

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1930 MONDAY 11th MARCH 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) – chairman
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Rebecca Griffiths (RG)
Cllr John Milne (JM)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)

Clerk John Musters, Mr Colin McIntyre (CM) (Leckford Estate) and two members of the public (for item 3c).

1. **Apologies.** County Councillor Andrew Gibson, Mr Mark Flewitt.
2. **Minutes of Meeting of 11th February.** Adopted and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:**

a. **Highways.** (1) Potholes at the foot of Bottom Road and on the Fullerton Road, the drain by Charity Farm and the toppled grit bin by Terstan all showed on ‘Hantsweb’ as having been registered/updated in February, but all awaited completion or repair. JM mentioned a further hole in Church Road below the cemetery, which clerk would report. (2) Chairman had asked householders at Upper Manor Farm to replace the flints on their verge with wood trunk ‘rounds’; and had suggested the same to the Peat Spade to protect their verge from cars parking. (3) DB had laid turfs on the triangle by South Lodge and would investigate railway sleepers as edging to try and keep vehicles off the grass. He would put scalpings in the holes as a temporary repair. (4) Councillors agreed to re-position the redundant notice board in the cemetery against the wall at Charity Farm House behind the grit bin, which the Lengthsman would do this month.

ACTION: Cllr Burnfield, Clerk

b. **Henry Smith Charity.** Final numbers expected for the annual lunch were 53. Grants to help two families had been approved by councillors, totalling £437. Clerk had emailed the Charity HQ that SW was taking over local administration.

ACTION: Chairman

c. **Test Valley School swimming pool.** Following the recent exchange between the chairman and head teacher about the proposal to close the school’s pool, two concerned parents attended the meeting to put their point of view and to confirm the council’s support in their efforts to keep it open. They said that the PTA would meet with the governors on 27th March in the hope of keeping the pool operating at least for the summer while a longer term solution was found. Chairman said she had been in touch with our County Councillor and believed he was taking the issue up with the county Children’s Services. She encouraged the parents to keep up the fight.

4. **Planning Applications.** There were no current applications to consider.

5. **Finance.** Clerk took councillors through a provisional end-of-year statement that suggested a carry-forward figure of about £5,030, caveated by fourth-quarter street lights maintenance and electricity supply bills to come, as well as newsletter printing charge. Clerk emphasized that the figures did not take into account replacement of street lights, which programme had no start date. SM said that the current quotation for the work would hold good only until 31st March and the firm required payment in full up front. Clerk said that if the order was placed before then it would be a fine balance in financial terms until the first tranche of next year's Precept came in early April.

ACTION: Clerk

6. **Local Elections 2019.** SM, clerk and Mark Flewitt had attended the TVBC briefing in Stockbridge town hall. Notes from the meeting had been passed to councillors, with instructions on completing the forms if standing again. Clerk had offered to deliver all forms to TVBC offices on 26th March; he asked councillors to pass their completed forms to him by Friday 22nd.

ACTION: All

7. **Councillors' Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing. (DB). NTR.

b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG). Cemetery – IG had cut the hedges and would do the grass as soon as dry in the cemetery and recreation ground. Trees – IG was concerned about the height and state of the poplars on the south side of the village hall, which he felt constituted a danger to the public in high winds. These stood on Leckford estate land and CM was asked to look into remedial measures.

ACTION: Mr McIntyre

c. Footpaths. (CG). There was a split finger sign at the south end of path 5 which CG would deal with. Hedges along path 12 had been topped, but the arisings had been allowed to fall across the path; CG would speak with the landowner. Fly-tipping had again been reported at Ratz Lodge.

ACTION: Cllr Grieve

d. Test Valley School. (RG). Further to the discussions at Item 3c above, RG said that Year 11 were working towards GCSEs, where there were now more written papers covering the whole two year syllabus and less course work. A group of pupils and staff had made a half term trip to USA; and three pupils had got through to the final of the Rotary Club of Andover's annual Young Writers' Competition.

e. Environment. (JM). JM spoke of the DEFRA consultation into a Deposit Return Scheme; the CPRE Hampshire event he had attended at St Mary Bourne (when the speaker had alluded to likely compulsory purchase of land for affordable housing in the near future); TVBC's resilience workshop that he would attend on 16th March; and the adoption by Winchester City Council of the Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople DPD.

f. Village Hall and Street Lights. (SM). Hall – the lights in the hall had been re-wired such that they were no longer radio controlled, to the relief of every user.

Street lights – see also Item 5 above. SM would meet with DB in the next few days to measure the poles on which new lamp brackets would be fitted. Clerk had sent on-line applications for councillor grants to HCC for £1,500 and TVBC for £1,000, but it was not clear when these would be paid if approved.

ACTION: Cllr Musters

g. Playground and Website. (SW). SW showed pictures of extensive rook damage to the grass at the recreation ground, and asked for nettles to be cut along the south hedge. DB and SM would do minor cleaning and repair to the netball board/net when they had the cherrypicker for the street lights work, and also get the barrier rope finally down from the trees.

ACTION: Cllr Gibson

h. Leckford Estate. (CM). CM gave an update on farming activities on the Estate. Being 90 years since John Spedan Lewis moved in, there was to be a celebration party in Longstock Park on 2nd July. The Open Farm Sunday would be on 9th June; and to avoid confusion they were changing their name locally to “Waitrose and Partners Farm”.

8. **Allotments Tenancy.** Chairman signed a new 3-year agreement with the Allotments Association; clerk would arrange for Association chairman to counter-sign.

ACTION: Clerk

9. **Contract Renewals.** (a) Ivan Gibson would continue as contractor for cemetery maintenance and grass cutting of the recreation ground, at an annual fee of £2,000. His contract (effective 1st April) was signed by the chairman and himself. (b) Mark Flewitt had read the current contract and accepted the annual remuneration of £2,000 on his appointment as clerk from 1st April. He would sign on his return.

ACTION: Clerk

10. **Correspondence.** In addition to regular e-updates from HALC, there had been: (a) County Councillor’s monthly report and update from Highways; (b) HCC’s update on rollout of Superfast Broadband; (c) HALC’s flier on fly-tipping; (d) HCC’s notice re TPCs’ spring workshop looking at highways and waste matters on 13th March; (e) HALC factsheet on ‘Relationships at Work’.

11. **Any Other Business/public comment.** JM mentioned the Stockbridge & District Growmore Club farm walk on 18th June.

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 15th April (7 pm Annual Parish Assembly).

Cheques Signed:

087	I R Gibson	Grass cutting/cemetery maintenance	£ 500.00
088	J B A Musters	Clerk’s fee and expenses 2018/19	£ 1,272.48
089	HMRC	Employee’s PAYE 2018/19	£ 800.00
090	D N M Burnfield	Turf for Bottom Road triangle	£ 18.00

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2110.