

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 8th JUNE 2020 – VIRTUAL MEETING BY ZOOM

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) - Chairman
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)
Cllr Angie Filippa (AF)
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr John Eastwood (JE)
In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate, Andrew Gibson (AG) HCC Councillor (for first 30 mins), Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor, and 1 member of the public

1. **Apologies:** Ivan Gibson (IG), and Andrew Gibson (for departure after 30 mins)

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 11th May.**
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:**

Highways & Traffic.

- **LOYO Holes** - At the bottom of the drive to the old dairy now LOYO. **ACTION:** CM – in hand with Leckford Estate subject to their work schedule
- **Recreation Ground car park** – CM confirmed that the estate work schedule has been seriously disrupted by the Covid-19 crisis, with furloughed staff and a need to manage work priorities. It is likely that the additional car park spaces will be deferred to Spring 2021, which may require new planning permission. SW noted that the fencing will need to be replaced, and CM agreed to check it out. **ACTION:** CM /SW re fencing, and MF re planning
- **Empty grit bin** at Longstock Park/Garage Cottages reported. HCC now acknowledge the existence of the grit bin and work is scheduled for Autumn. MF to monitor. **ACTION:** MF
- **21489579** - potholes outside Windover Farm, MF has chased **ACTION:** MF to follow up
- **Bottle Bank at Roman Road** – Extensive discussions about the unacceptable disruption to neighbours. AG has escalated in HCC. AF highlighted this is socially wrong, and also fly-tipping issues. No consultation with Longstock PC. Additional problem of imminent school return. Responsibility of HCC to fix. SW to write to Stockbridge PC. **ACTION:** AG with HCC, and SW with Stockbridge PC
- **Dog Walkers** – post-Covid-19 the TVBC dog warden will re-engage on this. **ACTION:** SW
- **HCC Mowing Damage** – AG to contact HCC dept about mowing wildflowers on Salisbury Hill dual carriageway, and neighbourhood planting at Roman Road. **ACTION:** AG

- **Trees at Test Valley School** – SSE has confirmed trees OK, but school will get county tree specialist to review. SM to advise resident who raised issue. **ACTION:** SM

4. **Coronavirus Update**

- SW reported that shops are due to begin opening again from 15th June.
- SW advised that the village “food reserve” in the village hall still has significant volumes of products. It was mooted that the remaining food could be used for the village fete, either for sale on the day, or via sale of raffle tickets for hampers in advance. To be reviewed once a decision on the fete has been made. **ACTION:** SW
- TW mentioned that Kings Somborne has received a £10k Covid-19 grant for its cemetery. MF will check with KS PC Clerk on the background to this cemetery grant. **ACTION;** MF
- CM provided an update on the effects of the Covid-19 crisis on Leckford Estate and the wider John Lewis Partnership.
 - Initially the Estate furloughed 25 members of staff, but that figure has now been reduced to 12 as activities have returned and some have been re-deployed
 - Fishing and Golf are now open again, and the Water Gardens and the Farm Shop café are expected to re-open by end-June
 - Overall JLP furloughed 18,000 staff members, and closed all their department stores. 21 of the 55 JL stores are expected to open in the next couple of weeks.
 - The support by the community of the Farm Shop/Nursery has enabled more than 20 employees to remain at work.
 - The hotel/hospitality activities of Longstock House and Leckford Abbas are still closed for the time being, until further official guidance is available
- SW expressed the thanks and gratitude of the PC and the whole community for the delivery service operated by Leckford Estate through the crisis, and also for their generosity in providing accommodation for NHS and other key workers during this time.

5. **Planning Applications.**

- Churchyard Wall – rebuild – PC SUPPORT. **ACTION:** MF (already sent)
 - Discussions followed about the potential cost and financial support available for rebuilding the churchyard wall
 - JE mentioned that the Church may need to be prepared for a bill in excess of £20k
 - AG mentioned that the Church Warden is seeking support, including a possible grants from Veolia and TVBC
 - SM wondered whether the PC might be willing to make a contribution, and SW offered to follow up on the grant with TVBC. **ACTION:** SW

6. **Finance.**

- MF explained the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) process.
 - MF confirmed that the 2019/20 Annual Internal Audit Report and accounts have been reviewed, approved and signed off by the Internal

- Auditor as presented.
- The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed and unanimously approved
 - The 2019/20 Accounting Statements were reviewed and unanimously approved
 - The AGAR Certificate of Exemption was reviewed and unanimously approved
 - It was unanimously approved that the Chairman should sign the relevant pages of the AGAR - proposed by SW and seconded by SM. **ACTION: MF/SW**
 - All the relevant information will be published on the PC Website and Notice Boards in accordance with the statutory requirements, including the “Exercise of Public Rights”. **ACTION: MF**
 - HCC Grant request – MF confirmed that a £500 remittance advice from HCC for a grant towards the cost of repairing and refurbishing the telephone box has been received, but the supporting bank statement is still pending. **ACTION: MF**
 - MF advised about the village newsletter.
 - The most recent issue was very well received with lots of varied local contributions. Print costs were some £30 lower than the previous issue, due to fewer colour pages, and a donation from the editors to cover a colour feature on the mother of David Fakes who recently passed away
 - With local businesses starting to re-open, efforts will be made to re-connect for ad renewals and to get new advertisers. **ACTION: MF**
 - SW confirmed that she would make contact with possible local volunteers who may be willing to take on a “marketing” role to assist with newsletter advertising. **ACTION: SW**
 - MF reminded the PC that the £500 TVBC Covid-19 grant covers community support and communication actions, which would clearly cover the newsletter costs.

