

**Meeting of the of Longcot Parish Council
held remotely by Zoom
on Thursday 19 November 2020 at 7pm**

Present

Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, Alan Rich, DC Elaine Ware, DC Simon Howell, CC Yvonne Constance (7.30pm), Keith Reid, Longcot Village Trust, 1 resident and Tina Brock, Clerk.

158/20 Apologies for Absence.

Amy Cooper (unwell) and Nathan Boyd (prior commitment). These apologies were received.

159/20 Variance of Order of Business.

Council approved bringing forward of the agenda items 8iii Noticeboard and 11 Flooding.

160/20 Declaration of Interest.

None.

161/20 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2020.

With a minor amendment Council resolved to approve the minutes which were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman when Council next meets in person.

162/20 Matters arising from the minutes.

None.

163/20 Public Participation.

A resident raised concerns of grass verges by the chapel and church area being damaged by parents parking during school drop off/pick up times. The Chairman would email the school and request an item in the newsletter asking parents to avoid parking on grass verges during the wet weather.

164/20 Noticeboard.

Council considered a request from Keith Reid, Longcot Village Trust (LVT) to replace the Council's noticeboard with a joint noticeboard and contribute £640 towards the replacement. Council considered the request and agreed that the noticeboard, which had been gifted to Council, was in good condition and did not need replacing. Council agreed that LVT could install a noticeboard on the Village the Chairman and Alan Rich would consult with the grass mowing volunteers and put forward a location for approval at the next Council meeting. Keith Reid asked Council to consider a request to install an aluminium can recycling facility on Council land which would generate income for the LVT. Council would consider the request at the next meeting.

165/20 Flooding.

The Chairman met with OCC, DC and Onsite to discuss the drainage system following the recent flooding issues. Onsite provided a quote to carry out a survey report of the drainage system of £650 + VAT. Council approved this expenditure for the survey and expenditure for further work would be requested from the County Councillors Priority Fund.

REPORTS

166/20 Report from County Councillor.

CC Yvonne Constance circulated a report prior to the meeting.

COVID in Oxon. Reports from the OCC Chief Executive on management of Covid has been emailed separately. A national lockdown has removed the decision from local influence/control.

The National Lockdown relieves County Council of another debate, and is raising serious challenges at last to following the secret advice of SAGE. There are alternatives presented by scientists of global standing which government is ignoring: for example the Great Barrington Declaration, initiated by Dr. Sunetra Gupta of Oxford University has been largely ignored and not made fully public. I wish you all successful outcome from this lock down and hope we'll be 'free' for Xmas and beyond?

Transport: Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE). County Council has approved the OCC proposal to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement to Cherwell, South and Vale, which is long overdue. (City and West Oxfordshire introduced CPE i2014)

I initiated this project on taking the Transport portfolio, determined to end the complaints from residents about local parking chaos which has to be enforced by the (absent) police.

OCC officers proposed an innovative scheme where OCC will deliver on-street parking for these 3 Districts, providing the funding and taking most of the financial risk, retaining all ticket revenue and penalties, and undertake ALL parking enforcement for off- street as well as on-street parking. The District Councils still have to approve this project, but we expect it to make parking enforcement effective in all the market towns (penalties on all the high streets and all the commuter parking at railway stations) if controlled by the Council and not have to wait for the police. In time I hope CPE will enable village wardens to enforce parking in the villages too.

Tranche 2 Active Travel: Government announce £2.89m for Oxon. Secretary of State for Transport has at last announced grant of £2.98 million for cycle/walking schemes in Ox City. It's £600,000 more than allocated in July so we are pleased to have convinced them that we spend wisely. Unlike other highway authorities we have not introduced pop up/temporary schemes and had to remove them. But we do not get funding for any schemes outside Oxford City (all had to replace current bus -routes) so I am pressing to spend my CPF = some of it may be needed for new speed limit on Major's Road.

Councillor Priority Fund (CPF). I remain committed to spending part of my CPF on local schemes and am pressing officers to start process of introducing new speed. Estimates must come from OCC's Mark Francis, and I hope he is back from 'shielding'? This week. The spend must be complete by end of the financial year, and other villages are waiting for my decisions on spend in each.

Planning White Paper. Governments White Paper on Planning has caused a number of concerns, not least that it was written on assumption that all Councils would be Unitary or Combined Councils. OCC has responded highlighting many issues about the planned national diktat for housing numbers; the possibility of a national replacement for S.106/CIL; distribution of receipts under such a scheme for a first-tier Council which is not the local planning authority etc. We made strong comment about loss of local input and local knowledge, and await governments response.

Devolution. We do not expect any change on the Devolution issue until after next May's election. Secretary of State Robert Jenrick has written to announce that the unitary applications already committed would go ahead (in Cumbria, Somerset and Yorkshire?) but no new ones will be considered until these are complete.

167/20 Report from District Councillor. DC Ware circulated a report prior to the meeting:

The Vale Communications Team continue to provide regular updates to all Town and Parish Councils. The majority of Vale staff are working from home and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. As previously mentioned working from home doesn't provide the same support as in the office and it would be appreciated if there is a need to contact officers please do so by Email rather than telephone.

Climate Emergency Advisory Committee. The Committee last met on 7 September and the minutes for this Committee are available on the Vale's website. The items discussed included Power Purchase Agreement and England's Economic Heartland – Transport Consultation. In addition, a specialist planning team have created a 7 page guide to planting trees for local community groups. This too can be found on the Vale's website.

