

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 12th DECEMBER 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Selina Musters (SM) – Chairman
Cllr Angie Filippa – Vice Chairman (AF)
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Alice Foster (AFo)

In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), Gill Bulpitt (GB) Clerk Designate,
Ian Jeffrey (IJ) TVBC Councillor (from 8.25 pm), and 8 residents

1. Apologies: Cllr Ian Jeffrey (IJ) , for late arrival due to other PC commitments; David Drew (DD), HCC Councillor, due to other PC meetings; David Hall (DH) Chair of Governors of Test Valley School; and Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate

2. Minutes of PC Meeting of 14th November
Unanimously agreed for adoption and to be signed by SM.

3. Co-option of 2 PC Vacancies

SM explained that following the 2 recent resignations from the PC, TVBC had authorised the co-option of 2 new Councillors. All residents were advised of the process by hand-delivered notes to every household, and 6 candidates stepped forward. Interviews were held with all 6 candidates on 23rd November, including an opportunity for a personal statement followed by the same questions for each candidate.

As per NALC guidelines, the PC had taken into account the experience, abilities, community commitment, and teamwork qualities of the candidates, and the overall quality of the candidates was extremely high.

After due consideration, the PC voted to co-opt Kirsty Dominick-Gibson (KDG) and Hugo Denee (HD), who both signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office book and joined the meeting. MF will send copies of the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests forms to the co-opted members for completion. **ACTION:** MF/KDG/HD

SM welcomed the new Councillors, and mentioned that the forthcoming May elections will provide another opportunity for candidates to stand for the PC. The PC expects to undertake some PC Training in early 2023, and will also invite the unsuccessful candidates and members of the public to attend.

4. Matters Arising:

- **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21560535 – Road Drainage problems at The Grange.** AFo and family have decided to deal with the problem on their own. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **21562764 – Road signs at Bottom Road.** Subject to HCC 22/23 budget resources. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **24214172 - Dual Carriageway Mowing** – No further news, **ACTION:** DB to continue to lobby HCC
 - **Bottom Road Sign** – The sign was removed and TVBC information awaited. **ACTION:** MF to chase
- **Pedestrian White Lines** – AFo confirmed that Mandy Ware of HCC Traffic and Safety to review the sites in January. **ACTION:** AFo to follow up

- **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – Still no news from TVBC Legal Services. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
- **Bottom Road Verges** – The estimated £3k cost is not considered to be a priority at the current time. In view of budget pressures HCC will not fund the work to create passing places. DB will investigate using chalk. **ACTION:** DB
- **Cemetery Fees** – MF will circulate a proposal based on the review of 6 local cemeteries. **ACTION:** MF
- **Church Farm Hardcore Track** – TVBC has advised that HCC Highways granted access to the road, but that planning permission should still have been obtained. Under TVBC investigation, and approval or remedy are required. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
- **New Clerk update** – SM advised that local resident Gill Bulpitt (GB) has stepped up, and will be available to take on the role in January. The PC gave a warm welcome to GB.
- **Overgrown Bunny Carrier** – CM has confirmed Leckford Estate had allowed the reeds to grow during the dry summer to slow down the flow, and that this had created a very successful wildlife habitat. HCC to be asked to provide a new reflective post to warn motorists. **ACTION:** MF
- **Community Involvement in Planning Consultation** – SM confirmed that she had read through the document, and PC Members agreed on a response that indicated concern about the lack of priority given by planners to the opinion of the PC on planning applications. **ACTION:** MF
- **Infrastructure Developer Contributions Consultation** – PC confirmed that no formal response was required.
- **May 2023 Elections Update** – MF advised that he had joined a TVBC online meeting. Elections to be held on 4th May. Candidates' proposals to be delivered to TVBC by hand in the 22 March/4 April window. If 7 or fewer candidates stand for the PC there will not be an election. For the first time photo ID will be required to vote. Election information will be publicized in local media, posters and online.

5. Planning Applications.

- 2 Church Cottages – new Velux window at rear and raise chimney height. MF explained that this application was received just before the November meeting, but that the cut-off date for the PC response was before the December PC meeting. PC unanimously ratified the decision of PC SUPPORT.

