

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER 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), Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor from 8.30 pm onwards, Tony Wilden (TWi) Head Teacher at Test Valley School, David Hall (DH) Governor of Test Valley School, and 10 local residents

1. **Apologies:** David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor, due to other PC and school governor commitments, Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor for late arrival due to other PC meetings, and Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate, who is away.
2. **Minutes of PC Meeting of 11th October.**
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and were signed by SW.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21560535** – Road Drainage problems at The Grange. With HCC. No further news. **ACTION:** MF/AFo to monitor
 - **21562764** – Road signs and markings at Bottom Road. DD has chased HCC for action, and work due to be done by mid-December. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21584142** – Pothole and blocked drain at Suicide Corner. Work completed, including other drains in village **ACTION:** Closed
 - **24214172 HCC Mowing Damage** – DD chased HCC, and DB has been given a contact person to follow up. See also Item 6.e Environment below. **ACTION:** MF/DB
 - **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – DD pressed HCC Highways, and they will improve visibility of existing 30 mph signage. In the meantime roadside foliage is encouraging slower traffic speeds. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **Village Litter Pick** – Due to Covid-19 issues at TVS dates have been difficult to fix. AFo to follow up with TWi, but if not feasible in short term, to be deferred to Spring 2022. **ACTION:** AFo/TWi
 - **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – Still pending feedback from TVBC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **Model Publication Scheme** – New updated information now reviewed and uploaded on website. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **TVBC Tree-Planting** – DB confirmed that the oak tree was received. Discussions followed about the planting location, including opinions from the Public. The consensus was for the North East corner of the Cemetery. Date to be agreed. **ACTION:** MF
 - **War Memorial Names** – CG has succeeded in obtaining more information, and will continue his research, but it is clear that the two names of Adams and Hathaway should not be added to the War

Memorial. SW thanked Mr Eastwood on behalf of the PC for cleaning the War Memorial. **ACTION:** CG

- **Disused Chalkpit** – SW advised that English Rural and John Lewis Partnership had visited the site. Costly tests will be necessary to confirm its suitability for housing, but in any case it should be treated as a “Brownfield” site in view of its past usage as a dump.
- **Defibrillator at TVS** – TWi confirmed that it will be located on the outer wall of the Sports Hall, and that the funding is already in place. **ACTION:** Closed

4. **Planning Applications.**

- 1 Church Cottages – PC has received a Planning Appeal Notice. MF will check with TVBC and the property owners on whether the PC is expected to make a formal response. **ACTION:** MF
- Old Thatch – Planning Application received after agenda published, but response cut-off of 3rd Dec is before the next PC meeting. MF to set up site visit. **ACTION:** MF

5. **Finance.**

- Precept – MF confirmed receipt of half-year £4,250 precept amount.
- Half year internal audit and bank reconciliation - MF confirmed that the 30.9.21 bank reconciliation has been reviewed and signed. The half-year accounts have been completed and the internal audit with auditor Patrick Coates will be started next week. **ACTION:** MF
- Draft PC Budget 2022/23 – MF has distributed in advance a draft 2022/23 budget.
 - The 2021/22 half-year figures indicate that the current year outcome will be in line with the budget.
 - Additional costs are included to cover streetlight cleaning and playground maintenance. The PC unanimously agreed for the streetlights to be cleaned in the current financial year at a cost of £320+VAT. **ACTION:** MF/SM
 - MF will circulate the updated budget figures with a view to them being adopted in the December meeting. **ACTION:** MF
- MF confirmed that the annual renewal of the ICO Data Protection fee of £35 will be paid by Direct Debit in mid-November.
- AF confirmed that the NHP SG will seek advice on whether the £14.39 monthly Zoom Pro subscription can be applied to the NHP Grant. **ACTION:** AF

