

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 12th APRIL 2021 – VIRTUAL MEETING BY ZOOM

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) - Chairman
Cllr Angie Filippa (AF) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr John Eastwood (JE)
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)
In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), and Simon Taylor (ST) local resident

1. **Apologies:** Andrew Gibson (AG) HCC Councillor, Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor, both due to commitments with other Parish Council meetings; Colin McIntyre (CM), Leckford Estate; Toni Wilden (TWi), Head Teacher at Test Valley School; and David Hall (DH), local resident.

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 8th March.**
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21536802** – Blocked drains opposite LOYO unit. HCC have confirmed that the work is required and has passed to the contractor. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21529469** – Potholes and blocked run-off at bottom of Bottom Road. Work done. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **21547787** – Potholes at 18 Roman Road. With HCC contractor. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **HCC Mowing Damage** – MF to remind AG re HCC Contractors. **ACTION:** MF to follow up
- **Dog Walkers** – SW to contact the TVBC dog warden post-Covid-19 – still pending. **ACTION:** SW
- **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – Negative initial response from HCC Safer Roads team. CG and JE have volunteered to help in follow up. **ACTION:** MF/CG/JE
- **Barn Cottage Issues** – No further news from TW. **ACTION:** TW to update PC on TVBC action
- **War Memorial Cleaning** – JE confirmed a successful test of a new cleaning product on rear of WM. PC to review. **ACTION:** JE and All
- **Disused Chalkpit** – Initial contact has been made with English Rural. To be followed up. **ACTION:** MF
- **Ash Tree and Fencing at Recreation Ground** – Leckford Estate team has completed this work. **ACTION:** Closed
- **Village Litter Pick** – MF advised of the Keep Britain Tidy plan 28 May/13 June. SW suggested that the George family may be willing to lead. **ACTION:** MF to follow up
- **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – MF awaiting TVBC guidance. **ACTION:** MF

n.b. At this point SW invited ST to speak about the matter of Bottom Road. The notes of this discussion are included below under Item 9. AOB/Public Comment

4. **Planning Applications.**
 - Bumblebee Cottage (ex-Halfway Cottage). A PC site visit was made.
 - A. Dormer accommodation and external stairs to garage. PC No Objection, with a request for a condition to prevent the downstairs garage area being converted to residential accommodation in the future.
 - B. New Pavilion and associated works. PC Objection on the basis that the proposed building is not appropriate either in size or design for that position in Longstock, will be visible to neighbours and passers-by, and infringes current Solent Nitrate Neutrality policies. **ACTION:** MF to advise TVBC
 - Sindle Cottage – Replacement boiler/flue. Unanimous PC support. **ACTION:** MF
 - 29 Longstock – Rear elevation bi-fold door. Unanimous PC Support. **ACTION:** MF

5. **Finance.**
 - MF confirmed that usual “pre-Covid” regulations and timeframes have been reinstated for the 2020/21 PC Audit process.
 - MF will prepare the accounts and the AGAR submissions in the coming weeks, and local Auditor Patrick Coates will once again review the books.
 - The official publication and public scrutiny dates will revert again to the period mid-June to end-July. **ACTION:** MF
 - NHP Grant Funds - MF advised that £870 of the £7.2k Locality grant received was used in the 2020/21 financial year, pending a final invoice from consultants Plan-ET. Any unused balance should be returned to Locality once the NHP report and return has been submitted by AF. **ACTION:** AF/MF
 - MF will submit the Q4 Bank Reconciliation for review by CG once the latest bank statement is received. **ACTION:** MF/CG
 - MF advised that the first £4.25k instalment of the 2021/22 Precept has been received.

6. **Councillors’ Reports.**
 - a. Affordable Housing. (DB). – DB confirmed NTR at present.
 - AF advised that 6 Roman Road is to be sold by Aster Property

 - b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
 - IG confirmed that the allotments are fully occupied for the new season
 - Re Cemetery – IG advised that grass has been cut
 - It was agreed that a PC Working Party will meet on May 1st. DB will supply a load of soil for levelling. **ACTION:** DB
 - The cemetery benches will be “rotated” for reasons of sunlight and wear and tear.
 - Unanimous PC approval of the proposed memorial for Mrs Cynthia Dance. **ACTION:** MF
 - SW advised that one of the cemetery benches appears to have been replaced by a family without prior advice to the PC.
 - As agreed at an earlier meeting, the PC will review the Cemetery Ts & Cs at a meeting later in 2021. **ACTION:** MF and All

 - c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
 - Footpaths – AF advised that a gate has been smashed at New Buildings on Church Road, possibly by an illegal hare coursing group. CG will investigate and advise landowner. **ACTION:** CG
 - AF also advised that neighbours have complained about the state of the FP at Roman Road, churned up by contractors working nearby. DB will place a large log to block vehicle access. **ACTION:** DB
 - Lengthsman – Current work includes the Bunny, cleaning road signs and surrounding foliage.

