

**LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL**  
**19:00 MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Alice Foster (AFo) – Chairman  
Cllr Selina Musters (SM) – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Kirsty Dominick-Gibson (KDG)  
Cllr Angie Filippa (AF)  
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)  
Cllr Sarah Johns (SJ) (arrived at 7:15)  
Cllr Beccy Soper (BS)  
In attendance: Clerk Gill Bulpitt, Colin McIntyre (CM), Leckford Estate (part of the meeting), David Drew (DD), HCC (part of the meeting) Ian Jeffries (IJ), TVBC Councillor (part of the meeting), 1 Parishioner

- 1) **Apologies:** Nicky Goodridge TV School and Cllr Sarah Johns (SJ) will be delayed
- 2) **Declarations of interest**
  - AFo declared an interest in the tender for the grass cutting contract to be discussed under finance.
- 3) **Minutes of PC Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024**
  - Unanimously agreed for adoption and signed by AFo.
- 4) **Points from the Floor**
  - None
- 5) **Planning**
  - a) The Willows - Tree works to fell 1 Conifer and reduce another by 5m. Unanimous agreement for PC No Objection. **ACTION:** Clerk
  - b) Previous applications TVBC decisions: Longstock Mill - Tree works - permission granted.
- 6) **Highways**
  - The Clerk maintains a spreadsheet of all reported concerns. Any questions – refer to the Clerk.
  - CG raised that the vehicle passing places along the Bunny now have large dips that make it difficult to pass and a potential threat to damage car tyres. **ACTION:** Clerk to report
  - Update provided that the Bottom Road verges have been inspected and the defects do not meet HCC's intervention levels and so no work will be carried out. Suggestion that a local farmer may help by rolling the verges before the summer and the ruts solidify. **ACTION:** AFo
- 7) **Finance**
  - Monthly Finance Report – pre-circulated and noted. Clerk advised that VAT reclaim has been made for just over £1,000. Dog waste invoice for £111.60 and Planet NHP invoice £1440 both approved.
  - SM has received a quote of £320.20 plus VAT to clean the street lights by the same contractor who installed the lights. Budget set aside was £400. Unanimously approved by PC. **ACTION:** SM to action the cleaning and Clerk will settle invoice.
  - Still outstanding is the savings account for the playground fundraising funds. **ACTION:** Clerk and BS
  - Clerk advised she would be willing to continue the role for another year at same remuneration. Contract to be discussed out with the meeting.
  - Grass Cutting Contract. Tender document circulated which detailed each of the 5 proposals for the Cemetery and Playground grass cutting. After discussion there was a unanimous vote (abstention by AFo) to award Craig Foster on a one year contract at an annual cost of £2,200 for a minimum of 14 cuts from 01/04/2024 with the contract to be reviewed prior to expiry. **ACTION:** Clerk to arrange contract and SJ/Clerk to notify other applicants.
  - Newsletter finances – pre-circulated update noted. For the year ending with the Feb/Mar issue, the newsletter made a small profit of £134.84 as a result of advertising income staying static, extra subscription income and a one off reduction in printing costs.

DD and IJ arrived and asked to present their reports as they both needed to leave for other Parish Meetings. Therefore the minute numbering does not exactly match the agenda.

## 8) HCC Report (DD) & TVBC Report (IJ)

- DD provided his report which is also on the village website.
  - River Test Water Pollution – DD advised that the pan parish forum to approach Southern Water regarding the problems is critical to have a united voice.
  - CG questioned if the Lengthsman grant would continue and DD advised that he was not aware of any changes for this year.
- IJ provided his report which is also on the village website.
  - Draft Local Plan 2040 public consultation has commenced and will run until 02/04/2024. IJ was asked to comment about the proposal to remove the settlement boundary for Longstock. IJ will investigate further and provide an opinion on the proposal to the PC.

## 9) Councillors' Reports.

### a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)

- Affordable housing – no further update on Church Road Development.
- NHP – The draft plan is being checked by the NHP consultants to ensure that there are no contradictions with the Test Valley Draft Local Plan 2040 consultation. If there are changes to the settlement boundary for Longstock then this will have an impact on the NHP. Still aiming for a NHP public consultation event late summer with the opportunity for residents to view the proposals.

