

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 28th March 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 McDonagh and R Wheeler.

Also present: Gloucestershire County Councillor Lynden Stowe, Cotswold District Cllr David Cunningham, Clerk to the Council, Jenny Walsh. There were 4 members of the public present.

1. **Apologies for absence** - Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Marley who was unwell.
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. **Mr S Mathers** raised the following: a) thanked the Parish Council for providing an additional grit bin on Ganborough Road. b) asked about submitting a request for some small items needed by the Speed Watch volunteers. c) requested an update on drainage matters and traffic problems, both of which had been raised at the October 2021 LPC meeting. In response, the Chairman asked Mr Mathers to forward his list of items for Speed Watch to the Clerk and added that traffic measures would be discussed under Item 11 on the agenda for this meeting. The Chairman had sent a response on the drainage questions he had raised shortly after the October meeting and would forward the email again to Mr Mathers.
 - ii. **Mrs R Wright** informed the Council that she wished to organize a celebration of St Georges Day in April this year and had liaised with the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) who had provided information and suggestions for suitable activities to undertake in the village. She had also provisionally booked the village hall for this purpose. Mrs Wright was asked to submit her ideas to the Clerk who would pass the information onto Councillors for consideration.

The meeting then resumed.

4. **Approval of minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held 10th January 2022 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 the developers had organized some grass seeding and re-seeding but more was still needed in the Spring. Work to the Tarmac paths and creating a second grass verge was also pending and was being pursued.
 - ii. **Installation of new grit bin on Ganborough Road** -This had now been completed and the Chairman thanked Cllr Green for his assistance.
 - iii. **Repairs to damage on the dry-stone wall on High Street** had been carried out by Righton Walls who were thanked for the high quality of their work.
6. **County Councillor's Report** - Cllr Stowe reported on the forthcoming budget for 2022/23 which included the County Council's element of a 3% increase which would be spent on key priorities of highways, children and adult social care. The Highways Capital Works Programme included major re-surfacing projects which would be delivered by contractors Tarmac Construction. Ringway contractors held the contract for minor works. The Chairman agreed to send an update to Cllr Stowe on requests for Highways works in Longborough. Cllr Stowe informed the Council of funding opportunities for Community Road Safety Projects and also the Build Back Better scheme (up to £500 per Parish) and asked the Council to contact him if we had ideas for either of

these schemes in Longborough.

7. Ward Councillor's Report - Cllr Cunningham raised the following matters:

- i. Support for the crisis in the Ukraine -CDC were working with various charitable agencies who were providing support for those affected.
- ii. A landscape Review was being undertaken which included The Cotswolds being given National Park status.
- iii. Following a review, car parking charges were set to increase and the concessions applied during the Pandemic were being lifted including the 'free after 3pm' policy.
- iv. Election costs would be re-charged to Parish Councils on a phased basis from 2023 and Councils were being advised to adjust their annual budgets accordingly. An indicative figure for Longborough for a contested election was £1,100.
- v. An Open Portal system was being introduced by CDC to enable customers to make easy on-line payments. Further information on all of the above items, including ways to respond to matters under consultation was available on the Cotswold.gov.uk website.

8. Correspondence

- i. **Email from a resident requesting consideration of a flagpole being erected on the Memorial Green**
Mrs Wright, who had sent an email to the Council requesting consideration of the purchase and management of a flagpole and various flags was invited by the Chairman to outline her idea and reasons for suggesting the flagpole. The Chairman explained that the matter could not be resolved under 'Correspondence', but he sought the views in principle from Councillors as a starting point. Councillors were willing to ascertain local opinion on a purely informal basis and the matter would be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

9. Finance

- i. **Payments for February and March 2022** were approved unanimously as follows:
 - February– Mrs. J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
 - February– HMRC- PAYE (data Protected)
 - February- Netwise – IT and website hosting annual fees-£360
 - February-Righton Walls- repairs to wall on High Street- £359.90 (to be reimbursed)
 - February – Stow Ag – New grit bin for Ganborough Road
 - March - Mrs. J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
 - March- HMRC PAYE (Data Protected)
- ii. **Monthly finance reports**
A bank reconciliation statement, cash book and budget monitoring report to the end of February 2022 had been previously circulated; all of which were duly noted.
- iii. **National Pay Award Agreement** – A national minimum award of 1.75% backdated to April 2020 had been confirmed by NALC. A review of pay for the Clerk was deferred to private session (see Part Two, Item 1)

