

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 11th OCTOBER 2021 IN THE VILAGE HALL

Present:
Cllr Sophie Walters - Chairman
Cllr Angie Filippa (AF) – Vice Chair
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)
Cllr Alice Foster (AFo)

In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor for 30 minutes, David Hall (DH) Governor of Test Valley School, and 3 local residents

1. **Apologies:** David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor, for early departure due to other PC commitments, Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor due to health issues, and Tony Wilden (TWi) Head Teacher at Test Valley School, due to work commitments.

2. **Minutes of PC Meeting of 13th September.**

The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and were signed by SW.

n.b. At this point SW invited DD to present his HCC report in view of his early departure. The notes on this issue are included below under Item 6.i HCC.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21560535** – Road Drainage problems at The Grange. With HCC relevant dept. No further news. **ACTION:** MF/AFo to monitor
 - **21562764** – Road signs and markings at Bottom Road. DD has chased HCC for action. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21584142** – Pothole and blocked drain at Suicide Corner. Pending HCC. SW asked DB to improve water runoff at the corner. **ACTION:** MF to monitor/DB
 - **24214172 HCC Mowing Damage** – DD has chased HCC. See also Item 6.e Environment below. **ACTION:** MF/DB
- **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – DD has pressed HCC Highways, but no progress on extending 30 mph. HCC will improve visibility of existing 30 mph signage. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
- **Village Litter Pick** – Dates for Test Valley School involvement have had to change. AFo will follow up with TWi. **ACTION:** AFo/TWi
- **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – Pending feedback from TVBC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
- **Model Publication Scheme** – MF has submitted new updated draft to SW for review. **ACTION:** SW/MF
- **TVBC Tree-Planting** – MF advised that the oak tree will be delivered on Thursday 21st Oct. DB will take delivery pending a final decision on the location for the tree to be planted. Options include the Recreation Ground, the Cemetery, and the dual carriageway as part of a potential “rewilding” scheme. To be reviewed at November PC meeting. **ACTION:** DB for tree/MF for November meeting

- **Sgt Thomas Adams** – an article has been included in the latest newsletter, and CG is investigating PC Minutes in HCC archives. **ACTION: CG**

4. **Planning Applications.**

- Westgate – Tree works. Following site visit PC Support ratified unanimously. **ACTION: MF**
- Church Farm – Barn demolition and replacement. Following site visit PC Support unanimously ratified. **ACTION: MF**
- Land adjacent to Upper Manor Farm – new 5-bed house. SW confirmed DPI and did not participate in process. Following site visit PC Objection unanimously ratified. **ACTION: MF**
- Sindle Cottage – Flue, chimney, dormer window, thatch and damp proof. Following site visit PC Support unanimously agreed. **ACTION: MF**

5. **Finance.**

- PC Insurance Renewal – MF advised that he had contacted BHIB for an alternative quote, but that there had not been enough time to quote before the 31st October renewal date. MF has diarised to contact BHIB in good time next year. The current brokers Came & Co agreed to waive the admin fee, and so the renewal premium was reduced to £909.88, a 20.2% reduction on last year's premium. Unanimous PC agreement to the renewal. **ACTION: MF**
- Half year internal audit and bank reconciliation - MF confirmed that the 30.9.21 bank reconciliation and the internal audit with auditor Patrick Coates will be actioned once the relevant bank statements are received. **ACTION: MF**
- PC Budget process 2022/23 – MF will prepare a 2021/22 projected outcome and a 2022/23 draft budget for the November PC meeting. PC members are asked to confirm potential 2022/23 costs/projects to be included in budget. **ACTION: MF/All**
- PC unanimously approved a further £100 donation to Royal British Legion to cover the PC Remembrance Service wreath. **ACTION: MF**
- AF advised that we are still awaiting advice on whether the £14.39 monthly Zoom Pro subscription can be applied to the NHP Grant, as the NHP SG is now the principal user of this service. **ACTION: AF**
- MF advised that the PC has received a £250 donation from the Village Fete committee in recognition of the PC maintenance costs at the Recreation Ground.

6. **Councillors' Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)

- AF advised that John Lewis Partnership has now formally withdrawn their support for the development of 12 affordable homes on the Church Lane plot.
 - JLP have cited “not insignificant opposition to the development” as the reason for their withdrawal.
 - PC members commented that there had been strong community support for the plans at public event in July, while members of the public reiterated concerns about traffic volumes at the junction of Church Road.
 - One resident of Church Road stated that none of them were against the development per se, it was just the size and that six dwellings would be acceptable.
 - SW confirmed that discussions are ongoing about alternative sites and projects
- NHP – AF advised that the public engagement event is now planned for 7th December, to coincide with the Henry Smith lunch. **ACTION: AF**

b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).

