

Paper to be approved.
Meeting of the Longcot Parish Council
on Thursday 25 July 2024 7pm
held in St Mary's Church Hall, Longcot

In attendance.

Council members.

Andi Cunningham, Chair, John Barneby, Amy Cooper, Alan Rich and Tina Brock, Clerk.

District Councillor. Viral Patel.

Visitors. 3.

90/24 Apologies for Absence.

DC Katherine Foxhall (prior commitment). This apology was approved.

91/24 Co-option of candidate to fill the existing vacancy.

Council followed the co-option policy in making a decision.

By a show of hands Council unanimously voted that Neil Campbell be co-opted as a Member of Council. The Chair welcomed Neil Campbell to the Council. The Acceptance of Declaration of Office was signed, and the Register of Interests completed.

92/24 Variance of business. None.

93/24 Declarations of interests. None.

94/24 Minutes of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13 June 2024.

Council resolved to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chair.

95/24 Matters arising from the minutes. None.

96/24 Public Participation. None.

REPORTS

97/24 County Councillors report. None.

98/24 District Councillors report.

DC Viral Patel reported.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England was reviewing the number of councillors, wards, and ward names for VWHDC. There would be no change for Longcot.

I attended a meeting at Shrivenham Defence Academy for an update on the Afghan Relocation programme that the UK government put in place to help Afghan citizens who worked in support of UK operations in Afghanistan.

Tuckmill Meadows (Shrivenham).

The tender process for the ongoing management of the meadow is under way, with a contract due to be decided in September. Katherine will continue to work with Vale and FoT on this transition to a longer-term management.

Wicklesham Quarry (P23/V1476/O Faringdon, Little Coxwell, Great Coxwell & Longcot)

An outline planning application was submitted to the Vale of White Horse to develop the former quarry site at Wicklesham and Coxwell Pits, with the initial step being to agree planning for road access. Katherine and Viral have spent much of July responding to residents' concerns in relation to this application.

While the site is not within the ward but adjacent, the impact on residents within the ward is tangible, Katherine and Viral had deemed it important to represent our residents views with Katherine looking at the application from a nature recovery perspective while Viral focused on the safety and infrastructure impact given the sites proximity to the A420 and the already considerable expansion in the surrounding area.

The site in question is geologically important and designated as a SSSI and is allocated as such in the Vale local plan 2031, however the Faringdon neighbourhood plan designated the site for employment purposes, with a number of preconditions. This put the Faringdon and Vale plans in conflict.

There is a further question in relation to the site as 'brownfield,' while there has been a business operating on the site, quarrying is a temporary operation with the site to be restored after mineral extraction completes, as such 'farmland' would be a more accurate description.

Having decided how we were going to proceed to scrutinise this application, we found the application was removed from the public facing planning portal, and after reaching out to the officer in charge we learnt the application had been deemed “Invalid” following a meeting between the Oxfordshire County and Vale planning officers. Once it was deemed invalid, it was removed from the Vale’s public planning portal.

The reason for the “Invalid” status from the Vale perspective, came from it being a mineral extraction site, which falls under “county matters” (Town and Country planning act 1990), for as long as any preconditions for the mineral extraction permission remain to be discharged. In this specific case, the county had required 5 years of aftercare to restore the site to a natural state and the aftercare provision is not due to expire until at least 14th June 2024. Under those circumstances the Vale could not decide on any application on that site. Our understanding is there is nothing more to be done from either the Vale or OCC side, and it is up to the applicant to decide on how they choose to proceed, the choices as we understand them are:

- Apply to OCC to vary the aftercare condition as complete early, if granted resubmit the application to the Vale. Council
- Apply to OCC with the full application (as was submitted to Vale). OCC would likely only consider the mineral extraction part and consult with the Vale for the remainder of the application, and how to proceed.
- Wait until after June 2024 before reapplying to the Vale. We will continue to monitor this and have asked our County colleagues to inform us of anything that may arise in relation to the site.

99/24 Chairs report.

The Chair reported that quotes were being sourced for a topographical survey of the area around Longcot railway Bridge. Funding had been approved for from the OCC Flood Risk Management to fund a full topographical survey of the area.

The Chair attended a meeting at Shrivenham Defence Academy for an update on the Afghan Relocation programme that the UK government put in place to help Afghan citizens who worked in support of UK operations in Afghanistan.

COUNCIL

100/24 Consultation,

Council approved that the Chair would respond to Oxfordshire County Councils Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation. <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-flood-risk-management-strategy>

FINANCE

101/24 Expenditure.

- i. A mobile phone had been donated to Council. The Clerk would arrange a SIM only package.

102/24 Unity Trust Bank.

Council resolved to approve setting up a bank account with Unity Trust Bank and closing the Lloyds Bank Treasurers account.

103/24 Quarter 1 financials.

- i. Council noted and approved the quarter 1 bank reconciliation.
- ii. Council noted and approved the quarter 1 budget.

104/24 Receipts received. Noted.

Table 1 List of receipts received.

Statutory Power	Receipts received.	Description	Total
Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Evins	Allotment rent	£10.00
Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Various	Allotment rent	£70.00

105/24 Payments of Accounts.

Council resolved to authorise the payments. John Barneby and Amy Cooper signed the invoices as proof of authorisation.

Table 2 List of expenditure.

Statutory Power	Payments due:	Description	Total
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle Water	Allotment water May	£37.44
EP257 LGA 1972 S112	T Brock	June salary	£259.25
EP258 LGA 1972 S111	The Net Result	Payroll	£88.50
EP259 LGA1972 s112	HMRC	TAX Apr-Jun	£230.40

COUNCIL

106/24 Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2024/2025.

Council reviewed and resolved to approve the Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2024/2025.

107/24 Standing Orders.

Council resolved to approve the amended Standing Orders.

PLANNING

108/24 Submitted planning application(s).

The Council would submit the following observations to VWHDC.

Table 3 List of permitted planning applications.

Ref.	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P24/V1385/S73	3 Priory Mead, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TJ <i>Variation of condition 4 (Unique – Flooding) on application P19/V1583/HH (proposed rear and side single storey extensions).</i> Response. Council would request that, Leigh Travers, Drainage Engineer, VWHDC reviews the submitted drainage information prior to a decision being made.

HIGHWAYS

109/24 Update on any matters. None.

PLAY AREA & TRACK

110/24 Track.

No other matters to consider.

111/24 The Dash.

The Clerk would obtain quotes to replace the broken goal post.

ALLOTMENTS

112/24 Update on any matters. 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.

113/24 Any Matters. None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

114/24 Next meeting of the Parish Council.

TBC

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed.....Date.....2024