

**LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1900 MONDAY 9th JULY 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) - chairman
Cllrs 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 seven members of the public (of whom five for Item 8 only, arriving with Mr Paul Jackson Head of Planning at TVBC at 1950).

1. **Apologies.** Nil; all present.

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 11th June.** Adopted and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:**

a. **Highways and Lengthsman.** (1) The warning signs at Blue Ridge junction had been repaired. (2) Further word was still awaited from Highways about completing pothole repairs on the Fullerton to Longstock Park road. (3) CM would look into provision of more scalplings (not sharp flints) in the passing places on The Bunny. (4) CG was asked to identify footpath work for the Lengthsman in August (PMN: list supplied to clerk). (5) In response to disappointing outcome of speed data survey (see 9 (f) below), clerk would investigate provision of “20 is Plenty” signs. (6) In response to issue raised last month about traffic speed on the Danebury (Old Stockbridge) Road, police would install a speed recorder there as a first step. (7) Chairman had tried to contact the owners of Long Barn about the potential hazard of wooden posts in their verge, but so far without success.

ACTION: Chairman, Clerk, Mr McIntyre

b. **Recreation Ground Car Park.** Chairman had written again to the owner of Charity Farm House and discussed face-to-face, but the actions identified in minutes of May meeting remained outstanding.

4. **Planning Applications.** **Upper Manor Farm** (internal alterations, part retrospective; Listed Building consent required) – TVBC consent. **Test Lodge** (replace existing with extension to provide kitchen and new porch; internal alterations) – TVBC permission and listed building consent. **Longstock Park Nursery** (resurface overflow parking area) – TVBC permission.

ACTION: Clerk

5. **Finance.** (a) Documents under the Annual Governance and Accountability Return requirements had been forwarded for display on the website. (b) Finances were in a satisfactory state and in line with budget at end of first quarter; Cllr Griffiths signed the bank reconciliation statement. (c) With two and a half months remaining in the Henry Smith grant year, councillors agreed to identify eligible recipients by

mid-September.

ACTION: All, Clerk

6. **General Data Protection Regulations.** Nothing new to report.

7. **Councillors' Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing. (DB). NTR.

b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG). (1) IG would trim the hedge on the west boundary of the allotments; and (2) talk to the estate before tackling the tree growing through the hedge in the SE corner of the cemetery by the telegraph pole.

ACTION: Cllr Gibson

c. Footpaths and Transport. (CG). CG had spoken to the landowner about cutting footpath 12 (Roman Road – Meon Hill).

d. Test Valley School. (RG). The school year was drawing to a close; all GCSEs completed and summer camps beginning.

e. Environment. (JM). JM drew attention to the public information event being held by McCarthy and Stone into potential development off Stockbridge high street. He also marked up the dangers of bonfires in this long spell of hot, dry weather.

f. Village Hall and Street Lights. (SM). (1) Hall - NTR. (2) Lighting - the street lights replacement issue was no nearer resolution, with the firm that a month ago appeared to offer the likeliest solution now no longer interested for unexplained reasons. SM was now discussing options with another firm that held out better prospects. Councillors wondered whether other parish councils not in the HCC maintenance scheme were finding similar problems. Clerk would enquire of HALC.

ACTION: Cllr Musters, Clerk

g. Playground and Website. (SW). NTR.

h. Leckford Estate. (CM). CM referred to 'excessive' water consumption and said that the estate was suffering like everyone else from the current drought. It would however likely lead to a bumper grape harvest.

8. **TVBC Head of Planning.** On Paul Jackson's arrival at this juncture, chairman gave him the floor. In essence he said that consistency in dealing with planning applications was tricky, with circumstances dictating TVBC's approach each time. They could only judge on planning merits. He said that development officers were always happy to explain why a particular decision had been reached; and confirmed that the Conservation Officer was a consultant, not a decision maker. On Settlement Boundaries, Mr Jackson said that the government had told planning authorities to move away from 'brown lines' and be more flexible; even so there was no development outside those boundaries except in specific circumstances. All his points led to plenty of spirited exchanges, not least on interpretation of elements in the Village Design Statement. The owners of Barn Cottage, Test Lodge and Upper

Manor Farm, who had all had controversial applications recently approved, then all had their say. CG for the parish council noted that Longstock PC take planning issues seriously with site meetings and put forward views representing the whole community. It was frustrating therefore when weight did not always seem to be given to the parish council views and/or we were not told why a decision had been reached, especially if there were legal issues involved. Mr Jackson was thanked for his presentation and left at 2105.

9. **Correspondence.** In addition to regular e-updates from HALC we had heard from: (a) Test Valley School, with details of this year's Presentation Evening on 20th November, when RG would again represent the parish council; (b) SSE, with info regarding increased electricity supply charges from 1st July; (c) HCC's News for Local Councils, passed to all; (d) TVBC, re Resilience Event on 3rd November, passed to JM; (e) HCC, with consultation paper into proposals re street lighting and supported passenger transport, passed to all and for CG to comment by 5th August; (f) Hampshire and Thames Valley police with results of speed data recording in April, passed to all and to owners of Test Lodge and Test View Cottage; (g) TVBC, with Issues and Options consultation for Local Plan to 2036, passed to all; (h) TVBC Housing Development Officer re Rural Housing Week 2nd to 6th July, passed to all.

ACTION: Cllrs Grieve, Griffiths

10. **Newsletter future.** Nobody had yet come forward in response to the appeal in the June/July newsletter for a new editor, in which case it would cease publication. It was suggested we might combine with Stockbridge; clerk would take soundings from the Benefice Magazine editors.

ACTION: Clerk

11. **Any Other Business/public comment.** David Warner in the audience pointed out that many road signs in the village were either obscured by vegetation or had been knocked by passing traffic. Clerk would follow up.

ACTION: Clerk

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 10th September at 1930.

Cheques Signed:

067	Bulpitt Print Ltd	Newsletter printing	£ 196.10
068	Blackwell & Moody	War memorial cleaning	£ 732.00
069	SSE	Street lights elec supply (Q1)	£ 122.14
070	SSE Contracting	Street lights maintenance (Q1)	£ 270.68

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2125.