6. Finance.

- Half year audit – MF had circulated in advance the half-year accounts signed by the auditor, which will be uploaded on the website. **ACTION:** MF
- 2023/24 PC Budget - MF had circulated in advance the proposed budget as amended from the draft presented at the November PC meeting. The principal changes were related to the estimated costs to be incurred on the Playground and on the Pedestrian White Lines project. These costs will be funded by a combination of grants and community fundraising, leaving the projected 2023/24 year-end cash position unchanged at £5.3k. On the basis of these figures the 2023/24 Precept would be increased to £9.0k from the current £8.5k.
 - Approval of the 2023/24 PC Budget figures was proposed by CG, seconded by AF, and unanimously approved by the PC.
 - The budget will be uploaded on the PC website, and TVBC will be advised of the new Precept level in due course. **ACTION:** MF
- PC Bank Account Signatory Mandate – MF advised that the new bank mandate to remove the 2 signatories who had resigned from the PC, and to appoint CG and AFo had been delivered to Lloyds Bank. The PC was advised that Lloyds have delayed the

- implementation of the change to seek confirmation of the changes. **ACTION:** MF
 - Jubilee Trees Update – MF advised that 60 trees have now been paid for, and £2,538 received in the PC account. Ex-PC Chairman Sophie Walters advised that 58 trees had been delivered and would be distributed to residents shortly. Sample plaques for the trees will be circulated to the PC to consider their purchase.
- 7. Councillors' Reports.**
- a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)
- Affordable Housing – NTR
 - NHP – the responses from landowners for development sites have been presented for review by independent consultants. AF also highlighted the recent planning permission granted in King's Somborne for 18 houses to be built on the site of the allotments. An approved NHP would provide additional protection against any similar unwanted development proposal in Longstock.
 - AF advised that new NHP grants have been approved, but that there appear to be errors in the amounts authorised. AF to follow up. **ACTION:** AF
- b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (Vacant but KDG to take over)
- Allotments – NTR.
 - Cemetery – MF advised that PC has approved the proposed Munnery headstone.
 - The ashes of Roberta (Bobbi) Brewer have been placed in the ashes plot
 - The ashes of Derek Jeanes will be placed in his parents' grave on 15th December.
 - SM to propose dates in New Year for a PC working party to tidy up the Cemetery and War Memorial. **ACTION:** SM
 - Trees – NTR
- c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
- Lengthsman - Due to a further bout of sickness, the November programme for re-concreting the footpath sign at 2E, replacing the sign at 3W, litter picking and cleaning the Notice Boards – has slipped. Hopefully it will be caught up in December and January. We have no other tasks for him in December but will be asking him to clean all street furniture in January.
 - Footpaths - Footpath 2E sign requires re-concreting. 3W and 9E require new signs.
 - Footpath Locations - CG handed out a simple, informal guide to our footpaths. He sent AF a guide explaining how to find our footpaths online. He also forwarded to Councillors a link to the Footpath Definition website.
- d. Test Valley School and Website. (AFo).
- TVS – DH had circulated in advance a letter advising of changes in TVS following the recent disappointing Ofsted report. A new Executive Head has been appointed, and a new Head of School is being sought. There are also more positive developments on the new pool.
 - Website – All up to date.
- e. Environment. (DB)
- DB advised that Leckford Estate is undertaking a significant re-regenerative farming project, including a new methane digester and a target of carbon neutrality by 2035.
- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
- VH – OK.
 - Streetlights – pending review with the suppliers on dimming lights. **ACTION:** SM

- g. Playground, Henry Smith Charity. (Vacant but HD to take over)
- Playground – SM advised that AF and husband had carried out repairs on the wall, and that DB replaced the zipwire and swing seats.
 - HD will review the maintenance and repair work identified in the 2022 ROSPA report. **ACTION:** HD
- HSC –there are currently 52 reservations for the HS Lunch on Wed 14th December.
 - Residents will be offered the option of making a donation in a collection box, via a card machine or directly to the HS bank account.
 - PC Members are reminded to be aware of cases of hardship in the village for HSC grants. **ACTION:** All
- h. Leckford Estate. (CM). - NTR
- i. HCC (DD).
 - The latest HCC report had been circulated to the PC in advance
- j. TVBC (IJ)
 - The latest TVBC report had been circulated to the PC in advance

8. 2023 PC Meeting Dates

- The PC unanimously agreed to move the regular meeting dates to the second Thursday in each month (no meeting in August).
 - 2023 dates are therefore: 12th January, 9th February, 9th March, 13th April, 11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, and 14th December.

9. Correspondence

- MF advised of a consultation on the Southern Water Resource Management Plan until 20th February 2023. MF will circulate to PC members. **ACTION:** MF
- Family history query about 2 families (Joyce and Stevens) who apparently lived as agricultural labourers in Longstock. More information being sought. **ACTION:** MF

10. Any Other Business/public comment.

- A large pothole in Bottom Road opposite the entrance to the stables, and a blocked drain next to Ivy Cottage should be reported to HCC. **ACTION:** MF
- Ex-PC Chairman Sophie Walters advised that HCC operatives had recently power blasted all the drains through the village
- PC members thanked MF for his work as Clerk over the past 4 years.

11. Date of Next Meeting..

- Monday 12th January 2023 at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Cheques and Payments:

01228	SJM re Sarsen Press – Newsletter printing	£325.00
01229	SJM re Sutcliffe Play – Playground equipment	£639.83
DD	SSE – Electricity	£45.35