

**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30 pm** at Longborough Village Hall.

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

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

1. **Apologies for absence –** There were no apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interest –** There were no declarations made.
3. **Public Participation** The meeting was suspended to hear the following comments:

* A resident who had assisted with the 2023 litter pick offered suggestions for planning of this year’s clean up and was thanked by the Chairman for his kind offer of help with the task. Attention was also drawn to a local petition regarding the proposed new housing schemes in Moreton-in-Marsh that were detailed in the Local Plan consultation document.
* A resident wished to raise the matter of traffic-calming and stated that the Police had advised the Speedwatch volunteers not to use Ganborough Hill for monitoring for health and safety reasons. The resident had been cutting the grass verge on Ganborough Rd outside his property but asked if the Parish Council could pick up the work as he was soon to leave the village. He also raised a request that illuminated signage should be purchased by the Parish Council and expressed concerns that additional housing in Moreton would make the traffic problems worse. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council would maintain its position in supporting the Speed Watch initiative and traffic calming in Longborough and that a further update would be provided in item 11i on the agenda.

The meeting then resumed.

1. **Approval of minutes -** Minutes of the meeting held 8th January 2024 were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters arising from the meeting held on the above date.**
3. **Consideration of a new noticeboard outside the village school**- The Chairman reported that he had obtained several quotes for noticeboards which he would circulate to Councillors, but all were cost prohibitive. It was therefore suggested that the Council may have to look at local support to provide a cheaper alternative to purchasing from a commercial supplier. Cllr Stowe responded that he may be able to assist in a financial contribution towards a new noticeboard and the Clerk agreed to make a formal request to apply for this in due course.
4. **Quarry House- damage to grass verge adjacent to entrance** -It was noted that the developers had responded very positively to the Council’s concerns and had already undertaken work to rectify some of the damage to the verges. However, more work would be needed and the Council would maintain liaison with all parties to achieve a satisfactory solution.
5. **County Councillor’s Report -** Cllr Stowe reported that Council Tax would rise by 4.99% from April and asked for the Parish Council to notify him of any Highways work they would like to be carried out in 2024/5. It was noted that repairs to drainage on Church Road had already been flagged up and would be included on the schedules.

Regarding Speed Watch, GCC were seeking a new officer for the post of Co Ordinator due to the resignation of the current holder of the role. Cllr Stowe envisaged some further delays with progress on the funding allocation for the Speed Watch grant system during the transition but in the meantime, a Traffic Monitoring Survey would be carried out for Longborough in the near future and the Parish Council notified as soon as a date for the survey was known and locations where the monitoring devices would be positioned. The results would be compared with the previous data held for the village and this information would also be shared with the Parish Council.   
  
Cllr Howse asked a question regarding the published GCC budget proposals which included £500k for road safety as to how this money would be spent. Cllr Stowe responded that it would be ring-fenced for schemes around the County that were similar to those requested by Longborough for traffic calming signs and other safety items.

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report -** Cllr Cunningham reported on the following:

* The Planning Enforcement Team were undergoing some delays during staff changes and the ‘call-in’ process had been revised so that a 28 day cut off was required for requests to refer an application to the Planning Committee
* Details of other increases on refuse/recycling facilities and car parking charges were outlined
* A list of grants from the Cotswold District Rural England Prosperity Fund and the Village Halls Small Grants Fund was given
* A reminder was issued regarding the ID requirements for the up-coming local elections
* Dates for public meetings on Flooding and River Pollution were provided
* Cllr Cunningham urged as many people as possible to read and comment on the proposed updates to the Cotswold District Local Plan – the consultation had been extended till 7th April 2024.

1. **Correspondence**
2. All items had been included on the agenda.
3. **Finance**
4. **Budget monitoring and bank reconciliation reports for January and February 2024** – The reports had been previously circulated and duly noted.
5. **Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2023/4 accounts** – It was agreed unanimously that Mr Coombes be appointed as Auditor for the Council for a further 12 months.
6. **Approval of payments for February and March 2024-** the following items were approved unanimously:

February

* Mrs J Walsh- Salary and expenses – (DP)
* HMRC- PAYE- (DP)
* Righton Walls- repairs to pavement on High St (to be reimbursed by GCC)- £500
* Community Heartbeat- maintenance on defibrillator- £56.34

March 2024

* Mrs J Walsh – Salary and expenses – (DP)
* HMRC- PAYE- (DP)
* Longborough village hall- rent- £10.00

1. **Quotation for grounds and grass contract for 2024-** It was agreed unanimously to a contract with CT Landscapes for the 2024/5 season in line with the Council’s approved budget plan. Cllrs Driver and Green agreed to contact CT Landscapes with a view to obtaining a quotation for some additional work to include repairs to surface on the Waterstyles footpath and report back to Council.
2. **Planning/Licensing**
   1. **Planning/Licensing Applications received:**
3. **23/02486/FUL Licensing Applications received**

