

**Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Longcot Parish Council  
held in St Mary's Church Hall, Longcot  
on Wednesday 4 May 2022 at 7pm**

**Present**

Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, Amy Cooper (late arrival), Alan Rich, DC Elaine Ware, Louise Cooke, resident and Tina Brock, Clerk.

**42/22 Apologies for Absence.**

Nathan Boyd, (work commitment), CC Yvonne Constance (unable to attend) and DC Simon Howell (work commitment). Council resolved to approve these apologies.

**43/22 Report from Chairman Cunningham.**

It is a privilege to Chair Longcot Parish Council, and together we have managed to get through another year that involved Covid. In a way it has made us work even better as a team as covid and now war in Ukraine has changed so much of what we thought was normal only a couple of years ago.

Firstly, I want to thank all those volunteers that make our village work so well, they are just amazing. Gary looks after the allotments and not only keeps everything tidy and in order, but he mends fences and taps and has to take the water readings in the freezing cold when everything is frozen and for all of these things, we are grateful.

Thank you to Nigel and Ian who do all the lawn mowing for the whole of the village- they really do an amazing job always cutting the grass throughout the year and keeping the village looking wonderful.

It's been smashing to see the pub come back to life after Covid, it has been so hard over Covid to enable a community atmosphere, but The King and Queen has done a wonderful job. We are lucky to have such a lovely welcoming pub in the village, thank you for all you do, especially the many community events such fundraising for the yellow magazine and hosting the pub quiz for the Longcot Village Trust that are such fun and well attended. This brings me to the enormous success of the Longcot Village Trust in achieving their goal of restructuring the Church to make it a Community Hub, they have done an amazing job. We are now working together to try and improve our play park, so we look forward to working with them on this project.

The bus stop on the A420 continues to be a cause for concern. We had another huge accident on 2 March 2022, which was yards from the bus stop and still OCC does nothing to upgrade our bus stops, which we think are alarmingly dangerous, and will continue to ask for improvements.

We have logged an emergency planning route with OCC who have to liaise with TVP in times of an accident. But as Wiltshire are so often first on the scene on the A420, we are going to send them details of our emergency traffic plan to keep traffic away from the village and school.

The A420 continues to be a huge issue, especially with Swindon sending all the traffic to Oxford along it and not encouraging the use of the M4 and A34. We are especially concerned about the bridleways that cross the A420 in our parish and we have asked OCC about how they will make these safe with the huge rise in traffic- so far, we have no response. We will keep asking.

Community speed watch has replaced the old NAG speed watch that we ran under NAG1. Speed watch can now be organised by anyone who wants to get involved and it comes under a national banner and if anyone in Longcot wishes to get involved, then please follow this link:

<https://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Home.php>.  
[lee.turnham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lee.turnham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Parking around the school is one of our problems – and although the school does ask everyone to park considerately – this is a problem that we have not yet solved!

**44/22 Report from County Councillor Constance. None.**

**45/22 Report from District Councillors Howell and Ware.**

### **Introduction**

The last twelve months have been challenging for everyone. Although Covid 19 has started to reduce it is still prevalent in and around our local community. Throughout the pandemic the Vale has worked with Oxfordshire partners to provide support to all its towns and villages. We continue to thank our local coordinators for the support they offered to those who were unable to get out and about during the restrictions.

One area that raised its head during the early part of the first Lockdown was the statistical information and updates that were circulated by the Vale to towns and parishes. It was identified early on that the information was from Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and did not include those villages in the Western Vale that are served by Swindon and other CCG's. This issue led to Elaine amending a Motion on health services that was put to a full Vale Council requesting that formal meetings be arranged with Swindon CCG and other CCG's. The first of the meetings with Swindon CCG took place in January of this year and it was agreed to hold regular meetings three or four times a year. The next one is scheduled for 6 May 2022.

**Planning** – Planning as is usual is always top of our agenda. We deal with numerous applications and often we call in the controversial ones for the Planning Committee to consider. Between April 2021 and March 2022 over 150+ applications were submitted to the Vale from our Ward villages. There were three particular applications which were submitted for determination by the Planning Inspectorate under the appeals process. Two of these has been dismissed and the other is awaiting determination.

Construction of the new roundabout on the A420 to serve Cross Trees Park development in Shrivenham was delayed. This was due to the ongoing and never-ending roadworks at Gablecross and White Hart Roundabout in Swindon.

The new primary school in Shrivenham was also delayed for various reasons, primarily funding, but it is now anticipated to be built and ready for occupation by September 2023

**Update.** Townsend Road – documents requested from developer but not provided.

90 properties to the rear of the Bovis development have been refused.

Townsend Road – proposal for 64 bed care home has been called in.

