

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.30 pm at Longborough Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Cllrs T Howse (Chair), A Driver (Vice Chair), B Prior (Vice Chair), R Green, F Regan, R Eddolls and M Huttunen.

Also present: District Councillor David Cunningham, Clerk to the Council, Jenny Walsh. There were 2 members of the public present.

The Chairman congratulated all Councillors for their success in the local elections and welcomed Cllrs Regan, Eddolls and Huttunen to the Council for the first time. Sincere thanks were also extended to former Councillors Joe Mc Donagh, Jan Marley and Roy Wheeler for all their hard work and support over the years they had served on the Parish Council.

1. **Apologies for absence** – All Councillors were present.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - There were no declarations made.
3. **Public Participation** The meeting was temporarily suspended to hear representations from the public.
 - i. There were no requests by the public to speak.

The meeting then resumed.

4. **Approval of minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held 13th March 2023 were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters arising from the meeting held on the above date.**
 - i. All items were included on the agenda.
6. **County Councillor's Report** - Cllr Stowe was unable to attend.
7. **Ward Councillor's Report** - Cllr Cunningham was congratulated for his re-election to the District Council at the local elections and the Parish Council looked forward to continuing to work with him. Cllr Cunningham explained that due to the recent local elections, the District Council had been in purdah therefore the only item for report was that CDC had commissioned a Survey of Housing Stock for the District.

8. Correspondence

- i. **Letter from Neighbourhood Watch Association**

The Chairman reported that a vacancy had arisen within the Association for the position of Volunteer Co Ordinator for Longborough. The Parish Council would publish details of the vacancy so that any interested parties could find out more.

9. Finance

- i. **Approval of the draft final accounts for financial year 2022/23**

The accounts were approved unanimously as follows: Annual Statement of Governance; Internal Auditor's report (nil return on points for action); Exemption Certificate for small authority; draft final accounts and explanations. Following a question by Cllr Green regarding the item of a telephone box on

the Asset Register, the Clerk explained that the item had been purchased from British Telecom for £1 in a nationwide sale some years ago. It was currently used to house a defibrillator unit.

ii. **Insurance for 2023/4**

The Clerk reported that there had been no claims made in the last year and the figure for renewal as part of a 3 year agreement for the Council's insurance was £495. 25. Renewal was agreed unanimously.

iii. **Payments for April and May 2023**

- April Mrs J Walsh Salary and expenses (DP)
- April HMRC PAYE (DP)
- April GAPTC Annual subscription - £140.71
- April SLCC Annual subscription- £112
- April A Coombes Audit fees - £96.70
- May Mrs J Walsh Salary and expenses (DP)
- May HMRC PAYE (DP)
- May RoSPA Playground inspection - £140.40

The above payments were approved unanimously.

- iv. **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)- allocation of funding for 2 projects in Longborough-**The Clerk reported that a total of £1,670 had been received for developments at Windy Ridge and The Old Stables. Cllrs agreed to consider using the money to: a) carry repairs and possibly provide new play facilities; b) re-painting and bulb-planting around the white gates located around the village and c) erect new signage on the white gates as *'welcome to Longborough -please drive carefully'*. Whilst considering children's amenities in Longborough, it was reported that Cllr Stowe may be able to provide funding from a GCC grant scheme for children's projects. Council agreed to look into all the suggestions and this matter would be included on the next agenda.

10. Planning/Licencing

- i. **Planning/Licencing Applications received- 23/00657/FUL- Barn Cottage, High St,** Erection of single storey rear extension and replace Velux window with Dormer. **No objections. 23/00865/FUL – Ashwell House, High St –** Extension to studio to form garden room. **No objections.** This application had now been permitted. **23/00983/LBC – Lockett Cottage, High St –** Replace single glazing n 2 mullion windows and 4 other mullion windows. **Council would concur with the recommendations of CDC Conservation Officer. 23/00870/FUL – Milverton, Old Rectory Gardens -**erection of single storey front extension, detached garage and additional balcony elevation to side. **Council objected to the application in its present form** (details previously circulated). .It was noted that this application had now been withdrawn. **Update on 21/02068/FUL – Upper Town House-** It was noted that the Highways Development Officer had produced a report which could be viewed online but there were still outstanding matters regarding biodiversity and other Highways considerations, therefore the application would not be progressed until all information was made available to the Planning Department.
- ii. **Planning Decisions - See Ashwell House (above).**

11. Highways

- i. **Work to extend kerbing at The Ashwell and Memorial green** The Chairman confirmed that all the work to both areas had been completed and extended thanks to Cllr Stowe and GCC Highways for their assistance in this matter. Re-seeding if needed on the green would be considered by the Parish Council.
- ii. **Spring Clean-up and litter pick–** The Chairman thanked everyone for their help in getting involved in the Spring clean up and litter pick for the village carried out on 16th April. Thanks were also given to CDC Area Office in Moreton for their kind donation of extra litter grabbers and other tools which assisted in the clean-up. This project would now become a regular annual event on the Council calendar.
- iii. **Speedwatch Project –** Regrettably, the Clerk was still waiting for replies from Cllr Stowe to the Council's queries regarding funding from the Speedwatch grant. Further reminders would be sent.
- iv. **Flooding at Lime Cottage –** The Chairman reported that investigative work had now been carried out by GCC and the Parish Council would continue to monitor this matter.

- v. **50mph signs on main road**- The signs were barely legible now, despite frequent requests. It was agreed that the Council should re-introduce the Highways log which had previously been used with GCC to track progress with outstanding Highways issues.

12. Repairs and Maintenance

- i. **Annual inspection report on playground** – Cllr Driver reported that a useful meeting with the RoSPA Inspector had been held last month and Cllr Driver agreed to obtain an updated quote from Creative Play Ltd, for the repairs needed to the multi-play unit on the field. Reference to additional facilities and repairs to the table were also considered under Item 9:iv.
- ii. **Grass cutting and maintenance** -Cllr Green reported that he and Cllr Driver had met with the new contractor and grass cutting had satisfactorily commenced. Discussion with the contractor would be held as to when was the best time to cut back the hedge at the back of the village school.

13. Local elections May 2023

The Chairman again welcomed the newly elected Councillors to the Parish Council.

14. Report from Local Government Boundary Commission regarding a Review

Cllr Cunningham explained the purpose of the Review which could be viewed on the CDC website. The Review would conclude on 5th June.

15. Celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III

The Chairman thanked Longborough Cricket Club and all the other people who had worked hard to make the Coronation celebrations such a success and it was agreed that ‘the big lunch’ should become an annual event in the village.

16. Urgent Business

- i. A ‘meet your Councillor’ informal teatime gathering at the village hall was proposed by Cllr Prior and seconded by Cllr Howse. It was agreed that a suitable date in July should be sought for the event that would not be a formal Council meeting but an opportunity for local residents to meet with their Councillors in a convivial setting.

17. Any other Business and councillors’ requests for items for consideration at the next meeting

- Play facilities for older children (Cllr Regan)
- A dog waste bin for The Crook (Cllr Driver)

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The next meeting of the Council will be held on 10th July 2023