### b. Allotments, Cemetery and Henry Smith Charity. (KDG)

- Henry Smith – Henry Smith lunch had 54 confirmed attendees. Henry Smith grants will be discussed in a closed session at the end of the PC meeting to preserve anonymity of recipients.
- Cemetery – Cemetery clear up was a success. Clerk advised that we have just received information about fixing the wooden fence around the central island and costs associated. Will be discussed at next PC. **ACTION:** Clerk

### c. Footpaths and Lengthsman and Pat Chairman Board (CG)

- Footpaths – Vegetation starting to grow. AFo gave an update regarding the 'shoot' near the restricted by-way behind Roman Road after speaking with the landowner. There have been no more issues but the shooting season is now over. Will discuss as an agenda item in September before the next shooting season. **ACTION:** Clerk
- Lengthsman – February's planned task was to clean out the drainage grips between Bottom Road and Southside. March will be to clean the notice boards and litter pick. For the last year, the Lengthsman project was £48.10 underspent. Lengthsman will be asked to quote for the wire to be re-attached to new posts provided by the PC for the recreation ground car park
- Past Chairman Board – in hand.

### d. Test Valley School (TVS), Litter Picking, Website and Longstock Road Safety Plan. (AFo)

- TV School - NG sent her apologies and provided an update which was read by the Clerk. AFo advised a response had been received that it was oversight that the community sports hall facility was removed from the school signs. When the signs are redesigned they will consider incorporating the Community Sports Hall. The proposal regarding a community swimming pool has gone quiet. **ACTION:** AFo to ask the Head of School for an update on the pool project.

### e. Environment, Dog Waste and Newsletter (SJ)

- Newsletter – A sub-committee to be created to proof read the newsletter which means that the editor will receive feedback from one combined forum. SJ asked for volunteers to be a proof-reader. In the next issue a community engagement questionnaire will be included for the playground. The deadline for content for the next edition is 15<sup>th</sup> March. CG will be doing the front page piece.

### f. Village Hall and Thermal Image Project (SM)

- Village Hall – The village hall committee are investigating obtaining a survey to see if solar panels are a viable option to install for the Village Hall. Grants will be sought.
- Thermal Image Project – mixed success with the thermal cameras. There was not deemed to be enough evidence to undertake a 'show & tell' at a community engagement event. The idea will not be pursued by the PC.

### g. Playground (BS)

- SM explained the grants that the committee are hoping to apply for. The Veolia grant for £75,000 is the favourite but only has a 30% success rate. Therefore the current scheme of £100,000 for equipment will need be scaled back and/or increase fundraising. It is evident that more community engagement is required to support

any grant applications.

- Next fundraising event is an Easter trail on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> March. There will be bacon and/or egg rolls available to purchase for adults together with hot drinks. Children will be charged a small fee to enter the trail. The event will also be used to capture community feedback on the future plans for the playground.
- CM suggested that the Bio-diversity officer at Leckford Estate may be able to help. **ACTION:** AFo

#### **10) Leckford Estate**

- The Estate has had a quiet period. Strategically it is aligning itself to farming for nature building upon its practice of regenerative agriculture.
- Water – The water provided by Leckford Estate comes from a bore hole. At the beginning of the year a UV filter was put across the bore hole which kills 100% of the bacteria. In addition to the chlorination process, the water is tested at least twice a week to ensure it is fit for human consumption. Leckford Estate continues to invest time, effort and money in supplying the water.
- D Day 80 – Plans are being formulated to have a beacon on the ‘old air field’ to commemorate D-Day80 with the intention to invite 200 local people. However, finding a location with the correct exclusion zone for a beacon is proving problematic. Further information to follow.

#### **11) Disused Chalk Pit Trees**

- The Clerk advised of the ash tree which fell during the recent high winds from the disused chalk pit onto the garden at Tamlyn. There was no damage and the tree has been removed. There is evidence from the sawn pieces of tree that it was diseased. Residents of Tamlyn are concerned about the other trees in the chalk pit, in particular 10, which are close enough to the boundary that if they fell they could cause damage to property/vehicles. These trees have very little canopy and appear to be shallow rooted. A tree surgeon has inspected them and feels these 10 would be in ‘falling distance’ of Tamlyn. The Chalk pit is outside of the conservation area. The residents requested permission from the PC to fell these 10 trees and would cover the costs of the work. PC unanimously agreed to have the trees felled immediately, before the bird nesting season, however wanted to contribute towards to cost. The total invoice will be £1,200 and the PC unanimously agreed to pay half - £600. A further debate will be required in the future about the remaining trees in the Chalk pit. **ACTION:** Clerk

#### **12) War Memorial Garden Clean Up**

- Whilst this was done last year it is not an annual event and may not be necessary. **ACTION:** AFo to check if required.

