Vale cannot be under- estimated should South Oxon decide to continue to withdraw their plan. This will result in the Councils losing planning control and speculative developers will again use the lack of a five year land supply as a means of building yet more dwellings in our local communities.

Planning

Construction continues on all four sites in Shrivenham. The delay in the use of the A420 access road has finally been resolved.

Shrivenham Football Club – We are pleased to report that the Football Club has received just of £11,000 of S106 monies to improve pitch drainage. This funding has been a long time coming but is most welcome.

Land South of Steeds Farm -The independent Financial Viability Assessment commissioned by the Vale has been received but further information is awaited from the developer.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway –The public consultation for this proposal has not yet been published.

Household Enquiry - Yellow Letter – Residents are reminded to complete the information required and return to the Vale asap. Some 43000 residents are yet to respond. If they haven't responded by 5 October Officers will be knocking on their doors.

Festival Grants – The Vale scheme is open for grant applications of up to £1,000.

Civic Parking Enforcement – Consultants have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study and prepare a report for Cabinet. Elaine will be attending a presentation at the Vale on 11 November and will report back to Parish Councils.

Electric Blanket Testing – OCC's Fire & Rescue Service have arranged an Electric Blanket Testing programme. For the Western Vale the service will be at the Old Mill Hall in Wantage. To book an appointment ring 01865 895999 or

Email: community_engagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Government Funding to Local Authorities – the Leader of the Vale has written to the Secretary of State expressing concern of the lack of financial certainty from the Government. A response is awaited.

Thames Valley Police – The Chief Constable John Campbell and the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber made their annual presentation to the Vale Council Wednesday 9 October.

Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy -The Vale has launched a consultation on a new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025. Parish Councils are encouraged to respond. The closing date is 5pm on 25 November 2019. More details are available on the Council's website.

Support for Refugee Families – The Vale has confirmed that it will support three refugee families as part of the new Global Resettlement Scheme. The scheme is funded by central Government. From 2016 the Vale has been supporting six families as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. That programme has now been incorporated into the wider Global scheme. More details are available of the Vale website.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee recommended that the Council should aspire to become Carbon Neutral by 2030 and the District by 2045. In the first instance the Council should aim for a 75% reduction in carbon emissions in its own operations by 2025 and 75% for the whole district by 2030.

SODC Local Plan – the situation remains on hold

Additional Garden Waste collection – Residents with brown bins may leave additional waste next to the bins in bin liners or sacks. Trade waste bags are not accepted.

Safe Places – The scheme provides people who may experience difficulties in public places assurance that support is available. In our area there are 7 places and these are all in Faringdon – Costa Coffee Marlborough Street, Information Centre, Library, Stay Grounded Coffee Shop, Mustard Seed, Perry Bishop Estate Agents and the Leisure Centre.

156/19 Report from Chairman. None.

COUNCIL

157/19 Financial Regulations. Council RESOLVED to approve the following amendment based on NALC model Financial Regulations updated July 2016 and to bring in line with the Councils Standing Orders 18.1 sub clause 2:

- 4.4 added numbering adjusted
- 4.5 increase to £500 (was 4.4)
- 4.8 , 5.6, 5.10, 6.4, 7.1, 11.1 b - f wording amended context the same
- 6.8, 6.9 & 6.10, 6.15, 6.16 & 6.17 added numbering adjusted
- 18.2 additional wording

158/19 Standing Orders. Council noted the SO's were reviewed in November 2018 minute 199/18.

159/19 Financial Risk Assessment 2019/2020 was completed and formally agreed. See annex 1.

160/19 Register of Assets (half year) was reviewed and accepted.

161/19 Health & Safety of the Council's Assets. Recreation equipment is monitored monthly by MRH Services and Councillors and annually by RoSPA; written reports are submitted. The mower is stored in a locked container and regularly maintained and serviced. All volunteers are trained, wear Hi-Viz jackets and helmets and covered under the Council's insurance.

162/19 Review of Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit. Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2003) requires the findings of the review of the system of internal control to be considered by a committee of the relevant body, or by members of the body meeting as a whole. Examples of evidence in support of the review are:

- Annual Report of Internal Audit.
- Any reports by the External Auditor covering internal audit work or on key financial systems.
- Results of any other review on which reliance may safely be placed.

Regulation 6 requires bodies to review the effectiveness of the system of internal audit once a year and for the findings of the review to be considered by a committee of the body, or by the body as a whole, as part of the consideration of the system of internal control referred to in Regulation 4. Council reviewed the system and found adequate. Annexe 2.

163/19 Longcot Village Trust. Council AGREED to send a letter of support for requesting grants/funding from charitable trusts.

FINANCE

164/19 Payments of Accounts. Council RESOLVED to authorise the payments below:

Spending Power	Cheque No.	Payments now due:	Net Cost	VAT	Total
LGA 1972 s112	EP48	T Brock - Sept salary			201.05
LGA 1972 s112	EP49	T Brock - Oct salary			201.05
LGA 1972 s112	EP50	HMRC - Jul/Aug/Sept			150.80
LGA 1972 s134	000727	Shrivenham Methodist Church - room hire			20.00
LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Highways Act 1980 s96	000728	A Rich = diesel for mower	74.10	3.70	77.80

As at 24 October 2019 Councils bank accounts held a credit balance of:

Current a/c £8,920.50

Deposit a/c £4,908.55

165/19 Estimates 2020/2021.

- i. Council RESOLVED to approve the estimates 2020/2021.
- ii. Council RESOLVED to set the precept 2020/2021 at £7,600.
- iii. Council RESOLVED to include in the 3 year plan expenditure for a new mower and new play equipment at The Dash.

166/19 External Audit 2019/19. Moore Stephen have passed the external audit for the financial period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019.

167/19 Quarterly Financials. Council verified the Council's bank reconciliation as at 24 October 2019.

PLANNING

168/19 Submitted Planning Application. The Council RESOLVED to submit the following observation:

i	P19/V2438/A	3 locations along the A420 close to Southdown Farm, Faringdon, Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7UA <i>3 directional safety signs raised on aluminium posts.</i> No Objections.
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169/19 Permitted Planning Application(s) was noted.

i	P19/V1615/HH	The Priory, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TG <i>Addition of a singles-storey front extension to the south elevation of the property to improve the internal circulation of the dwelling, avoiding ground floor circulation through habitable rooms.</i>
ii	P19/V1583/HH	3 Priory Mead, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TJ <i>Proposed rear and side single-storey extensions.</i>
iii	P19/V1705/LB	Stone Farm, Majors Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TR <i>Removal of a section of wall to the kitchen area and making good finishes.</i>

170/19 Withdrawn Planning Application(s) was noted.

i	P19/V2020/AG	Longcot House, Mallins Lane, Longcot. Oxon SN7 7TF <i>Erection of new agricultural building for storage, to replace an existing building.</i>
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171/19 Update on Other Current Matters. None.

HIGHWAYS

172/19 Update on Current Matters. None.

PLAY AREA

173/19 Update on Other Current Matters. Gary Holcombe with permission from Council has upgraded the BMX track.

ALLOTMENTS

174/19 Update on Current Matters. None.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

175/19 Update on Current Matters. None.

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.

176/19 Any Matters. None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

177/19 The next meeting of **Longcot Parish Council** would take place on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed..... Date.....