10. Planning/Licencing

- i. **Planning/Licencing Applications received**
 - **21/04808/FUL-** proposed single storey rear extension, **Bounty Cottage, Church Street. No objections.** Cllr Cunningham asked it was noted that LPC's request for a Construction Method Statement for this project could not be applied as this was limited to only larger building projects and not schemes for a single dwelling.
 - **21/01572/LBC-** replacement of rear ground floor kitchen window, **1 The Old Rectory. No objections.**
 - **22/00499/FUL-** Single storey kitchen extension, **Stowbridge House, Moreton Road. No objections.**

- ii. **Planning Decisions** - None recorded.

11. Highways

- i. **Traffic management and Speedwatch (SW) scheme**- Mr Steve Mathers, Co Ordinator of Longborough SW, had provided a report during public participation in connection with his question regarding traffic projects in the village. Regrettably, there had been no monitoring by SW in 2022 and the Chairman extended his help to improve the number of volunteers and suggested that advertisements to recruit more helpers could be placed in the village shop and on the Council's website.
- ii. **Consideration of slow-down signage in Longborough** – Cllr Driver reported that following the discussion held at the last LPC meeting, no firm decision had been made and that at that time, investigations by himself and the Clerk suggested that the strict criteria set down by GCC on the introduction of speed awareness and other signage in local village was such that it could prove extremely difficult for Longborough to be considered due to the existing 20mph limit. Cllr Driver added that in order to achieve any significant progress with new traffic calming measures it was essential to continue with Speed Watch to provide key statistical data to substantiate our requests. Cllr Stowe suggested that the existing rules may become more flexible and LPC should consult with him on any ideas we have so that a path forward could be forged. It was agreed that further information would be sought and the matter placed on the next agenda.

12. Repairs and Maintenance

- i. **A fallen tree** which had blocked a footpath on land adjacent to Upper Town House had now been cleared. The Chairman thanked Cllr Driver for his help in this matter. A fence near to The Pieces which had suffered damage following the recent storms in the area, had also now been repaired.
- ii. **Consideration of replacement paving slabs beneath the noticeboard on High Street** – Cllr Driver had met with a contractor to discuss the options for repairs to the paving stones and a quotation of £517 had been received. Council agreed unanimously to approve the work to go ahead with a 50/50 split on the costs between the Parish Council and Longborough Village Hall.

13. Commemoration plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – June 2022

The Chairman reported that a working group comprising residents and some Parish Councillors had been established and outlined a four-day programme of events commencing Thursday 2nd June concluding Sunday 5th June with a church service of thanksgiving. A full programme would be published and advertised around the village in due course. Funding had already been provided from private donors but additional monies to pay for food etc. would be placed before the Council at the next meeting.

14. Any other Business and councillor's requests for items for consideration at the next meeting

- i. Cllr Green asked for consideration of extending the existing contract for grass and grounds to include some other areas which were currently being carried out by private residents. Cllr Green would provide pictures of said areas to the Clerk so that she could forward these to Hillscapes to obtain a quotation.
- ii. Cllr Wheeler asked if there had been any damage to the pipes in the Ashwell. Cllr Howse reported that he did not think there was a problem. He would continue to monitor the area however, and report if there were any concerns in the future.
- iii. The Clerk reported that the annual playground inspection was due to be conducted by RoSPA in April. Cllrs Driver and Howse would look at the quotations given by a contractor last year which were deferred pending the next inspection and report accordingly.

PART TWO

(Confidential session)

Council resolved unanimously to move into private session for discussion of appraisal/review of the Parish Clerk

The public and the Clerk left the meeting.

Item PT1 Council agreed unanimously to award 2.5% increase in Clerk's pay with effect from 1st April 2022 in addition to the statutory National award that was notified in February 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 9th May 2022. Annual meeting to commence at 7pm followed by Ordinary meeting immediately afterwards.

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