

**LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL**  
**1900 MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), and David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor (from 8.30 pm).

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Ian Jeffrey (IJ), TVBC Councillor who is away; Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate; for work commitments, Tony Ward (TW), TVBC Councillor for health reasons; David Hall (DH) Governor of Test Valley School, due to other PC commitments; and David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor, for late arrival due to other PC meetings
2. **Minutes of PC Meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> August**  
Unanimously agreed for adoption and to be signed by AF who chaired the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:**
  - **Highways & Traffic.**
    - **21560535** – Road Drainage problems at The Grange. With HCC. No further news. **ACTION:** AFo to monitor
    - **21562764** – Road signs at Bottom Road. Subject to HCC 22/23 budget resources. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
    - **24214172 - Dual Carriageway Mowing** – No further news. **ACTION:** DD/DB to continue to lobby
    - **21590244 - Damaged bridge on Bunny** – MF has chased and HCC will check with contractor on work. **ACTION:** MF to monitor.
  - **Traffic Speed / Pedestrian White Lines** – in hand with AFo **ACTION:** AFo to follow up
  - **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – No further guidance from TVBC Legal Services. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
  - **Bottom Road Verges** – DB will deal with this. **ACTION:** DB
  - **PC Refresher Training** – PC has settled for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September for the training session **ACTION:** MF
  - **Cemetery Fees** – MF awaiting further information from local PCs **ACTION:** MF
  - **Church Farm Hardcore Track** – MF awaiting guidance from TVBC. **ACTION:** MF
4. **Planning Applications.**
  - Long House – garage demolition and new 2-storey annexe. Following PC site visit unanimous agreement for PC SUPPORT. **ACTION:** MF
  - Long House – tree works on Tulip tree, Silver Birch, and Eucalyptus x2. Following PC site visit unanimous agreement for PC SUPPORT. **ACTION:** MF
  - Charity Down Farm – new farmyard and dwellings. Unanimous agreement for PC SUPPORT **ACTION:** MF

5. **Finance.**
- SAAA External Auditor opt-out option – MF explained that all Smaller Authorities must have an external auditor, and that the next 5-yearly central procurement process is about to start. Due to its size, the PC is able to submit a Certificate of Exemption from external audit, but it now has the option to opt-out of the central process. However, this would involve considerable effort and resource to manage the appointment of a separate external auditor. The PC unanimously agreed not to exercise the opt-out, and will continue to follow the central process. **ACTION:** MF
  - MF provided SW with an updated report on the 26 payments received for the Jubilee Cherry trees for follow up on the remaining 28 commitments.
  - MF confirmed that the renewal process for the PC insurance is under way, and that BHIB will be approached for an alternative quote to Gallaher. **ACTION:** MF
  - MF advised that ex-PC member Mr Eastwood has been paying the annual subscription for the hosting of the PC website. Reimbursement of £14.39 was unanimously approved. **ACTION:** MF
6. **Councillors' Reports.**
- a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)
- Affordable Housing – NTR
  - NHP – work is ongoing with update reports at the next PC meeting. **ACTION:** AF
- b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
- Allotments – all OK but in need of rain
  - Cemetery – IG advised that he intends to give up the mowing contract for the Cemetery and Playground at the end of the current period in March 2023. IG will be able to suggest alternative contractors at the appropriate time.
    - MF advised of the forthcoming funeral of ex-resident Mrs Munnery. Date to be confirmed
  - Trees – SM advised of serious ash dieback on a large tree adjacent to the playground on Leckford Estate land. MF will ask CM to review. **ACTION:** MF/CM
- c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
- Footpaths – NTR
  - Lengthsman – CG will ask the Lengthsman to check on fencing repairs at the playground, and also to quote for repairs of the unstable bench in the playground if the donor family are unable to arrange repairs. **ACTION:** CG
- d. Test Valley School and Website. (AFo).
- TVS – AFo expressed concern at the lack of progress on the swimming pool plans, and is seeking further updates. **ACTION:** AFo
    - AF asked AFo to feedback to the school recent negative comments from Roman Road residents about the behaviour of pupils. **ACTION:** AFo
  - Website – All up to date
- e. Environment. (DB) - NTR
- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
- VH – Nothing new to report
  - Streetlights – All OK
- g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
- Playground – Several items of equipment are in need of repair and maintenance, including the zipwire. MF will forward to SW the recent ROSPA report to identify

work required. **ACTION:** MF

- AFo suggested a quarterly working group to undertake a maintenance rota.
- Possible funding sources might include South Western Railway grants, and surplus funds from the Fete
- HSC – SW confirmed that a supplementary grant request has been submitted to HSC to cover expected hardship cases this winter. A positive response is expected.
  - The PC agreed that the Henry Smith lunch might also seek donations from invitees to allow the funds to go further for residents in need.
  - A weekly “soup and sandwich” event may also be considered.

h. Leckford Estate. (CM). - NTR

i. HCC (DD).

- The latest TVBC report had been circulated to the PC in advance

j. TVBC

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7. **Disused Chalkpit for Affordable Housing in the NHP**

- AF explained that local landowners have been approached to indicate willingness for land to be considered for Affordable Housing over the 15-year life of the proposed NHP.
  - The PC owns the disused chalkpit on Bottom Road, but gets no economic benefit from it. Any sale of the chalkpit in its current condition would generate minimal income
  - The PC could establish specific conditions on the use of the land for Affordable Housing exclusively for residents of Longstock or with strong family ties in the village. These conditions can continue in perpetuity
  - The PC unanimously agreed that the chalkpit be put forward for review by independent assessors within the NHP process. **ACTION:** AF

8. **Correspondence**

- TVBC has issued a draft Statement of Community Involvement in Planning. MF will circulate to PC for comments. **ACTION:** MF
- HALC has proposed some amendments to their Articles of Association and Rules. MF to circulate for consideration at the 10<sup>th</sup> October PC meeting in advance of the HALC AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> October. **ACTION:** MF
- MF reminded PC members of their invitation to the Longstock Allotment Association BBQ on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

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

- CG advised of the death of local resident Mr Gubb. His funeral will be held in Stockbridge.
- DB advised of the death of local resident Mrs Brewer.
- DB raised the matter of CCTV cameras in the village to try to deter or detect illegal activities in the village. To be discussed further, but acknowledging GDPR issues.
- SM reminded PC that Remembrance Sunday will be on 13<sup>th</sup> November this year, and asked CG to check that the pub will offer refreshments again. **ACTION:** CG
- IG raised the issue of electricity costs in the current climate of spiralling charges. MF confirmed that the PC has a fixed rate contract for 2 years until July 2023.
- AFo expressed thanks to everyone involved in organising and delivering the Village Fete

- PC was reminded of the intended departure of the Clerk by year-end 2022. An article to advertise the vacancy will be included in the next Newsletter, and PC Members are asked to consider possible residents who may be suitable for the post. **ACTION:** All
- SW advised that she was submitting her formal written resignation from the PC with immediate effect. PC members expressed disappointment at the decision, and thanked SW for her dedication and extraordinary contribution to the PC over many years. MF will advise TVBC and confirm the formal process post-resignation. The full text of SW's letter of resignation will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter. **ACTION:** MF

10. **Date of Next Meeting..**

- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall (then Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

Cheques and Payments:

01218	IG – Mowing contract	£625.00
01219	JE – Website host reimbursement	£14.39