

**Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Longcot Parish Council
held in the Longcot Chapel
on Thursday 16 May 2019 at 7pm**

Present.

Andi Cunningham, Chairman, Amy Cooper, Nathan Boyd, John Barneby, Alan Rich, DC Elaine Ware, DC Simon Howell, 1 parishioner and Tina Brock, Clerk.

65/19 Apologies for Absence.

CC Constance. This apology was received.

66/19 Report from Chairperson.

I am honoured to be Longcot Parish Council Chairman.

Our team of Parish Councillors all work together to try and ensure that we can all be proud and happy to live in Longcot.

I am so grateful for the amazing community that we have that mow our grass, cut the verges and look after the allotments for no reward, but to help the village and thereby not spending our funds, that we can then save to put towards projects. These include a flood fund that keeps our ditches clear and the play area that we upkeep and replace.

This year we have been liaising with the developers of our new housing development on Kings Lane, and unlike many developers we are very grateful for their community concerns and communication with us the PC. They did actually lower the roof sizes as once assembled it was obvious they were too tall to fit in with the street scape – and this was their community context, so we were very happy that they were willing to alter heights after starting the build.

I continue to chair the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), representing Longcot Parish, which is getting harder within the police demands that mean our NH teams are stretched and we are now seeing much more complex cases taking up the NH time. Gone are the days of very local neighbourhood officers but we do have a good communication process in place which will be even more important in the future. We all need to keep a look out for each other and report anything that appears out of place.

The A420 is a road that continues to be an issue for us. We have had a couple of major accidents on the road which resulted with traffic being diverted through our village. We have had residents out for hours helping keep the traffic moving and ensuring that the HGV's do not get stuck. I have had meetings with OCC and the Police regarding such matters and have requested new safety guidelines should this happen again, as our roads are just not suitable for the volume and size of the traffic using the A420.

I also bring to the NAG the speed and volume of traffic on the A420 making access to our bus stops just impossible. I will keep fighting this as the bus stops are just not safe. At the same time, there is a pressure group that want to benefit from the expansion of the A420, which would have a detrimental impact on our village.

The crossroads at Majors Road continues to have many accidents where cars just don't stop and go over the crossroads and end up in the ditch, except one car that actually managed to fly over the ditch, through the wooden fence and end up in the field. So we once again requested safety be looked at and we have been given a solution which will include new signs which should be in place by the summer of 2019.

I have noticed that alongside the general increase of legislation in our country, there are many more parish issues that we have to ask legal advice on. We were sad that our last lawyer had to retire due to ill health, but he recommended new lawyers that have been looking after us and have helped draw up new leases etc.

I note that the average age of Councillors in the UK is quite old, so we are very proud of our youngest Council member, Amy and the skills that she brings to our Parish Council.

A Longcot Village Trust has been set up to take over the old community room that was adjoined to the school. The Parish Council enjoys working with them and are most supportive of what they are trying to achieve.

And lastly, I note that schooling will be something that might affect our village going forward as school places are seriously short it seems. It is very important that everyone has filled out the correct forms if they have school requirements and if you know of anyone who is struggling we are always happy to involve the correct Councillors to help.

We are proud to be a country village and we all must try and keep our roads safe by giving time to our horses, ponies, bikes and runners who use our roads. I am noticing that they are seen as an inconvenience and this should not be the case. The Parish Council will keep trying to ensure Longcot is a safe place to live.

67/19 Report from Outside Bodies:

- i. County Councillor. None.
- ii. District Councillors Ware and Howell.

Introduction

The past 12 months have again been challenging. We represent 12 Parishes covering a wide range of issues from planning through to waste. Simon continued as Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee. This Committee is responsible for ensuring compliance with principles and practice of good governance including the monitoring of financial arrangements. It also has a direct link to the Council's external Auditors. Prudent management has ensured that the Vale's finances are in a healthy position. Simon also continued as Chair of the Faringdon Area Grants Committee. Elaine as Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment has an extensive portfolio that includes Housing Needs, Environmental Protection, Food Safety, Waste, Car Parks, Mobile Home Parks, Licensing and Community Safety, Parks and Open Spaces. This report which is the last under the current Vale administration covers the main updates for the whole of the Watchfield & Shrevenham Ward that we represent.

Planning

Planning issues have again been top of the agenda and we continue to do our best in representing the views of residents across the 12 Parishes.

The Local Plan Part 1 was adopted in December 2016. The adoption of the Plan has enabled the Vale to refuse speculative applications that have been submitted. Examples include the application from Gladman for 85 dwellings on the land to the north of the Bovis development known as Townsend Place and the Linden Homes application for 136 dwellings on the golf course.