* **23/03677/FUL- Frogmore Farm-**Retrospective change of use from agricultural to B2/B8 and stationing of a shipping container. The Parish Council asked that comments made by local residents be taken into consideration.
* **23/03844/FUL- Frogmore farmhouse-** Retrospectivechange of use of land/buildings for equestrian farm diversification project. The Parish Council asked that comments made by local residents be taken into consideration. Extra comment submitted: Further to the general comments we have already submitted, in the light of the report from GCC Highways, we wish to record that we concur with the views expressed in that report and Object to the application for the reasons set out in the Highways statement. **This application has since been withdrawn.**
* **23/03845/FUL- Frogmore Farmhouse –** Part retrospectivechange of use of agricultural land for the provision of 10 additional storage containers for commercial purposes. Council would request that vehicles accessing the above facilities should be directed via the A429 and not encouraged to travel via Longborough village. Further comment submitted: Further to the general comments we have already submitted, in the light of the report from GCC Highways, we wish to record that we concur with the views expressed in that report and Object to the application for the reasons set out in the Highways statement.
* **23/03957/FUL- Luckley Farmhouse-** Change of use from antique furniture restoration and storage to Wedding venue (sui generis). Council request that vehicles accessing the above facilities should be directed via the A429 and not encouraged to travel via Longborough village. **This application has since been withdrawn.**
* **240080/LBC–Luckley Farm Tithe Barn-** Change of use of a Listed building to a wedding venue (see above for comment from the Parish Council. The Parish Council will concur with the recommendations of CDC Conservation Officer. **This application has since been withdrawn.**
* **24/00104/TCONR- Amberley, Moreton Rd –** Work to reduce size by 30% of a walnut tree. The Parish Council would concur with the recommendations of CDC Tree Officer.
* **23/03756/FUL-23/03756/FUL- Milverton, Longborough –** detached single garage and associated works. Additional comment submitted by LPC – Further to our earlier request for more detailed information on this application, we have now seen the email response from the applicant’s agents.  We do not feel that the response provides adequate information and in the light of the report from GCC Highways, and comments from local residents, we object to the application in its present form.There was no further information or update on this application at the time of meeting.
* **24/00689/TCONR- Cut back trees between Gable Cottage and Lower Farm House, Church St –** The Parish Council would concur with the recommendation of CDC Tree Officer.
* **24/00387/FUL-Quarry House, Ganborough Rd-** erection of yoga hut and hide pods. TBA.

1. **Planning Decisions –** None recorded.
2. **21/02068/FUL-New dwellings at Upper Town** **House** – Cllr Howse reported that meetings on a separate basis with the developers site manager and residents had been held and a planned meeting with the developers MD was forthcoming. Cllr Howse gave an undertaking on behalf of the Parish Council to liaise with all parties so communications were maintained and any issues or questions that may arise could be identified and resolved. CDC Planning Department had notified the Council of the proposed name for the new development as ‘The Cider Mill’. Councillors had no objection to the proposal. As part of the Construction Management Plan, that had been published online, some residents had objected to the suggested start times for work on site as they felt they were too early. Cllr Howse was negotiating a later start time of 8am weekdays and 8.30am on Saturday.
3. **Highways**
4. **Update on Speedwatch project –** See item 6 above.
5. **Roadworks Update**– Emergency closure of the Bourton on the Hill Road due to repairs following an accident had caused some increased traffic through the village.
6. **Repairs and Maintenance**
7. **Maintenance at Waterstyles footpath-** a quotation would be sought for reinstatement of the pathway which had become waterlogged.
8. **Update on Community Working Party for village enhancements and improvements -Community Infrastructure Funding (CIL)**

Cllr Howse was progressing with the establishment of a working group and clarification of the full amount due in connection with Upper Town House was pending with CDC.

1. **Events diary**
2. **D Day commemorations 6th June 2024 –** Beacons would be lit across the County, to include Longborough on Thursday 6th June 2024.
3. **Village Spring litter pick –** Proposed date for this event was agreed as 11am Sunday 24th March. Cllrs Regan and Driver agreed to work together on the event and notices would be posted online and in the village shop.
4. **Annual village community celebration-** It was agreed that a community get-together on similar lines to the event held in 2023 could be organised with a provisional date of 23rd June, at the cricket club.
5. **Any other Business and Councillors’ requests for items for consideration at the next meeting**
6. In response to a query regarding a website that was displaying a defibrillator as being located at Longborough village school, Cllr Regan had confirmed that this was not the case and the Clerk agreed to contact the website publishers to have the entry amended to the correct location situated inside the former telephone kiosk on High Street.
7. In response to a resident’s complaint regarding creosote smells at Stow Ag, Cllr Green agreed to raise this again with the management of the store.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**The next meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 13th May 2024. *(****Annual Meeting at 7pm followed by Ordinary meeting immediately after the Annual Meeting as above.)*