**Waste & Recycling** – Once again the Vale is amongst the top 10 UK Local authorities for recycling. There was an issue last August when the garden waste service was suspended. The lack of service led to Simon as Leader of the Opposition at the Vale, to call an Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 21 September. A number of public speakers addressed the Council expressing their concerns. Following the lengthy debate, it was confirmed that the service would re-commence on 27 September. Without Simon's intervention the lack of service would probably have continued.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – The new scheme was launched in November 2021. Officers will enforce the majority of restrictions where traffic orders and regularity signs and lines are in place. Problems such as pavement parking are not enforceable unless there are formal restrictions. Initially the focus will be on the three towns of Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon. The scheme is operated by the County Council on behalf of the Vale.

**EV Charging Points** – Charging points are being installed in three Vale Car Parks – Abingdon, Wantage and Faringdon. Each car park will have twelve charging points. These are primarily for use by those who do not have access to home charging.

**Update.** The global microchip shortage needed for the meters means the EV charging points cannot be used yet.

**Budget and Changes to Car Parking** – At the February Council meeting the budget was submitted for approval. An amendment was proposed by the Opposition which would increase the Community Climate Action fund from £50,000 to £125,000, reduce office accommodation costs on vacating Milton Park by utilising Council owned property to save rental costs and to freeze Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. The amendment was put to a vote and was lost. The budget as presented was approved.

Included in the budget was the proposal to reduce the two hours free parking to 1 hour from 4 April in all car parks except Southampton Street in Faringdon which would retain the 2

hours. This was because it would assist with attracting people into the town centre. Additional charges were also included so that if for example you want to use Gloucester Street carpark in Faringdon for two hours you would have one hour free and the second would cost £1.50.

**White horse lottery** – The lottery was launched on 14 June 2021 and has seen a number of good causes throughout the Vale benefit from the scheme.

**Boundary Review** – There is to be a Boundary Review for Oxfordshire. The impact on the Vale is that the instead of being included in two constituencies it will move to three. The three are: Didcot & Wantage, Oxford West and Witney. The Watchfield & Shrivenham Ward will move from Wantage & Didcot to Witney. Final recommendations will be made to Government in October 2022 with the new boundaries possibly coming into force in May 2023.

**Ukraine** – like all Councils the Vale has a responsibility to help with the refugee crisis. We are working in partnership with the County Council, other local authorities, and organisations across Oxfordshire. Working together has proved to provide the necessary support that is required. In the past the Vale has provided assistance for both Syrian and Afghan refugees and will continue to support the Governments Homes for Ukraine scheme

**Update.** Ashbury, Shrivenham, Uffington and Faringdon are linking together to join the scheme. The Chairman reported that no enquiries had been made from residents looking to provide a home.

**NEV** – The New Eastern Villages – Swindon’s Eastern expansion is beginning to create problems for local villages. The roadworks to accommodate almost 9000 dwellings, the necessary infrastructure together with the construction of Symmetry Park and the new Amazon distribution centre have created a great deal of inconvenience to all in the local area. The construction of the NEV is scheduled to take around 14 years. The impact on the A420 which is already at capacity cannot be underestimated. In addition, the regeneration of the former Honda site although not directly on the A420 will of course create additional traffic. This development is scheduled to take up to ten years. So basically, our local communities will be surrounded by construction sites for the foreseeable 14 years. Simon met with the Leader of Swindon Borough Council recently to discuss the A420 and the issues that the NEV are creating not just for the Western Vale but for the whole of the A420 to Oxford. Arrangements are in hand to hold regular meetings to ensure that Swindon recognises that what they do in the NEV has an effect on the Vale’s towns and villages.

**Policing** – We continue to work closely with the Faringdon Neighbourhood Team. However, the NAG 1 -Neighbourhood Action Group has not been able to meet due to the pandemic and not all members having access to online services. It is hoped that the NAG group will be meeting again very soon.

**Conclusion** – We continue to represent our 12 Parish communities and work tirelessly to ensure that your voices are heard. We attend a variety of meetings at the Vale and with other Councils and organisations. We work closely with our Parish Councils and make representations on their behalf when needed. Although we may not advertise what we do on a daily basis we are always available to provide assistance and advice to our residents. We are passionate about our communities and will continue to serve you all as best we can. In recent months we have held “Meet your Councillors” events. These proved to be popular, and we intend to hold more during the coming months. In the meantime, we provide monthly reports to our Parish Councils giving updates on both local and Vale wide issues.

**46/22 Questions from the Electorate. None in attendance.**

### **Meeting of the Annual Meeting of Longcot Parish Council**

#### **47/22 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.

#### **48/22 Declaration of Interest.**

Signed.

#### **49/22 Variance of business.**

With Council’s approval item update to play park was brought forward of the agenda.