- IG confirmed that the allotments have had an excellent year
- Re Cemetery – MF advised:
 - The ashes of Mrs Duncan will be placed in her husband’s grave on 23rd November
 - Following the query received from a grand-daughter of Sir Medford (Michael) Watkins, MF advised that JLP Heritage Dept confirmed that he had been Spedan Lewis’s deputy until his sudden death in 1950. **ACTION:** MF
 - MF advised that local resident Rupert Compton has died.
- Trees - NTR
 - c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
 - Footpaths - Wonky Footpath signs require replacing at 3W, 6N, 9E. CG to inform HCC Countryside Services. **ACTION:** CG
 - CG met Peter Reid. He agreed to dig out the entrance to Footpath 6N so the gate can be opened.
 - Lengthsman – October – Strim, cut back intrusive growth and tidy up area around the Bunny bench. Also to dig out all drainage grips on verges between Southside Cottages and Bottom Road on the East side of the road to allow surface water to drain.
 - November - Litter pick on roads, verges and banks; Clean dirt, verdigris, spiders webs etc from inside and outside 4 noticeboards
 - d. Test Valley School and Website. (AFo).
 - TVS – DH advised that a significant number of staff and pupils are currently absent with Covid.
 - The Open Events for the 2022 new intake have been very successful, with 135 families attending
 - AFo advised that a formal presentation has been made about the retention of the swimming pool with the involvement of a swimming school. Further details will be provided to allow the Governors to make a final decision.
 - The PC unanimously agreed to make a £100 donation to the PTA for the new mural. **ACTION:** MF/AFo
 - The PC unanimously agreed to provide a trophy for the school’s prize-giving evenings. TVS will advise on the “designation” of the trophy. **ACTION:** DH/AFo
 - SW reminded DH that the school’s headed notepaper should indicate its location in Longstock. **ACTION:** DH
 - Website – AFo advised that Longstock Neighbourhood Facebook Group is active and growing, and will include a link to the Newsletter. **ACTION:** AFo
 - e. Environment (DB).
 - DB attended a remote Climate Action conference organized by Winchester City Council and Sustainable Energy from Bristol
 - Should PC follow other local councils and declare a “climate crisis”? DB will investigate the consequences and advise. **ACTION:** DB
 - AF confirmed that climate issues are included in the NHP
 - DB highlighted the importance of the PC taking “green issues” into account when making decisions.
 - Should EV charging points be installed at the Village Hall? Funding may be available.
 - DB will circulate conference information once it is received. **ACTION:** DB
 - Re dual-carriageway – DB will be meeting with TVBC to consider possible solutions.
 - DB will also review wildflower funding opportunities from Plant Life and

Woodland Trust. **ACTION:** DB

f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).

- SM advised that graphite insulation has been installed at the VH, which has improved the EP category from E to D.
- SM will investigate with the installers the cost of cleaning the streetlights. **ACTION:** SM

g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)

- SW confirmed that a working party met at the Recreation Ground to undertake repair work and expressed particular thanks to Angie and Rich Filippa for their efforts. We await details of the cost of the materials used for refund. **ACTION:** AF
 - AFo will circulate to the young families in the village a request for volunteers to join the rota to check the playground equipment. **ACTION:** AFo
- Re HS – SW advised that the HS Lunch is scheduled for 7th December.
 - SW confirmed that several donations have been made to residents, and reminded to PC to advise of anyone in Longstock in need of financial support. The HS fund currently has more than £3k available. **ACTION:** All.

h. Leckford Estate. (CM). – Not present

i. HCC. (DD)

- The HCC report had been distributed in advance. DD highlighted several issues, including increased recycling capacity, UK Youth Parliament opportunities, and honours for retired HCC Councillors.
 - Councillors also discussed the possibility of painting a “virtual walkway” though the village to improve pedestrian safety. DD will check whether this might qualify as part of a HCC Safer Roads initiative, and if the PC would need to cover the cost of the specialist paint. **ACTION:** DD

j. TVBC. (TW)

- TW had distributed his Mid-Test Matters report in advance.

7. **Disused Chalkpit**

- SW advised that the site is being considered for future affordable housing in conjunction with the adjacent hay barn site. Traffic issues on Bottom Road will need to be taken into account. **ACTION:** SW

8. **Remembrance Service**

- CG confirmed that John Eastwood has cleaned the War Memorial so that the names are clearly visible.
 - The service will be held on Sunday 14th November, and a lay preacher has been appointed to officiate.
 - It is hoped that Bombardier Daisy Burnfield and Lance Corporal Theo Walters will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish.
 - Tim Nedas will be asked to provide the music again.
 - The Peat Spade team has kindly agreed to provide coffee outside after the service.

9. **Defibrillator at Test Valley School**

- CG indicated his support for this initiative, although there is a question about the access if the school gates are locked. DH will check on the intended location and on the fundraising plan. **ACTION:** DH

10. **PC Meeting Dates 2022**

- MF confirmed the following dates for the 2022 PC Meetings: (all Mondays)
 - 10th Jan (subject to MF's availability) * 25th July
 - 7th Feb * 12th Sept
 - 14th March * 10th Oct
 - 11th April * 14th Nov
 - 9th May * 12th Dec
 - 13th June
- AFo will register dates on the PC website. **ACTION:** AFo

11. **Correspondence**

- MF advised of a request on behalf of Charity Down farm for a 24ha Woodland Creation Scheme. Details had already been circulated in advance. Unanimous PC Support for this project. **ACTION:** MF
- MF advised that the HALC AGM has been set for Saturday 6th November (venue tbc). MF confirmed he will attend, and asked other PC members to let him know if they wish to join him. **ACTION:** MF/All
- MF advised of a recent TVBC Resilience meeting. The TVBC area generally reacted very well to the Covid-19 crisis on the basis of strong local community initiatives with support from the Council. HMG is launching a consultation for a National Resilience Plan, but TVBC will highlight the importance of local knowledge and involvement, and the risk of an excessively centralised focus.
- The Unity AGM will be held on Wed 24th Nov at Kimbridge, and will include a "Thank You" event for local volunteers over the past 18 months. PC proposed SM and John Musters to attend. **ACTION:** MF
- MF advised that TVBC are working on a new Local Plan. MF to circulate to PC the latest update and links. **ACTION:** MF

12. **Any Other Business/public comment.**

- MF advised that one of the names on the War Memorial notice-board is not included on the War Memorial itself. CG will investigate. **ACTION:** CG
- IG advised that the service at the Stockbridge Surgery is still sub-optimal. PC has noted the concerns.
- SW advised that the lightbulb in the telephone box has failed. DB to replace. **ACTION:** DB

13. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 8th November at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Cheques Signed:

1188	Came & Co (Insurance renewal)	£909.88
1189	HALC (Training Course)	£12.00