

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 22nd AUGUST 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor,
and David Hall (DH) Test Valley School Governor (from 8.30 pm).

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) who is away, Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate who is away, Tony Ward (TW), TVBC Councillor for health reasons, and David Hall (DH) for late arrival due to other prior commitments.
2. **Minutes of PC Meeting of 9th May**
Unanimously agreed for adoption and to be signed by SW who chaired the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21560535** – Road Drainage problems at The Grange. With HCC. No further news. **ACTION:** AFo to monitor
 - **21562764** – Road signs and markings at Bottom Road. Road markings done. HCC low priority subject to resources in 2022/23. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **24214172 - Dual Carriageway Mowing** – DB reported that TVBC have indicated support for planting of 24 trees including Oaks, disease-resistant Elms and other native species. Unfortunately HCC contractors have once again mowed the area. **ACTION:** DD/DB to continue to lobby
 - **21590244 - Damaged bridge on Bunny** – Work with HCC contractor. **ACTION:** MF has chased as this damage has now been outstanding for 8 months
 - **Traffic Speed / Pedestrian White Lines** – AFo had circulated information obtained from neighbouring villages on their “virtual pavements”. The projected cost could be up to £5k, including design, permission and implementation stages. It is important to demonstrate community endorsement of the proposal, and dedicated fundraising initiatives can be set up. DD advised that some grant funding may also be available. AF confirmed that pedestrian safety issues are also included in the NHP. The PC unanimously supported the initiative, and asked AFo to proceed with the next steps. **ACTION:** AFo to follow up
 - **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – No further guidance from TVBC Legal Services. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **Bottom Road Verges** – chalk passing places to be created when the materials and machines are available. **ACTION:** DB
 - **Recording of Births, Deaths, Arrivals and Departures** – CG confirmed that this matter cannot proceed. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **PC Refresher Training** – MF will circulate potential dates for mid-September. **ACTION:** MF

- **Cemetery Fees** – MF has obtained some information from local cemeteries with others still pending. **ACTION:** MF
4. **Planning Applications.**
- Mulberry Lodge – extension and other works. MF advised that this application had been circulated and agreed by email, due to the reply cut-off date being before this PC meeting. PC unanimously ratified the decision of PC SUPPORT. **ACTION:** MF
 - Jacks Plot – tree works. MF advised that this application had been circulated and agreed by email, due to the reply cut-off date being before this PC meeting. PC unanimously ratified the decision of PC SUPPORT. **ACTION:** MF
 - 31 Longstock – tree works on Birch, Cypress and Yew. Unanimous PC SUPPORT, subject to IG reviewing and confirming (subsequently received). **ACTION:** MF.
 - Charity Down Farm – new farmyard and dwellings. To be considered at the next PC meeting. **ACTION:** MF
 - Long House – new home office and accommodation annexe. To be considered at the next PC meeting after a site visit. **ACTION:** MF.
5. **Finance.**
- Exercise of Public Rights – MF advised that the inspection period ran from 8th June until 20th July, but that no residents asked to review the accounts
 - Unused NHP Grant Funds – the final amount of the unused 2021/22 NHP Grant was confirmed as £1,286.87, and the repayment has been confirmed and acknowledged.
 - Quarterly Bank Reconciliation – pending to be completed. **ACTION:** MF/CG
 - Update on Jubilee Tree Payments – MF advised that £1,090 has been received so far for 15 2-year old trees and 11 10-year-old trees. SM highlighted the need for the sponsors to receive details of how to care for the trees as they will need to be regularly watered for at least a year. SW will follow up on the remaining sponsors when she returns. **ACTION:** SW
 - Annual Audit Update – MF advised that the accounts have been acknowledged by the external auditor and the PC’s exemption status has been confirmed.
6. **Councillors’ Reports.**
- a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)
- Affordable Housing – NTR
 - NHP – AF confirmed that a call for sites has been made to local landowners about possible locations for future development including Affordable Housing, with some responses already received,
 - AF advised that the disused chalkpit on Bottom Road owned by the PC could be included as a suitable site. The PC unanimously supported the suggestion that this matter be included in the September PC agenda for review and decision. **ACTION:** MF
- b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
- Allotments – IG advised that the allotments are in good shape despite the recent lack of rain.
 - Cemetery – the Cemetery has recently been mowed and the stolen watering can replaced
 - Trees – NTR
- c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
- Footpaths - Hampshire Countryside Access teams did an excellent job cutting back Footpaths 6, 11 and 12 in August. A note of thanks has been sent to the team.
 - Footpath 2E requires re-concreting; 3W needs a new sign; 9E requires a new sign.