#### **13) D-Day 80 (AFo)**

- Plans are being prepared for a community family event on 8<sup>th</sup> June with a 1940’s theme. A grant from TVBC has been applied for to help with the cost of providing entertainment/music.

#### **14) River Test Discharge**

- AFo gave feedback from the Houghton River Pollution Working Group meeting and other correspondence recently about this issue, including involvement of local MP. AFo wanted to confirm the PC was supportive of involvement and this was provided unanimously. The next meeting is 9<sup>th</sup> April which AFo will attend.

#### **15) Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils/Test Valley Local Plan 2024**

- AF provided a summary of the meeting and the consultation on the Test Valley Local Plan 2024. One of the main features for Longstock is the proposed removal of the settlement boundary which would classify Longstock as countryside for planning purposes. The TV Local Plan 2040 is looking to protect the countryside and this removal of the settlement boundary could mean that obtaining planning for any development in Longstock could be more difficult. The key is to link with the Neighbourhood Plan. The TV Local Plan has a recommendation to build 10 smaller houses for Longstock over the period of the plan.
- It was felt that the PC should comment on the plan and AF/Clerk will liaise about feedback.

#### **16) Correspondence**

- Items noted on previously circulated report with the agenda.

#### **17) Matters Raised and for possible inclusion on next month’s agenda**

- .Gov.uk domains (Clerk)

#### **18) Date of Next Meeting**

- Agreed as Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, Annual Parish Assembly at 6:00pm followed immediately by the Parish Council Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9:55pm

**Monthly Finance Report for Longstock PC Meeting**

Month: Feb 2023

Date of PC Meeting: 11/03/2024

**Bank Account Status as at 29/02/2024**

Current Account	£ 19,270.92
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**Income Received in Jan 2024**

(Items included in the current account balance above)

Type	Date Received	From	Description	Amount
BACS	15/02/2024	Upper Test Valley	Donation - Playground Fund	£ 1,000.00
BACS	15/02/2024	Frazer J	Newsletter subscription	£ 10.00
BACS	16/02/2024	Groundwork	NHP Grant	£ 2,400.00

**Payments Approved in Jan 2024**

(Items included in the current account bank balance above)

Type	Date issued	Payee	Detail	Amount
BACS	09/02/2024	Sarsen Press	Newsletter printing	£ 255.00
CHQ	20/02/2024	G Bulpitt	Clerk salary	£ 2,000.00
DD	27/02/2024	SSE	Street light electricity	£ 65.35

\* Faster Payment authorised by Cllrs

**Income to be received (Items received and NOT yet included in the current account bank balance above)**

Type	Date Received	From	Description	Amount
None				£ -

**Payments Approved (Items NOT included in the current account bank balance above)**

Type	Date issued	Payee	Detail	Amount
None	20/02/2024	HMRC	Clerk Tax	£ 500.00

**Projected Bank Account Status (including all approved items)**

Current Account	£ 18,770.92
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**Invoices received and requiring authorisation for payment**

Type	Date Received	From	Description	Amount
Invoice	26/02/2024	TVBC	Dog bin emptying for 23/24 pro rata	£ 111.60

Signed:

Date:

Position: Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) - Longstock Parish Council

The screenshot shows the Lloyds Bank online banking interface. At the top, there is a green header with the Lloyds Bank logo and a 'Cookie Policy' link. Below the header, the user's name 'Mrs G. Bulpitt' and login time 'Last logged on 29 February 24 at 04:36 PM' are displayed. The main navigation bar includes 'Parish Council of Longstock', a home icon, 'Your accounts', and an 'Admin' dropdown menu. The account balances are shown in three cards: 'Treasurers Account' with a balance of £ 19,270.92, another 'Treasurers Account' with a balance of £ 1,596.99, and a third 'Treasurers Account' with a balance of £ 852.52. Each card has a right-pointing arrow next to the balance.