- Next month the War Memorial benches will be repainted in darker brown paint
- d. Test Valley School and Neighbourhood Plan. (AF).
- AF confirmed that the school has been following up on introductions to local landowners etc. DB will contact the Head Teacher. **ACTION:** DB
 - Re NHP - AF confirmed that the Housing Needs Survey (HNS) has been released
 - The local engagement process is now re-starting, with village young people volunteering to be involved in making a film etc.
 - The draft Visions & Objectives are being reviewed on a more “aspirational” basis. **ACTION:** AF
 - The Houghton draft NHP has been circulated, and can provide useful insights for the Longstock NHP SG. **ACTION:** AF
 - JE asked that the NHP SG remove a photo of from the HNS on the grounds of privacy, but AF advised that the photo was publicly available.
- e. Environment, Website and Phone Box. (JE).
- Environment - JE advised he is awaiting further HCC/TVBC guidance on environmental issues. **ACTION:** JE
 - Website – Google Analytics shows approx. 100 visits in the past month.
 - Phone Box – JE plans to re-paint the phone box in the summer. **ACTION:** JE
- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
- SM advised that the Village Hall is currently open again on a limited basis with 48 hour gaps under Covid-19 rules. As at May 17th the gaps will be 24 hours..
 - SM has installed new batteries and pads in the defibrillator, and a new support team has been set up to monitor and service it.
 - The PC unanimously agreed that the related costs of some £240 will be covered by the Henry Smith funds. **ACTION:** SW
 - Re Streetlights – all OK.
- g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
- SW confirmed that Leckford Estate has carried out re-fencing and tree work at the Recreation Ground.
 - DB agreed to mend a damaged bike ramp. **ACTION:** DB
 - A ROSPA inspection is scheduled for May, and any residual work should be completed in time. **ACTION:** SW
 - Notices have been put up to ask visitors to take home their own rubbish.
 - SW recorded the PC’s thanks to local resident Richard Filippa for his work in repairing some of the equipment.
 - Re Henry Smith – SW confirmed that more payments have been made to residents.
 - The PC agreed to mandate SW to make additional payments where appropriate. **ACTION:** SW
- h. Leckford Estate. (CM).
- MF confirmed that CM reminded the PC that the Farm Shop Café outdoor area, and the Water Gardens (via online booking) would be operating again from 12th April
- i. HCC. (AG)
- AG had distributed his HCC report and Highways summary in advance of the meeting.
- j. TVBC. (TW)
- TW had distributed his Mid-Test Matters report in advance.

- MF also confirmed that TVBC had made a £800 grant to the Allotment Association

7. Remote Meetings

- MF advised that the Government had decided not to extend the authorisation for remote council meetings beyond 7th May. This will be subject to a legal challenge, but the outcome is not certain.
 - The regulations dictate that the Annual Parish Assembly (APA) must be held between 1st March and 1st June, while the AGM must be held in the month of May.
 - HALC are recommending that both APAs and AGMs be held before 7th May.
 - The PC unanimously agreed to hold the APA on 30th April, and the AGM on 6th May
 - Notices will be displayed on the website and noticeboards well in advance of the proposed meetings. **ACTION:** MF
 - MF confirmed that our MP Caroline Nokes has agreed that the Government's failure to renew the remote meeting authorisation is a serious mistake.

8. Correspondence

- MF advised that a resident has advised of a serious incident of theft of catalytic convertors from vehicles in Roman Road, including physical assault and damage to property. The resident felt that better streetlighting might have deterred the perpetrators. Given the brazen behaviour of the thieves, the PC was not convinced that more streetlights would have made any difference, but AF volunteered to speak to resident about it. **ACTION:** AF
- MF advised that the Stockbridge Primary School PTA has thanked the PC for the recent £250 donation towards their current fund-raising appeal.
- MF advised that the Census 2021 will be contacting addresses that have not replied. MF has offered the help of the PC in their efforts if appropriate, especially in the case of elderly residents.
- MF advised that we are still awaiting confirmation from the ICO on the designation of a Case Officer to review the recent FOI complaint. **ACTION:** MF to update PC

11. Any Other Business/public comment.

- ST explained his concerns about the grass triangle at the junction of Bottom Road with Longstock Road, which has become very eroded and muddy in recent times due to volumes of traffic, including cars, farm vehicles and cyclists.
 - There are now 9 small children living within 150 yards of this junction, together with the stables at Brocks Farm. It has become more dangerous as there are no Give Way signs or road markings in place as you come down Bottom Road to warn road users.
 - ST suggested 2 possible alternatives to make space for farm vehicles and other road users; a. tarmac over the triangle completely, or b. make the grass triangle smaller.
 - ST also pointed out that the forthcoming building works on Bottom Road will only exacerbate the situation.
 - SW thanked ST for cutting back the vegetation adjacent to the triangle to improve space and visibility.
 - SW advised that the process to tarmac over the triangle would be a very large undertaking with HCC Highways, contractors and mapping issues. In addition such grass triangles are a traditional feature on Longstock's roads.
 - SW confirmed that stable owners are also concerned about the road safety issues, and will support new improvement measures.

- DB volunteered to set up substantial “telegraph poles” at the three corners of the triangle, and SW proposed to set up local signs “20 is plenty”, and highlighting “children and horses” on the approaches to the junction.
ACTION: DB and SW
- SW also suggested that planting up the triangle, as with the one at the north end of the village, might also change drivers’ behaviour.
- CG proposed that SW sign the official Book of Condolence on behalf of the PC following the recent death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Unanimously agreed.
ACTION: SW

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** APA - Friday 30th April at 7.00 pm – by Zoom
AGM – Thursday 6th May at 7.00 pm – by Zoom

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Cheques Signed:

1171	Sarsen Press (re Newsletter)	£302.85
1172	Plan-ET (NHP Consultants)	£216.00
1173	SSE (Electricity)	£35.05