- Lengthsman - Recent work includes cleaning the noticeboards, tidying up around the Bunny bench and investigating the recreation ground bench. Planned September tasks are a litter pick, cutting back undergrowth around 11 footpath signs, re-concreting the footpath sign at 2E and replacing the sign at 3W.

- d. Test Valley School and Website. (AFo).
 - TVS – AFo advised that there has been no recent progress on the swimming pool plans, and she will seek further updates. **ACTION:** AFo
 - DH had already advised the PC that he hopes to introduce the new Head to the PC at the September meeting, and to provide an update on the school plans. **ACTION:** DH
 - Website – All up to date

- e. Environment. (DB)
 - DB advised that recent drought conditions are leading to calls for water use reduction across society. The Test and Itchen rivers are very low indeed.

- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
 - VH - SM advised that the Village Hall is losing significant volumes of bookings as the cost of living is making people cut back on their discretionary expenditure. Nevertheless the VH financial position remains strong
 - The VH insurance renewal has seen a significant reduction due to the elimination of VAT on rebuilding costs.
 - Streetlights – All OK

- g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
 - Playground – The area has been mowed in preparation for the Village Fete.
 - PC members commented that a number of the pieces of equipment are in need of repair and/or maintenance. It would be prudent to establish a maintenance fund for the playground.
 - CG will discuss with the Lengthsman whether some of the fence repairs could be carried out under his contract. **ACTION:** CG
 - AFo highlighted the excellent quality of the playground at Longparish, built by Green Play Project.
 - DD advised that the TVBC Community Asset Fund could be used for playground investments.
 - HSC – AF confirmed that the first cheques have been issued against the latest HS donation, but that we should expect further need as the cost of living crisis deepens.

- h. Leckford Estate. (CM). - NTR

- i. HCC (DD).
 - DD highlighted some recent HCC issues:
 - Food vouchers are available, with more information on the HCC website and via Connect4communities.
 - Countryside fires are a major challenge in the current dry conditions.
 - Community Land Trusts have been used to facilitate Affordable Housing, where the PC would maintain ownership of the land and act as landlord for the residents.
 - IG asked DD to investigate the non-renewal of bus passes for senior citizens. **ACTION:** DD

- j. TVBC
 - The latest TVBC report had been circulated to the PC in advance

7. **Correspondence**
- MF advised that the owners of Tamlyn on Bottom Road have asked for a 6-month extension to the licence allowing access through the disused chalkpit. Unanimous PC support for the 6-month extension, and IG will check on the condition of the adjacent Ash tree for dieback work. (subsequently agreed for work). **ACTION:** MF
 - HCC Community Transport – MF will circulate to PC and put up posters calling for volunteers. **ACTION:** MF
 - TVBC SHELAA – the annual Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment process has been undertaken, with more information to follow.
8. **Any Other Business/public comment.**
- SM confirmed that preparations for the Village Fete on 3rd September on behalf of the PC are proceeding well.
 - SM asked about progress on the recruitment of a new Clerk to replace MF who will stand down at the end of the year. A separate notice/advert will be published in the next Newsletter.
 - IG asked whether the new hardcore access track off the Bunny to the rear of Church Farm should have required formal approval. MF will seek TVBC guidance. **ACTION:** MF
 - DH asked whether the recent South West Railway grant announcement might be relevant for Longstock PC. He will forward details to MF. **ACTION:** DH/MF
 - MF pointed out that following recent conversations about improving/widening the side access path to the Playground, it should be noted that one of the nearby trees was planted in memory to a young local girl killed in a road accident some years ago.
9. **Date of Next Meeting..**
- Monday 5th September 2022 at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall (then Monday 10th October)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Cheques and Payments:

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| DD | SSE re Electricity (x2 months) | £92.63 |
| 01211 | HALC – Renewal fee | £247.16 |
| 01212 | Playsafety – Playground inspection | £113.40 |
| 01213 | Village Hall – NHP Presentation hire costs | £72.00 |
| 01214 | Groundwork UK – unused 2021/22 NHP Grant | £1,286.87 |
| 01215 | IG – Mowing contract | £625.00 |
| 01216 | Sarsen Press – Newsletter printing | £328.00 |
| 01217 | Sarsen Press – Newsletter printing | £295.00 |