Local Plan Part 2

The Plan is currently with the Inspector. Following the formal public inspection the Inspector requested that a number of minor amendments be addressed. These required further public consultation and the plan has been re-submitted. The plan does not identify any strategic sites in the Western Vale.

Appeals

Currently there is only one appeal outstanding in the Ward. This will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate in due course.

Legal & General

Phase 1 for 240 dwellings has commenced. Agreement for a temporary access road from the A420 has been agreed and construction vehicles will commence using it shortly. In the longer term there will be a roundabout on the A420 which will enable the residents of the new developments to access the road directly rather than through the village.

Legal & General have continued to hold regular progress meetings with the Parish Council and Ward Members.

Bovis – Townsend Road

Bovis has commenced constructing the 116 dwellings known as Townsend Place. They did submit a change of house style application to the Vale. However, this was refused as the 3 bed design could easily have been converted to a 4 bed and would then be in breach of the required allocation of 3 bed dwellings.

Taylor Wimpey - Longcot Road

A number of the houses are now occupied. Construction is progressing and many of the original issues have been dealt with.

Charles Church – Highworth Road

The construction of 35 dwellings is well on track. There have been complaints regarding the access from Stallpits Road and these are being dealt with.

Land South of Steeds Farm Gt. Coxwell

An Outline application for a further 125 dwellings has been submitted to the Vale. This application is in addition to the 200 that are already being constructed on part of this

strategic site. Amended plans and documentation have been submitted and a viability assessment was submitted in early April of this year.

Lorry Park Chowle Farm Industrial Estate

An Outline application for 9 residential dwellings and 9 offices with associated parking was submitted almost a year ago. Since then amended plans have been submitted and are currently under consideration.

Swindon Eastern Villages - The impact of the start of the new "Eastern Villages" in Swindon are starting to take shape and will have a significant impact on our villages which cannot be underestimated. A total of 8000 dwellings will be built in 8 villages and South Marston will expand. In partnership with the County Council we continue to represent our residents and highlight the many issues that are of concern including the A420.

Recycling

The Vale has slipped from No.2 to No.4 in the whole of the country for the % of recycling material. It is unfortunate that the Vale has been unable to maintain its level of performance. This has been primarily due to contamination of recycling material. To assist residents with recycling the Vale has produced a recycling wheel. The wheel gives information on what can be put in to which bin. Supplies are available from Parish Councils and libraries and further supplies may be obtained from the Waste Team at the Vale.

Fly Tipping

The Vale continues to successfully prosecute individuals for fly-tipping. One of the recent prosecutions was a Faringdon resident who paid two unknown men £25 each to dispose of DIY rubbish. The rubbish was found dumped in two different places in Buscot. He admitted his mistake in not checking that the men had the correct licence and as a result he was fined over £1600.

Climate Emergency

At the February meeting of the full Council the Vale like many other Councils declared a Climate Emergency and agreed to:

- *Ask the Leader to write to the Secretary of State to seek confirmation of the Government's intention to work with local government on climate change strategies. This the Leader has done and the letter may be viewed on the Vale's website.

- *Review the Climate Change Strategy and Carbon Management Plan

- *Ensure that all Council policies are routinely reviewed and as far as possible the reporting templates for Council, Cabinet and Committees include an Environmental Impact section.

- *Officers to provide costs and availability of training options for members and officers on how to promote carbon neutral policies for future consideration by Cabinet.

- *Request the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment to bring a report to Council on the activities of the Oxfordshire Environmental Partnership of which the Vale is a member

- *Continue the positive collaborative work with partners across the district, county and wider region to deliver widespread carbon reductions.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

The Vale like other local authorities in Oxfordshire has discussed the proposal for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. However, to date there has been no formal consultation and until notification is received a full debate cannot begin. It must be recognised that the proposal is in its early stages and there is still considerable work to be undertaken.

The Vale has agreed:

- *To make clear the Councils concerns regarding the potential impact on residents.

- *Welcomes the commitment to greater investment by government in sustainable transport infrastructure options
and

- *Commits to using all reasonable measures to alert residents to the public consultation.

Civil Parking Enforcement

The Vale is exploring options for on-street parking enforcement.

A formal agreement from the county council is required in order to apply to the Department of Transport to delegate civil parking enforcement powers. If county agree and the council decides to take over responsibility it would then need to carry out a full review of the existing car parking orders and yellow lines. Arrangements have been made with other District Council's and the County to undertake a feasibility study. The County are leading on the procurement of consultants to carry out this work.

Grants

Over the past four years the Vale has given grants of over £800,000 to local communities. Details of the Grants schemes are available on the Vale website.

