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**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.30 pm** at Longborough Village Hall.

**Councillors Present:** Cllrs T Howse, (Chair) A Driver (Vice Chair), R Eddolls, F Regan

& M Huttunen.

**Also present:** District Councillor David Cunningham & Clerk to the Council, Jenny Walsh.

There were 3 members of the public present.

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# **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Lynden Stowe and Parish Councillors Green and Prior.

# **Decs of interest**

There were no declarations made.

# **Public Participation**

1. Two residents raised separate questions regarding the development at Upper Town House. Health and safety concerns regarding flooding on the pathway outside the entrance to the site on the right hand side which was icy during the recent cold weather; and the outcome for the decision on permanency for the Tree Preservation Order on the trees around the site, which would be debated at CDC Planning Committee on 15th January. The Chairman would seek advice as to the source of the water flow and whether the problem pre-dated the development work that was being undertaken. Cllr Cunningham would be attending the CDC meeting regarding the tree issue and would report back accordingly.

The meeting then resumed.

# **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the last meeting held 11th November 2024 were approved unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.

# **Matters arising from the last meeting**

All matters were included in the agenda.

# **County Councillors report**

Cllr Stowe was not present at the meeting.

# **Ward Councillor’s report**

Cllr Cunningham reported on the following matters:

1. Adult education courses to increase awareness and improve IT skills were being offered to residents.
2. Public consultation on the proposed District Council budget for 2025/6 was underway.
3. Gloucestershire County Elections, which were due to be held in 2025, had been postponed pending confirmation of devolution proposals to create a Unitary Authority.

# **Correspondence**

1. **The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from a local resident** of Orchard Rise who stated that several residents whose properties backed onto the private open space and public footpath near area The Pieces, were concerned about overhanging vegetation. The Chairman agreed to speak with the owner of the private land and see if the matter could be resolved amicably.

# **Finance**

# **Finance reports for November and December 2024** – The reports were received and duly noted.

# **Approval of bank reconciliation to bank statement***.* In accordance with the Council’s revised Financial Regulations, Cllr Regan carried out a manual check of the account reconciliation with the bank statement to end of December 2024. The documents were approved as accurate and duly authorised.

# **Payments for December 2024 and January 2025** – The following payments were approved: December Mrs J Walsh – salary (DP) HMRC – PAYE (DP) MDH Forestry- Xmas tree - £120.00

Stationery– £10.25

# January 2025 Mrs J Walsh – salary – (DP) HMRC- PAYE – (DP)

Netwise – Hosting fees – website - £396.00

*CT Landscapes – grass and grounds contract final payment for year - £558.00 (estimate only)*

# **Planning**

# **Planning applications received**

**24/03647/FUL -Larch Hill, Ganborough** – Demolition of dwelling and garage; erection of self-build dwelling in new position with associated works. General Comments from the Parish Council: i) The application involved demolition and therefore the Parish Council would look for a commitment from the developers to reuse/recycle/dispose responsibly of existing materials. ii) Construction access to site will be from main carriageway which will no doubt suffer some damage (as per neighbouring Quarry House) so the Parish Council would look for commitments to repair/maintain any damage to the footpath and grassland on the site entrance which is used for construction traffic. iii) The application states that the biodiversity net gain rules do not apply to it because of its footprint being only 0.49 hectares. The threshold for this policy to be applicable is 0.50 hectares and given that the margin is so narrow in this case, the developers should consider biodiversity on the site.

**24/03747/TCONR** – **St James Church, Longborough** – Tree work to various species to permit grounds maintenance. No comments from the Parish Council.

1. **Planning Decisions**

**23/02796/FUL – Land south east of The Old Rectory, Old Rectory Gardens** -erection of an eco-dwelling – Decision on Appeal – Dismissed. Full details of the Decision were available on CDC planning website.

1. **Other Planning matters – 23/02068/FUL – New dwellings at Upper Town House** – Further to the matters raised under Public Participation, the Chairman agreed to re-visit the plans on file for the entrance to the development to ensure that compliance to the planning conditions was being observed.

# **Highways**

# **Speed watch project**- Cllr Howse would be organising a new year’s rota in the near future, but added he was looking for someone to temporarily manage the project from April to July as he was away during that time. It was hoped that another Parish Councillor would take on the role during the interim.

# **Roadworks update – gritting for the village –** Thanks were extended to Cllrs Driver and Howse, for checking the salt supplies for the village were all in place. Council agreed unanimously to the purchase of a replacement green grit bin outside the village pub at an approximate cost of £130 excluding VAT.

1. **Public Rights of Way (PROW) – update on working party of volunteers -** The Chairman reported that the original deadline for submissions on the above matter had been withdrawn. The Clerk would add the item to an agenda later in the year for re-consideration.

# **Repairs and Maintenance**

# **Grounds maintenance and grass cutting** – The Clerk reported that she had received one quotation for the grounds contract work. Cllr Driver would co ordinate up to two additional quotes for comparison at the March meeting of the Council.

* 1. **Defibrillator** – The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a response from Community Heartbeat Trust on details around the contract and supply of a new defibrillator for the telephone box on High Street. A temporary loan unit from CHT was in the meantime working well. The purchase would be finalised before the end of the current financial year.

# **Community Infrastructure Levy – update on progress with project proposals**

This matter would be discussed again at the next LPC meeting.

# **Events Calendar 2025**

Council would progress with plans regarding commemoration of the VE and VJ anniversaries in May/June 2025.

1. **Proxy voting and online meetings consultation with Government**

The Clerk reported that in accordance with the Council’s agreement made in December 2024, she had submitted a letter to the MP expressing our support for the proposed changes to Proxy voting and Online meetings and in addition, had expressed a similar wish using the online consultation document which had been circulated by GAPTC last year.

1. **Any Other Business**

Cllr Regan reported that a traffic safety mirror that was on private land had been damaged. The matter would be investigated and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

**The next meeting will be on Monday 10th March 2025.**