#### **50/22 Declarations of interests.**

Personal interest.

Minute 66/22 i Amy Cooper knows the applicant.

**51/22 Annual Review of Councillors Register of Member's Interests.**

Councillors were reminded that, under the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors were required to set out their interests under the appropriate headings and to make amendments when appropriate. Details are held on the Vale of the White Horse District Councils website and amendment forms were available from the Clerk.

**52/22 Council Procedures, Policies and Information and Guidance Documents.**

Council noted that the Clerk had reviewed all documents. The next review date would be October 2025 unless the Clerk is informed of any updates from SLCC, NALC or OALC.

**53/22 General Power of Competence.**

Council meets the criteria for eligibility, the Clerk has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration and all members were declared elected. Council RESOLVED that from 4 May 2022 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).*

Amy Cooper joined the meeting.

**54/22 Standing Orders.**

Council noted that the SO had been reviewed and approved on 29 November 2021 (minute 214/21).

**55/22 Financial Regulations.**

Council noted that the FR's were reviewed and approved at the Council meeting on 29 November 2021 (minute 209/21).

**56/22 Register of Assets 2021/22 end of year.**

Council reviewed and approved the register of assets.

**57/22 Financial Risk Assessment 2021/22.**

Council confirmed that the RA had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on 29 November 2021 (minute 210/21).

**58/22 Subscriptions.**

Council reviewed and approved subscribing to the following: Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Oxfordshire Association of Local Council and ICO Data Protection.

**59/22 Bank signatories.**

Council approved the current bank signatories.

**COUNCIL**

**60/22 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 March 2022.**

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

**61/22 Matters arising from the minutes.**

No update on the request to reduce the speed limit on Fernham Road from 40mp to 30mph between Mallins Lane and King and Queen pub.

**62/22 Public Participation. None.**

**FINANCE**

**63/22 Payments of Accounts.**

Receipts received. Noted.

*Table 1 Receipts received.*

Power	Payments now due:	Description	Total
LGA 1982 s150	VWHDC	1 <sup>st</sup> half of precept	£3,900.00

It was resolved to authorise the payments below:

Table 2 List of payments.

Statutory Power	Payments now due:	Description	Total
EP146 LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Inland Revenue	Jan-Mar 2022 TAX	£158.00
EP147 LGA 1972 S112	T Brock	Mar salary	£210.80
EP148 LGA 1972 s111	Gallagher insurance	Mower insurance	£251.96
EP149 LGA 1972 s111	The Net Result	End of year payroll	£73.50
EP150 LGA 1972 s111	Jane Olds	Internal Audit 2021-2022	£190.00
EP151 LGA 1972 s134	Longcot Church Wardens'	Hire of room 4/5/2022	£15.00
EP 152 LGA 1972 S112	T Brock	Apr salary	£210.80

## PLAY AREA

### 64/22 Proposal to update the play park.

Louise Cooke presented a proposal to Council which included fund raising ideas, extra benches, and new play equipment. The Council approved the proposal in principle and suggested that Louise source suitable play equipment with costs and a location plan to present to Council at a future meeting. The Clerk would contact OALC for advice on receiving funding from Longcot Village Trust.

Louise Cooke left the meeting.

### 65/22 Update on other current matters.

MRH Services had informed the Clerk that the slide was not missing a step but that it had been installed too high. A wooden step with anti-slip would be made and installed.

## PLANNING

### 66/22 Submitted Planning Applications.

Council submitted the following observations in between meetings due to VWHDC time constraints.

Table 3 List of submitted planning application responses.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P22/V0592/HH	<p>The Long Bungalow, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TG  <i>Replace existing timber garage, garden shed and green house with timber framed double garage with natural slate roof. (Greenhouse already removed.)</i></p> <p><b>Object.</b>  Council objects to the proposal for the following reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No drainage plan has been submitted. 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.</li> <li>• There are insufficient plans provided. Council requests more detailed plans.</li> <li>• No information on how far from the boundary the proposed garage will be sited.</li> <li>• The footprint is larger causing concerns of potential flooding.</li> <li>• Council would question why there are windows in the roof space?</li> <li>• Council is concerned about the height of the proposed garage which is much higher than existing buildings. This raises concerns for a future change of use application for the garage to be converted into a dwelling.</li> </ul>

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council has concerns that the height of the proposed garage would impact on the streetscene.</li> </ul>

**HIGHWAYS**

**67/22 Update on any matters. None.**

**ALLOTMENTS**

**68/22 Update on any issues.**

Regular water meter readings were being submitted to Castle Water.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP**

**69/22 Update. 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.**

**70/22 Any Matters. None.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**71/22 Next meeting of the Parish Council.**

Tuesday 21 June 2022 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....Date.....2022