Policing

As Ward Members we work closely with the local Neighbourhood Police Team. Elaine is a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). Although the Vale is identified as a low crime area the recent burglaries have obviously caused concern. There are a number of crime prevention initiatives that are available including Smart Water. You may not always see evidence of our local police but you can be rest assured that the Neighbourhood Team are out there keeping a watching brief in all our villages.

Conclusion

Along with your local Parish Councillors we work tirelessly 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 hard 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.

68/19 Questions from Electors.

None.

Followed by:

Meeting of the Annual Meeting of Longcot Parish Council

69/19 Election of Chairman.

The retiring Chairman asked for nominations for the office of Chairman. Andi Cunningham was proposed by Alan Rich and seconded by John Barneby There being no other nominations Andi Cunningham was duly elected to the office of Chairman.

70/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form.

71/19 Apologies for Absence.

As above.

72/19 Variance of Order of Business.

Council approved moving item 27 of the agenda The Dash - update on Holly Cottage fencing encroaching The Dash forward of the agenda.

73/19 Declaration of Interest.

Personal interests for:

Minute Alan Rich lives close by.

74/19 Register of Member's Interests.

Annual review. Under the Council's Code of Conduct, Members are required to set out their interests under the appropriate headings and to make amendments when appropriate.

75/19 Council Procedures, Information & Guidance Documents.

Council noted that documents were reviewed on 21 November 2018 minute 200/18.

76/19 General Power of Competence (GPC).

Council meets the criteria for eligibility, the Clerk has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration and two thirds of members were declared elected. Council RESOLVED that from 16 May 2019 until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Council that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and SI 965 the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence)(Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 to adopt the General Power of Competence.

(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).

77/19 Standing Orders (SO).

Council noted that the SOs were reviewed on 21 November 2018 minute 199/18.

77/19 Financial Regulations.

Council noted that the Financial Regulations were reviewed on 21 November 2018 minute 198/18.

78/19 Register of Assets.

Council noted that the Register of Assets was reviewed on 21 November 2018 minute 202/18.

79/19 Risk Assessment – Insurance.

Council noted that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting on 21 November 2019 minute 201/18.

80/19 Subscriptions to other Bodies.

Council RESOLVED to approve the following subscriptions for 2019/20: Campaign for the Protection of Rural England.

81/19 Future Council Meetings.

Council RESOLVED to approve the dates of future meetings.

COUNCIL

82/19 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25 March 2019.

Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

83/19 Payments of Accounts.

It was RESOLVED to authorise the payments below:

Table 1 List of payments.

Spending Power	Cheque No.	Payments now due:	Net Cost	VAT	Total
LGA 1972 s134	000722	Shrivenham Methodist Church - room hire			10.00
LG (Financial Prov) Act 1963 s5	EP32	T Brock (Clerks reimbursements Sept - Mar)			90.60
LG (Financial Prov) Act 1963 s5	EP33	T Brock (reimbursement land registry)	25.99	5.20	31.19
LGA 1972 s112Contract/Pensions Act 2014	EP34	T Brock (April salary)			201.05
LGA 1972 s111	EP35	Came & Co (3 year LTA Council insurance)			837.59
Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	EP36	Castle Water (allotments)			286.90
LGA 1972 s111	EP37	The Net Result (payroll)			37.00
LGA 1972 s112Contract/Pensions Act 2014	EP38	T Brock (May salary)			201.05

As at 13 May 2019 the Council's bank accounts held credit balances of:

Current account £7,764.81

Deposit account £4,907.51

84/19 Public Participation.

None.

PLAY AREA

85/19 The Dash. Update on Holly Cottage fencing.

The Chairman arranged for GH Safety to risk assess the erection of a picket fence by the residents of Holly Cottage on land owned by the Parish Council following a complaint from Mr Paton, the owner of the field to the side of Holly Cottage. The Dash is a shared space with residents using the Play Park, resident and agricultural vehicle accessing the site.

Following an on-site visit GH Safety made the following recommendations:

- The end of the picket fence to be lowered to improve sight lines the bye owners of Holly Cottage. Council noted that the residents of Holly Cottage had reduced the height of the picket fence.
- Mr Paton follows all HSE advice on the safe use of agricultural plant.
- Mr Paton ensures that contractors under his control follow HSE guidance and should have a minimum of £5m public liability insurance.
- The Council ensures that other farmers accessing The Dash follow similar guidance.
- The Council satisfies themselves that residents and visitors to the houses at the approach to The Dash respect the fact that the area is a shared space with minors who may have limited parental/guardian supervision.
- The Council to fix a steel hazard sign to the existing post when entering The Dash to warn users of the risk of farm plant. Council AGREED to purchase a sign.

COUNCIL

86/19 Lease between Council and Faringdon Academy of Schools.