6. **Councillors’ Reports.**

- a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)
- AF confirmed that John Lewis Partnership withdrew their support for the development of 12 affordable homes on Church Lane by English Rural because of local objections. Local and national newspapers had covered the story extensively.
 - Further meetings have been held with JLP/ER to discuss alternative sites.
 - Several residents expressed dissatisfaction with the process that had been followed in this most recent proposal.
 - Mr Lowden commented that 13 years ago HCC Highways had objected to increased traffic volumes on Church Road. CG confirmed that this issue had been raised with JLP/ER, and that HCC Highways would have had to make a decision if the project had proceeded to a formal planning application.
 - Mr Melrose pointed out that JLP/ER had sought clear support for the project, but that in the TVBC Housing Survey only 16% of respondents had supported a development of this size.
 - Mr Opperman said that the PC had supported a Rural Exception Site without consulting with residents. SW advised that the PC had supported

- the initiative on the basis of the clear need for affordable housing, but that the final decision would have been with TVBC Planners if a formal planning application had been submitted.
- Mr Milne asked about the result of the JLP survey, and AF confirmed this has never been released by JLP.
 - Mr Eastwood suggested that the PC survey had been conducted in haste, and had caused problems. SW advised that the PC had undertaken the survey in response to a late and urgent request from JLP. In hindsight, SW reflected that JLP/ER should have led the survey as they had developed the project together, and should have managed community engagement at an earlier stage.
 - There was confusion among attendees about the role of the NHP Steering Group in the JLP/ER Affordable Housing proposal. SW confirmed that the remit of the NHP SG is to develop the Neighbourhood Plan. This includes the concept of Affordable Housing as one aspect of a range of issues, but does not include direct involvement in specific proposals.
 - Despite the concerns raised about the recent JLP/ER proposal, attendees were unanimous in supporting the concept of Affordable Housing for the village. SW thanked Mrs Milne for her positive comments about Affordable Housing.
- NHP – AF confirmed that the public engagement event for the Neighbourhood Plan will be held on 7th December, to coincide with the Henry Smith lunch. **ACTION:** AF
- b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
- IG confirmed that the allotments are fully occupied, and that the Allotment Society AGM will be held this week.
 - MF advised that the Diocese of Winchester has confirmed its willingness to extend the lease for a further 3 years at a new annual rent increased from £520 to £570. A new agreement with the Diocese to be signed by the PC, together with a new tenancy agreement with the Allotment Association. **ACTION:** MF
 - Re Cemetery – MF advised that the ashes of Mrs Duncan will be placed in her husband’s grave on 23rd November, and her family asked the PC members to advise any residents who may have known her. **ACTION:** All
 - Trees - NTR
- c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
- Footpaths – Footpaths – CG advised that he has informed HCC about the wonky footpath signs and is waiting for their response. Foliage at FP12 at Roman Road will need to be cutback before the Spring. **ACTION:** CG/DB
 - Lengthsman – Ongoing work will include foliage around road signs, and a litter pick (subject to information from Test Valley School by end-November about possible dates for TVS participation). **ACTION:** DH
- d. Test Valley School and Website. (AFo).
- TVS - As agreed at the October PC meeting, a £100 donation has been made to the TVS PTA for the new mural, and a trophy from Longstock PC has been ordered for the TVS Annual Awards. **ACTION:** AFo
 - AFo advised of ongoing discussions with the TVS Governors about the swimming pool. Local newspapers have covered the issue, and general feedback on the initiative has been very positive.
 - DH complimented AFo on her management of the social media exchanges on the pool.
 - Social Media - AFo advised that carols will be held at the Peat Spade on 7th

December. AFo will add information to the Neighbourhood Facebook Group.
ACTION: AFo

e. Environment (DB).

- DB confirmed he has the support of TVBC (Imogen Colley and Cllr Alison Johnston) for the wildflower planting on the dual carriageway.
 - DB is following up with the relevant HCC Highways person. **ACTION:** DB

f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).