Civil Parking Enforcement. This project is at an advanced stage. OCC's Cabinet has agreed to apply to Government to take over the responsibility for civil parking enforcement across the whole of the county. OCC already enforces parking in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire and this arrangement would be extended to Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and the Vale. If the plans are approved the new measures could come into force by November 2021. The Vale Scrutiny Committee will consider a report in November and make any recommendations. A final report will be presented to the Vale Cabinet in December.

Proposed changes to off-street parking in the Vale. The Vale is giving people the opportunity to have their say before a new parking policy is finalised early next year. The proposed changes: additional parking for electric vehicles, fines for parking non-electric vehicles in charging bays or leaving an electric vehicle when not charging. Details of the consultation are on the Vale's website and it closes on 19 November.

Corporate Plan. The Plan was presented to full Council on 7 October but a decision was deferred due to an administrative error. The Plan was considered by a special full Council meeting held on 22 October and approved. There are six themes and they are: Providing the

homes people need, Tackling the Climate Emergency, Building Healthy Communities, Building Stable Finances, Working in Partnership and Working in an Open and Inclusive Way.

Planning. The Government consultation – **Planning for the Future** - This consultation has caused controversy throughout the country. A copy of the Vale’s response will be forwarded to Parish Council Clerks under separate cover. A number of Parish Councils in our Ward have responded and we should like to thank them as the consultation document was lengthy and required a great deal of time and effort to complete. The three controversial planning applications mentioned in last month’s report are ongoing. There have been a significant number of new applications which are currently passing through the formal planning process.

Vale Website. The Vale’s new website is now operational. However, there are still a few inconsistencies which are currently being ironed out. Hopefully these will be resolved in the very near future.

New Council Offices. South and Vale Councils have agreed that the replacement headquarters for both Councils should be located at Didcot Gateway. A new building will be constructed on the site which is opposite Didcot Parkway Station. It is anticipated that the move could take place in spring 2023 but it is too early for a firm date.

Extra Garden Waste. During w/c 9 November residents who have signed up for the brown bin garden waste service can put out the equivalent of two bins worth of garden waste. They can put out up to three black bin bags but please no rubble or trade waste.

Swindon Borough Council- New Eastern Villages. Residents may be aware that Swindon Borough Council has lost an appeal regarding access through Symmetry Park. This decision will have an enormous impact on the New Eastern Villages as it was key to the new developments. SBC are considering whether to appeal to a higher court. In the meantime a well-known distribution company is expected to move into Symmetry Park in the near future and will have an impact on the traffic using the A420.

168/20 Update from Chairman.

None.

FINANCE

169/20 Payments of Accounts.

It was resolved to authorise the payments below:

Table 1 List of payments.

| Spending Power | Receipts received: | Description | Total |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014 | Inland Revenue | Credit | £163.00 |
| Small holdings & allotments Act 1908 | Allotment rent | Rent | £330.00 |
| LGA 1929 s115 | SSE | Wayleave | £2.00 |
| Spending Power | Payments now due: | Description | Total |
| LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014 EP88 | Inland Revenue | TAX | £150.80 |
| LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Highways Act 1980 EP89 | Henleaze Farm | Diesel for mower | £52.80 |
| LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014 EP90 | T Brock | Clerk’s Oct salary | £201.05 |
| LGA 1972 s142 | Abbey Hill Studios | Rebuild website | £300.00 |
| LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014 EP92 | T Brock | Clerk’s Nov salary | £200.85 |
| DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 | Castle Water | Allotment water - October | £3.00 |

170/20 Budget 2021/22.

Council reviewed and approved the budget 2021/22 and agreed to include a Chairmans allowance of £90 and set the precept for 2021/22 at £7,600.00.

COUNCIL

171/20 Financial Regulations.

Council reviewed and approved the Financial Regulations.

172/20 Financial Risk Assessment 2020/21.

Council completed and approved the Financial Risk Assessment 2020/21.

173/20 Register of Assets.

Council noted the Register of Assets.

174/20 Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit.

Council reviewed and approved the Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit.

PLANNING

175/20 Submitted Planning Applications.

Council resolved to submit the following observations.

Table 2 List of submitted planning application responses. .

| Ref | Planning application number | Address and proposal |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| i | P20/V2611/HH | Vale House, Kings Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7ss <i>Proposed erection of a double garage within the grounds of Vale House.</i> Response Under the terms of the Longcot Flood Plan, Council would request that a drainage plan is submitted prior to approval of the application. Council would also request that the views of the neighbours are taken into consideration. |

176/20 Permitted Planning Applications.

Table 3 List of permitted planning applications,

| Ref | Planning application number | Address and proposal |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|
| i | P20/V1935/HH | 1A Wakes Place, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TQ <i>Erection of single-storey store and car port (as amended by plans received 29/08/2020).</i> |
| ii | P20/V1984/FUL | Henleaze Farm, Fernham Road, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7PR <i>Refurbishment and extension works: refurbishment of meet the animals' barn, extension to Henleaze Barn (Tea room and commercial office accommodation), extension to Abe Gow Barn (ground and first floor).</i> |

PLAY AREA

177/20 Maintenance requests.

The Chairman would obtain a quote to replace the wooden goalposts.

HIGHWAYS

178/20 Update on any issues.

None.

ALLOTMENTS

179/20 Update on any issues.

The tap at the allotment had been repaired.

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.

180/20 Any Matters.

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

181/20 Next meeting of the Parish Council.

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed.....Date.....2020