

**Meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Longcot Parish Council
on Thursday 9 May 2024 7pm
held in St Mary's Church Hall, Longcot**

In attendance.

Council members.

Andi Cunnigham, Chair, John Barneby, Amy Cooper, Alan Rich and Tina Brock, Clerk.
Nathan Boyd resigned from Council on Monday 6 May 2024. Council thanked Nathan for his contributions towards the running of the council and representing the parish residents.

District Councillor.

DC Katherine Foxhall

County Councillor.

None in attendance.

Visitor.

1 resident.

01/24 Apologies for Absence.

DC Viral Patel (prior commitment). This apology was received.

02/24 Report from the Chair.

Section 106 funds have been used to improve the bus stops at the top of Kings Lane on the A420. A central reservation, new path and new surface areas have been installed. Thanks, have been sent to OCC.

Funding has been applied for from the OCC Flood Risk Management to fund a full topographical survey of the area under Longcot railway bridge.

Council thanks the grass cutting volunteers which have dwindled to 1 volunteer and Gary Holcombe for his assistance in the running of the allotments.

Thanks also to the Longcot Village Trust members for assisting with the recent local elections.

03/24 Report from outside bodies.

- i. County Councillor. None in attendance.
- ii. District Councillor Katherine Foxhall and Viral Patel reported.

Introduction.

Since our election last May, it has been a privilege to begin our work representing the parishes and residents of our ward. It has been a challenge and a huge learning curve to start to understand how the council works, the organisation of the different teams, and the most appropriate ways of being effective. It has also been a joy to start to get to know the characters of our different communities and to speak up for this unique and special part of the Vale.

Local Case work.

We have worked hard to make sure that residents know who we are and how to contact us, including residents' newsletters, proactive contact through social media where residents raise issues. Thank you particularly to the disseminators of our monthly reports through your contact lists. Often residents have questions related to planning, housing, bins need to report fly tipping or want help accessing council services.

We have been working on a varied body of local case work, including:

- Poor Quality Housing and Maintenance – Katherine is supporting residents in Shrivenham to get action on inadequate maintenance, poor construction standards and environmental health issues.
- Flooding – our part of the county often feels forgotten. Officers have met Katherine on site in Buscot and Shrivenham to see flooding issues for themselves, help establish responsibility and to secure future improvements.
- Afghan Relocation and Assistance Programme – Following feedback from parish councils Viral engaged with officers and the cabinet at the Vale to improve transparency and clarity with parishes where Afghan nationals are being welcomed into local military accommodation.

There are three separate schemes in place to settle these families, with only one under the direct management of the Vale, however all schemes involve differing responsibilities across government departments, MoD, District and County councils, health, education, and police. We are very pleased to see the flow of information has improved with regular update meetings, and Watchfield and Shrivenham parish councillors are able to continue doing their excellent work in supporting these families settle into their new homes.

- Enforcement – Viral is supporting residents and parishes with enforcement issues related to listed buildings, noise and disturbance from holiday lets, and boundary disputes. Katherine has been working with officers to get a waste drainage plan resolved on a development in Shrivenham; she will continue to push for a resolution that does not allow sewage to be released into the field behind.
- Sewage Pollution – the treatment works at Shrivenham remains a huge cause of concern. Katherine has been working with Windrush Against Sewage Pollution, the Parish council, and senior officers to find ways to raise this issue and seek commitment from Thames Water to upgrade the works.
- Tuckmill Meadow – Katherine is working with Friends of Tuckmill to help the group access the S106 funds and management support that the council committed early in 2023.
- Little Coxwell Playing field – Viral has been working with officers and the Parish council to secure a long-awaited lease for the village playing field, to ensure there is certainty to any investment proposed, and to minimise costs to the parish.
- Elm Tree Surgery - We met with partners from the surgery and will continue to support local efforts in any way that we can to try and secure a new site for Elm Tree surgery.
- Planning - we continue to scrutinise planning applications, taking care to determine whether they are to the benefit of our residents, responding to resident queries and consultations to highlight and re-enforce material planning matters. Some major cases - including Wicklesham Quarry and the Steeds Farm development - are just outside the ward but nevertheless have an impact on our residents.

Greens in Opposition.

After the May 2023 elections, the political composition of Vale of White Horse made the four members of the Green group the only opposition to a Liberal Democrat group who strengthened their already large majority. In many ways Greens and Liberal Democrats do share many political values, and while we also benefit from an excellent officer team at the Vale, and the council's financial situation is significantly better than in many other authorities, our role at the Vale is to hold the Liberal Democrat group to account. Katherine was appointed Chair of Scrutiny, and this is proving a vital mechanism to hold executive decisions to account. Through council motions we have secured commitments to foreground nature recovery and to ensure that council contractors pay the Real Living Wage. We have amended Liberal Democrat motions regarding sewage pollution to make sure that the council takes responsibility for its own actions where it can. We monitor, regularly attend, and speak at Cabinet, planning, climate, and audit and governance meetings.

