

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 at 7.30 pm at Longborough Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Cllrs T Howse (Chair), A Driver (Vice Chair), B Prior (Vice Chair), R Green, J Marley, J McDonagh and R Wheeler.

Also present: Cotswold District Cllr David Cunningham, Clerk to the Council, Jenny Walsh. There were 3 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence** - There were no apologies for absence.
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.
 - i. **Mrs R Wright** raised questions relating to election costs (discussed under Item 8ii) and diversity policies for election of councillors. In response the Chairman confirmed that there was no casual vacancy in the Parish Council at the present time and a diversity policy for election of councillors was in place in accordance with Government guidelines.

The meeting then resumed.
4. **Approval of minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held 8th November 2021 were approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters arising from the meeting held on the above date.**
 - i. **Update from the Chairman on Waterstyles** – The Chairman reported that he remained in support of local residents of the site and Piper Homes had commenced a re-seeding programme across the open spaces at the site and would continue work when the weather conditions were more favourable in the Spring. Remedial work to repair grass verges damaged by construction traffic was still outstanding but was also being progressed until a satisfactory conclusion was achieved. Cllr Cunningham added that he would continue to maintain a dialogue with the developers regarding planning conditions relating to cracks in footpaths and tree/shrub replanting.
 - ii. **Cllr Green** confirmed that he would prepare a list of areas in need of grounds maintenance as discussed at the last meeting of the Parish Council.
6. **County Councillor's Report** - Cllr Stowe was not present.
7. **Ward Councillor's Report** - Cllr Cunningham raised the following matters:
 - i. The Case Officer for planning development at Upper Town House was still awaiting further information from the applicant's agents regarding a biodiversity report and landscaping schedule.
 - ii. CDC and GCC had proposed an increase in Council Tax from April 2022 of 2.99%.
 - iii. A decision regarding proposed delegation of election costs to local councils was yet to be determined. However, a schedule of likely costs, which would be introduced on a phased basis from 2023, suggested an indicative figure for Longborough of between £2,000 - £3,000 during an election year.
 - iv. A Review of charging policies for car parking and dog/litter bin provision in the District was underway. Both policies can be viewed on the CDC website.
 - v. North Cotswold Schools Federation had circulated a draft proposal concerning the creation of a Multi Academy Trust from their existing schools. Councillors were advised to review the consultation

document which the Clerk would forward in due course.

8. Correspondence

- i. Query from resident regarding road signs at Old Rectory Gardens– the Chairman confirmed that with regard to a mistake on the wording of a new sign at this location, this had been reported to CDC and would be rectified in due course. A damaged road sign at the same location was the responsibility of GCC Highways who had also been notified some time ago.
- ii. Delegation of Election costs by CDC to local parishes (please also see item 7v) – a consultation document would be circulated to councillors in due course.

9. Finance

- i. **Payments for December 2021 and January 2022** were approved unanimously as follows:
 - November- Community Heartbeat Trust- £364.80- repairs and servicing of defibrillator
 - December– Mrs. J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
 - December– HMRC- PAYE (data Protected)
 - LB Village Hall- £24- hire costs
 - December-Netwise-£322.48-Website management and upgrade
 - December-Tesco-£8- stationery
 - December- Hillscapes-£1,563- grass cutting to end of 2021
 - January - Mrs. J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
 - January- HMRC PAYE (Data Protected)
- ii. **Monthly finance reports**
A bank reconciliation statement, cash book and budget monitoring report to the end of December 2021 had been previously circulated; all of which were duly noted.
- iii. **Appointment of Internal Auditor**
Councillors agreed unanimously for Anthony Coombes to conduct the Council's internal audit inspection for a second year.
- iv. **Purchase of a new grit bin on Ganborough Road**
The Clerk confirmed that approval in principle had now been received from GCC Highways to the installation of a new grit bin mid-way on Ganborough Road at a cost met by the Parish Council. Council agreed unanimously to expenditure not exceeding £155 on a new grit bin. GCC would add the bin to its existing schedule for routine re-filling. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Green regarding purchase of a suitable bin via Stow Ag Ltd.

10. Planning/Licencing

- i. **Planning/Licencing Applications received**
 - **21/02068/FUL- erection of 6 new dwellings at Upper Town House, Moreton Rd-** further comments from LPC: *Longborough Parish Council acknowledges the technical note submitted by the applicant and the revised GCC Highways response to that note. Although the new technical note provides a detailed response to the initial issues raised by GCC Highways, there is nothing to address the remaining concerns and considerations raised by the council and residents alike in their previous responses. The council will therefore continue to look for specific details that address its concerns as well as those of our residents and we will continue to look for the actions requested by the Landscape and Biodiversity Officers being addressed by the developer. Jenny Walsh, Clerk to Council 20/12/2021.*
 - **20/02504/FUL- proposed new dwellings at Windy Ridge, The Crook.** Cllr Cunningham reported that a Compliance Statement had now been circulated.
- ii. **Planning Decisions - None recorded.**

11. Highways

- i. **Damage to dry stone wall on High Street** – The Chairman reported that at the request of GCC Highways, who were responsible for maintenance of the wall, two quotations had been submitted for repairs to the wall which had been damaged due to a vehicle hitting it in December 2021. The Clerk would progress this matter and report at the next meeting.
- ii. **Traffic management and Speedwatch scheme**- Cllr Driver reported that a limited number of speedwatch sessions had taken place since the last LPC meeting and these would increase as the winter subsided.
- iii. **Consideration of slow-down signage in Longborough** – Cllr Driver asked councillors to consider the purchase and installation of flashing slow-down signs in strategic locations in the village. Councillors were circulated with examples of said signage and details provided on costs, maintenance etc. The aim was to obtain a decision as to whether the Council should support such a scheme in principle. The Chairman added that key factors included consultation with the local residents, cost implications for the Precept levy, possible funding opportunities to contribute towards cost, evidence to support the need for signage, and longer-term issues such as management and maintenance. It was agreed that Cllr Driver and the Clerk would work together to carry out more research and this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

12. Repairs and Maintenance

- i. Routine servicing of the defibrillator on High Street – The Clerk confirmed that new batteries had been fitted and an annual service check had been carried out and paid for by the Parish Council.

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

- Cllr Howse asked for an item on the next agenda to consider plans to commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in March 2022 (actual date TBC).