- SM advised that the new insulation has significantly reduced the time needed to warm the Village Hall.
 - The VH Committee will meet shortly to review the hire rates, which have not changed for 12 years, Electricity costs are projected to double over the next year. The option of solar generation remains closed due to TVBC's views on the Poplar trees shading the South-facing roof
- The PC agreed unanimously that the streetlights should be cleaned in the coming months at a cost of £320 +VAT. **ACTION:** SM/MF

g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)

- Playground - SW advised new volunteers have stepped up to join the inspection rota. Other attendees also indicated their willingness to join in. **ACTION:** SW
 - Further maintenance work needs to be carried out, and SW will advise the team of volunteers. AFo also agreed to publicise the details via social media. **ACTION:** SW/AFo
- Re HS – SW advised that the HS Lunch is scheduled for 7th December. MF advised that 41 residents have so far registered their intention to attend.
 - The PC unanimously approved the Henry Smith donations circulated in advance by SW. **ACTION:** SW
 - SW asked the PC and members of the public to advise her if they are aware of any local residents who are struggling financially at the moment. **ACTION:** All

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

- MF to advise CM that the drains on Church Road should be cleared. **ACTION:** MF/CM

i. HCC. (DD)

- The HCC report had been distributed in advance.
 - AFo will upload the HCC Reports on the PC Website. **ACTION:** AFo

j. TVBC. (TW)

- TW had distributed his Mid-Test Matters report in advance.
 - TW confirmed that TVBC committees have now begun to meet face-to-face again, but use CO2 monitors to check on air quality. The PC may wish to consider using them for meetings. **ACTION:** MF
 - TW advised that steps are being taken to harmonise waste collection rules across the country.
 - TW reiterated the importance of the Rural Exception Site mechanism to allow for local control of Affordable Housing projects
 - AFo will upload the TVBC Mid-Test Matters Reports on the PC Website. **ACTION:** AFo

7. Remembrance Service

- CG confirmed that the service will go ahead on Sunday 14th November.
 - Sergeant Daisy Burnfield will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish.
 - MF has collected the RBL wreath and made the £100 PC donation as agreed.
 - MF has contacted the Police to borrow Police Slow signs and traffic cones to close off the road during the ceremony. **ACTION:** MF
8. **Platinum Jubilee – June 2022**
- SW advised that the Stockbridge Business Association has launched an initiative to organise a combined event amongst local villages, to include a range of activities of games, competitions, music, food outlets etc, and a live link-up to the main events in London. One possible location would be on the Terstan land near the river in Longstock.
 - The PC fully supported the concept. **ACTION:** SW to provide updates
9. **Correspondence**
- MF advised of an HCC Community Preparedness event, which will be recorded and distributed to the PC members. **ACTION:** MF
 - The next TVAPTC meeting will be held on 25th November at 7.30 pm via Microsoft Teams. DB and IG agreed to attend on behalf of the PC. **ACTION:** MF/DB/IG
 - MF advised that the ICO have written to the PC about the SAR received in Jan 2021. MF will contact ICO to clarify the issues raised, and will then prepare a response within the 1 month deadline. **ACTION:** MF
 - An updated Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) has been received from TVBC. MF will circulate. **ACTION:** MF
 - MF advised that the Daily Mail had contacted the PC for comment on John Lewis and affordable housing. It was agreed that MF will respond that “The PC has no comment. We maintain a close relationship with the John Lewis Partnership, and remain hopeful that we will be able to work with them to find a suitable solution to the matter of Affordable Housing in Longstock”. **ACTION:** MF
 - TVBC has started a consultation on a revision of requirements to validate planning applications. MF to review and circulate. **ACTION:** MF
10. **Any Other Business/public comment.**
- Local resident Mr Sibley suggested that the PC write to the village to explain the Affordable Housing situation. Given that the process has been driven by John Lewis and English Rural, SW will ask them to make a statement for the Newsletter. **ACTION:** SW
11. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 6th December at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Cheques Signed:

1190	Royal British Legion (Wreath donation)	£100.00
1191	Test Valley School PTA (Mural donation)	£100.00
1192	Sarsen Press (Newsletter printing)	£310.00
1193	Bourne Valley Trophies (PC School Award)	£73.34
Direct Debit	SSE (Electricity supply)	£92.26