The Year Ahead.

As a group we will respond carefully to the development of Vale's new corporate plan (a public consultation has just started on Tuesday 16 April). We will also work to make sure that the next phases of the Joint Local Plan, as well as other strategies and policies, represent our residents' needs and priorities. We will continue to highlight issues of flooding, overdevelopment, and lack of infrastructure and to respond to major planning applications both within and outside the ward, and any other applications that are contentious in nature. Most importantly, we will work to support all our residents to be able to access council services when they need it. Please get in touch with us at any point if there are issues that we can help you with, and we look forward to working with all our parishes in the year ahead.

04/24 Questions from the electorate.

The resident asked questions during the reports for clarification.
DC Foxhall left the meeting.

Meeting of the Annual Meeting of Longcot Parish Council

43/24 Election of Chair.

Alan Rich nominated Andi Cunningham, seconded by John Barneby, and unanimously agreed.

44/24 Declaration of Office.

Andi Cunningham and Clerk signed the Declaration of Office.

45/24 Declarations of interests. None.

46/24 Public Participation. None.

47/24 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. Details are held on the Vale of the White Horse District Councils website and amendment forms are available from the Clerk.

48/24 Council, Procedures, Policies and Information and Guidance Documents.

Council noted the next review date is 25 October 2025. The Clerk checks for any amendments to the documents which would be amended and brought to Council for approval prior to the review date.

49/24 General Power of Competence.

Council approved adopting the power.

Council meets the criteria for eligibility, the Clerk has passed the Certificate in Local Council Administration, and two thirds of members were declared elected 2 May 2019.

(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 i.e. 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).

50/24 Standing Orders.

Council reviewed and approved the Standing Orders.

51/24 Financial Regulations.

Council reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations.

52/24 Register of Assets 2023/2024 end of year.

Council reviewed and approved the register.

53/24 Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit 2023/2024.

Council confirmed that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on 21 March 2024 (minute 29/24).

54/24 Risk Assessment 2023/24.

Council confirmed that a review had been carried out and approved at a meeting held on 17 May 2023 (minute 88/23).

55/24 Subscriptions.

Council reviewed and approved the following subscriptions:

- i. Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
- ii. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

56/24 Direct Debits.

Council reviewed and approved the following direct debits:

- i. Castle Water
- ii. ICO Data Protection

57/24 Bank Signatories.

Council agreed to remove Nathan Boyd as a bank signatory and approved the continuation of the current bank signatories.

COUNCIL

58/24 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 21 March 2024.

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

59/24 Matters arising from the minutes. None.

60/24 Public Participation. None.

FINANCE

61/24 Expenditure.

Council considered the quotes sourced and agreed to approve the Zurich quote.

62/24 Risk Assessment 2024/2025.

Council completed and approved the Risk Assessment 2024/2025.

63/24 Receipts received. Noted.

Table 1 List of receipts received.

Statutory Power	Receipts received	Description	Total
LGA 1982 s150	VWHDC	1 st half of precept	£4,000.00

64/24 Payments of Accounts.

Council resolved to authorise the payments below:

Table 2 List of expenditure.

Statutory Power	Payments due:	Description	Total
EP242 LGA 1972 S112	Inland Revenue	TAX Jan – Mar	£194.40
EP243 LGA 1972 S111	The Net Result	Payroll end of year	£118.00
EP244 LGA 1972 S140	Gallagher	Mower insurance	£227.40
EP245 LGA1972 s143	OALC	Subscription	£168.00
EP246 LG (misc prov) Act 1976 s19	G Brown	Tyre for mower	£65.00
EP247 LGA1972 s142	Abbey Hill Studios	Website hosting and domain name	£45.00
EP248 LGA 1972 S112	T Brock	April salary and back pay	£403.25
EP249 LGA 1972 s134	Longcot Churchwardens	Room hire	£17.00

PLANNING

65/24 Permitted Planning Applications. Noted.

Table 3 List of permitted planning applications.

Ref.	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P24/V0386/FUL	Land at Shrivenham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TN <i>Conversion of stables into a self-build C3 dwelling-Material amendment to planning application P23/V0545/FUL to revise elevations and floor plans. (Additional boundary treatment plan received 12 March 2024).</i>
ii	P24/V0097/HH	Fernley, Shrivenham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TL <i>Single storey side extension (as amended by drawing received 14/3/2024 confirming drainage details).</i>

HIGHWAYS

66/24 Update on any matters.

The kerbstones of the bridge over the river Ock are coming loose. Andi Cunningham would report this to OCC.

PLAY AREA & TRACK

67/24 Track fencing at The Dash. No matters raised.

68/24 Update on any matters. None.

ALLOTMENTS

69/24 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.

70/24 Any Matters. None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

71/24 Next meeting of the Parish Council.

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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