The new rolling 7 year lease drawn up by David Jeacock, Solicitor for the triangle of land belonging to Council that is included in the parking area of the school was signed by Council (minute 124/18) was not signed by the Academy. Hugh Ellins, Bevirs Law has drawn up an amended lease which has been signed by Council which is awaiting completion. The lease will need to be renewed in July 2026.

87/19 Faringdon Academy of Schools Public Assess Statement for the use of the All Weather Multi-Use Playground (MUGA).

Council AGREED that any changes to the statement would need to be made by Faringdon Academy of Schools. The statement was part of the condition of planning approval and the change from Longcot and Fernham Church of England Primary School to Faringdon Academy of Schools does not affect the statement.

88/19 Longcot Festival Saturday 22 June 2019.

The Chairman would contact the Committee for an update on the event.

89/10 Community Nomination in respect of The King & Queen Public House.

The nomination form did not contain sufficient evidence of community and social value and therefore the Community Liaison Officer, Community Enablement Team, VWHDC made the decision not to list. Information on hints and tips of evidence of community value has been received which has been past to an interested parishioner for gathering.

90/19 Update on Other Current Matters.

None

FINANCE

91/19 Audit. Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2017/2018 Part 2 for the year ending 31 March 2018.

Council RESOLVED to certify itself as exempt from the requirement for a limited assurance review and approved the following:

- i. Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer.
- ii. Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019 was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.
- iii. Section 2 Accounting Statements 2018/2019 was signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer.
- iv. End of year bank reconciliation was signed by the Chairman.

92/19 Update on Other Current Matters.

None.

HIGHWAYS

93/19 Speed Survey/reduction of speed limit on Fernham Road,

A resident had complained of speeding and concerns of pedestrian safety on Fernham Road. Council AGREED not to commission a speed survey as this would not help with the request to lower the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. The Chairman had made numerous

requests only to be told that the road does not fit the requirements such as street lighting, pavements both sides of the road and most of all no accidents or deaths on this stretch of road. Once the Community Speed Device, which was purchased by 5 local parishes, is available, volunteers would be sourced to assist in collecting data which may help to build a case to lower the speed limit.

94/19 Update on Other Current Matters.

None.

PLAY AREA

95/19 Update on Current Matters.

None.

PLANNING

96/19 Submitted Planning Applications.

The Council RESOLVED to submit the following observations:

Table 2 List of planning applications.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P19/V0634/FUL	<p>Henleaze Farm, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7PR <i>Change land use from agricultural to business use and to erect a Scandinavian style cabin with an enclosed garden area.</i></p> <p>Objects Council cannot make a planning decision on this application due to insufficient plans submitted, therefore, Council objects. The resident of Henleaze Farm, Fernham (not Farmer Gow's which has the same address as this proposal) was not notified of the application and no notices were posted within the area. No drainage plan was submitted with the application. Council has established with Leigh Travers, Drainage Engineer, VWHDC that Longcot is a village that floods and always requires a drainage plan with every application submitted, especially involving any roof proposed so that it's run off can be anticipated. This site was under water in 2007. The plans are block drawings that show little detail. Council notes that some design ideas have been written (showers etc) but there are no plans to show how the design will be carried out. Council is concerned about the change of use from agricultural to business. Other planning applications from Farmer Gows have been for small business, when Farmer Gow's first opened and leisure, for clamping, to take space at the site which has worked successfully. As you can see from the application this is a sub-let.</p>

97/19 Permitted Planning Application(s) were noted:

Table 3 List of permitted planning applications.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P19/V0463/FUL	<p>Willow Copse, Old Wharf Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7QT <i>Re-use existing fence to form a 20m by 40m menage in an area of field that is currently used to exercise horses. The field is currently fenced 16m to 47m.</i></p>

98/19 Update on Other Current Matters.

None.

ALLOTMENTS

99/19 Allotment Rent 2019/2020.

Gary Holcombe had collected £250, £30 receive by cheque and £10 by BACS. The 4 remaining tenants whose rent is due have been sent reminder letters.

99/19 Allotment Tenants Annual Meeting.

Council RESOLVED to hold an Allotment Tenants meeting in July.

100/19 Update on Other Current 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.

101/19 Any Matters. None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

102/19 Next meeting.

The next meeting of the **Parish Council** would take place at **7pm** on **Wednesday 26 June** in the **Longcot Chapel**.

Further meetings are due to be held in **2019** at **7pm** in **The Longcot Chapel** on **Wednesdays: 7 August, 18 September, 30 October and 11 December**, in **2020: 15 January, 26 February, 8 April and AGM 13 May** in the **Longcot Chapel**.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....Date.....2019