7. Councillors’ Reports.

- a. Affordable Housing. (DB). – NTR
- b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG).
 - SW mentioned that the cemetery needs to be mowed and strimmed. DB will contact IG’s grandson. **ACTION: DB**
- c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
 - CG advised that this month the Lengthsman has cleared all the grips on the road from Bottom Road to Longstock Mill, has worked on clearing undergrowth near the bottle bank, and has re-aligned and repaired signs on Church Road
 - Due to Covid-19 issues HCC have curtailed their 2020 footpath cutting programme, even though DB pointed out it is their statutory duty.
 - CG will allocate the Lengthsman to work on the busier footpaths, and ask landowner Peter Read to cut back the hedges on his footpath. **ACTION: CG**
 - CG reported that the Lengthsman will quote for the repair and refurbishment of the telephone box. CG will also approach Aly Cox to quote. **ACTION: CG**

- SW asked that Councillors help to clear out the books, and refresh the book selection after the refurb. **ACTION:** ALL

- d. Test Valley School and Neighbourhood Plan. (AF).
 - The school is scheduled to partially re-open on 15th June, prioritising children who have not actively participated in the remote classes during lockdown
 - The PC discussed the future of the school swimming pool at the school. Any progress will depend on the pending appointment of the new head, but Councillors feel that the pool will be a major attraction to new pupils.
 - AF advised that the school PE staff are strong supporters of the pool
 - CM wondered whether a take-over of TVS by an Academy could be a positive development. It was suggested that AG might be able to provide some guidance on this. **ACTION:** AG
 - AF provided an update on the NP process following a catch-up Zoom meeting of the Steering Group last week. AF will forward minutes to JE for website. **ACTION:** AF/JE
 - AF is reviewing the process for grant applications, including a technical grant for a housing needs survey. **ACTION:** AF
 - Although the community engagement actions were stymied by Covid-19, some tentative autumn dates will be pencilled in asap.
 - The NP consultants Plan-ET will be presenting an invoice for £1,392 (inc VAT) for ongoing work. **ACTION:** AF
 - SW highlighted that the NP will be focused on “whole village” issues, including green spaces, affordable housing, verges etc, and that the lockdown has allowed residents to appreciate their village

- e. Environment and Website. (JE).
 - JE and MF advised of recent guidance on “accessibility issues” for the website, which are mandated by late Sept 2020. Hopefully the issues will be straightforward, and Hugo Fox can offer guidance. **ACTION:** JE/MF
 - JE suggested that the website/newsletter might provide further information on Longstock’s eco-credentials – SSSIs, organic farming, river etc. **ACTION:** JE

- f. Village Hall and Street Lights. (SM).
 - SM advised that the Village Hall has received a £10k “windfall” Covid-19 grant.
 - The Village Hall had hoped to allow small badminton groups to re-start, but has been advised this would invalidate the insurance.
 - NTR on streetlighting

- g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity (SW)
 - SW confirmed that the Recreation Ground remains closed.
 - SW will contact TVBC about a review of the Rec and necessary repairs once the lockdown is lifted. **ACTION:** SW
 - Leckford Estate will review repairs to fencing as mentioned above in 3. Matters Arising. **ACTION:** SW/CM
 - SW advised that £2.3k is currently held in the Henry Smith account.
 - 6 cheques have been distributed to residents in difficult situations, with heartfelt letters of thanks received

- Councillors are asked to “flag up” to SW any other cases of residents where financial help might be needed. **ACTION: ALL**
- CG voiced the thanks of the PC for SW’s efforts re Henry Smith.
- SW was asked to ensure that all residents are made aware of the Henry Smith funds, perhaps with some anonymous examples for the next newsletter. **ACTION: SW**

h. Leckford Estate. (CM). See above in 4. Coronavirus Update

i. HCC (AG)

- AG advised that the HCC recycling centres would require pre-booked appointments from 15th June following serious queuing problems and delays

j. TVBC (TW) – NTR other than matters already mentioned

8. Correspondence

- MF/SW advised of an email received from a resident complaining that the erection by BT Openreach of 15 telegraph poles from Hazeldown Farm down to Rat’s Lodge has severely damaged the views to and from Hazeldown.
 - Councillors agreed that MF should contact BT on behalf of the PC, to advise of the complaints and the PC’s opinion that the telegraph poles should be removed. **ACTION: MF**
 - DB offered, subject to clarification on the cost reimbursement, to assist with the digging of a trench for the broadband cabling, and CM will check whether the adjacent land is still owned by Leckford Estate. **ACTION: DB/CM**

9. Any Other Business/public comment.

- SW will send to MF photos of potholes that have formed in Southside Cottages. MF to report to HCC. **ACTION: SW/MF**
- DB advised that the hedge at North Lodge in Longstock Park is dangerously blocking the road visibility. CM to check. **ACTION: CM**
- JE mentioned a nasty “hit and run” incident opposite the village hall, and will investigate local crime statistics further. **ACTION: JE**
 - SW will ask Police for an update on this incident, and invite them to attend the next PC meeting to comment on local crime issues **ACTION: SW**
 - CM mentioned increased incidents of poaching, threatening behaviour and break-ins along the Test Valley, including some joint Police/river keepers operations. CM observed that the perpetrators are not usually of Eastern European origin

10. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 20th July – via Zoom at 7.00pm

Cheques Signed:

1140	SSE re Electricity	£34.73
1146	Sarsen Press re Newsletter	£264.93

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.