

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th September 2021 at 7.30 pm at Longborough Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Cllrs T Howse (Chair), A Driver (Vice Chair), R Green and R Wheeler.

Also present: Cotswold District Cllr David Cunningham, Clerk to the Council, Jenny Walsh.

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Marley, McDonagh and Prior.

2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interest as it arises.

There were no declarations made.

3. Public Participation The meeting was temporarily suspended to hear representations from the public. Steve Mathers raised concerns that had been reported to him by residents of odours emanating from the drains near the playground. The Chairman responded that he was in close contact with residents on this matter and no reports of problems of odour etc., had been received over the last few months. Cllr Howse committed to make enquiries with the relevant parties and urged any enquiries on this matter to be referred to the Parish Council directly.

The meeting then resumed.

4. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the meeting held 12th July 2021 were approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the meeting held on the above date.

There were no matters to report.

6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Stowe was not present.

7. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Cunningham raised the following matters:

- i. CDC had returned from its summer recess.
- ii. Bromford Housing Association had now added the ditch at the entrance to Plum Tree Close to its regular maintenance schedule. Cllr Howse pointed out that the ditch was currently very overgrown and would need attention as soon as possible and Cllr Cunningham agreed to check on the frequency of said maintenance.
- iii. Changes to planning procedures at CDC; Ward members were no longer able to provide a final summing up on applications in their areas at Planning Committee meetings. Other changes would be outlined in detail in the near future.
- iv. The planning application for new dwellings at Upper Town House was still being validated and the consultee report from GCC Highways was still pending. A new Case Officer, Hannah Rose, had taken over the application.
- v. The Chairman raised a request for Cllr Cunningham to lend his support in the Parish Council's efforts to seek a satisfactory solution to the problems at the Waterstyles development regarding slow progress with the improvement of the open spaces on the site. Cllr Cunningham agreed to look into the Planning Conditions on the management of open spaces and landscaping and raise a report to

the Enforcement Officer. The Chairman would in due course, provide Cllr Cunningham with contact details for persons from Piper Homes and the residents committee who he had liaised with on this issue.

- vi. A reminder was given that CDC were actively seeking interested persons to register as community flood wardens for their areas.
- vii. A zero-carbon tool kit was now available from CDC which provided advice to homeowners on how to lower emissions in their homes and for climate change in general.

8. Correspondence

i. **Email request from '20 is plenty' Group**

The group had asked for support for their campaign to standardize 20mph limits in rural towns and villages in Gloucestershire. After discussion, it was agreed that the response should be that LPC support the aim to lower traffic speeds in rural areas but not withstanding that would encourage the campaign to be prepared to occasionally compromise on that aim when local conditions warranted it. Decision was carried by a majority

ii. **Consultation on proposed Airspace change in Moreton-in-Marsh.**

Councillors had previously been circulated with a consultation document on proposed testing over a three-month period in the airspace around Moreton-in-Marsh. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a comment that consideration should be made to the health and possibly other effects of the testing on livestock in the area in question.

iii. **Community grants from the Parish Council**

Letters of thanks had been sent by all recipients of community grants awarded by the Parish Council this year.

iv. **Email from a resident requesting support towards the installation of electric vehicle charging points in Longborough**

Cllr Cunningham confirmed that CDC did not install charging points per se but would encourage developers to consider doing so when appropriate.

9. Finance

i. **Payments for August and September** were approved unanimously as follows:

- August– Mrs J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
- August – HMRC- PAYE (data Protected)
- September - Mrs J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
- September - HMRC PAYE (Data Protected)

ii. **Monthly finance reports**

A bank reconciliation statement and budget tracking report to the end of August 2021 were noted.

iii. **Community grant funding from GCC**

Councillors were reminded that grant funds were being made available for new community focused projects in local parishes. The deadline for applications was December.

10. Planning Matters and Applications received

- i. **21/02575/LBC – The Old Rectory, Old Rectory Gardens** – Listed building consent sought for 4 replacement windows. No objections.
- ii. **21/02958/FUL–The Nook, Church Street.** Erection of first floor extension. No objections, but comment *'The access & parking for construction workers should take into consideration neighbours and any comments they may make. It's a property with a small access and in a location on a blind & narrow bend where parking is very limited. The grasscrete area on the memorial green should not be used as it would not withstand heavy traffic parking on it.'*
- iii. **21/03214/TPO- Garden next to 12 Old Rectory Gardens-** Various tree work. The Council would defer to the recommendations by CDC Tree Officer.

iv. **Licensing Application Decisions:** None recorded

11. Highways

i. **Highways update report**

Communications with GCC Highways was still proving to be slow and with several reminders to achieve a response to our emails. The Council was aware that the department was under pressure but it was proving to be counterproductive when the often belated replies from Highways were dismissive and unhelpful. Cllr Stowe was not present so was not able to comment, but Cllr Cunningham who was also aware of communication problems, expressed his sympathy and support where possible.

ii. **Road safety and Speedwatch project**

Cllr Driver reported that vehicle monitoring had not taken place during the summer but was now on track to resume in September and a rota for the oncoming months had been set. It was noted that the Speedwatch group should consider applying for GCC funding to support their project.

iii. **Proposed work to protect the grass verge on the Memorial green-** The Chairman reported that he was still awaiting a reply from the Highways Manager to the Council's request for advice regarding the possible installation of additional kerb stones along the memorial green. Nothing further could be progressed until a response had been received.

12. Review of Parish Plan

The Chairman confirmed that a new Housing Needs Survey was nearing completion with a view to the final document being posted online and hard copies delivered to households with the aim of a completed analysis being added to the overall Parish Plan before the New Year. The safety barrier outside the village school, that was part of the action plan for the village, had now been completed.

13. Defibrillator on High Street

It was confirmed that the defibrillator that was located in the former telephone kiosk on High Street, was purchased by the Parish Council in 2013 and a resident was continuing to submit regular online reports to the managing company to ensure that the equipment was working properly, and any replacement parts could be ordered as required. In response to a question which had been raised concerning training needs, Cllr Driver reported that professional advice had been sought and it was most important to follow the instructions on the defibrillator device and call 999 to gain expert advice in an emergency. The Council would consider also providing links on its website to useful information on using defibrillators, which residents could download if they wished.

14. Repairs and Maintenance

There were no items for report.

15. Any other Business and councillors' requests for items for consideration at future meetings

- Cllr Driver agreed to liaise with the village school regarding a visit from the Councillors before Christmas
- The Clerk would convene a pre-budget planning meeting in November.
- A list would be prepared of open spaces for grounds maintenance showing what is carried out by Hillscapes, and the GCC Highways grass verges, sign cleaning etc.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 9th November 2021.