

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF LONGDON HELD
IN THE W. I. HALL, LONGDON, ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2006

Present: Cllr. S. K. Welch (Chairman); Cllr. R. C. Hemmingsley; Cllr. A. J. Juxon;
Cllr. Mrs. M. G. Nichols; Cllr. M. A. W. Parsons; Cllr. H. M. P. Reynolds;
and Cllr. N. Stanfield.

Also present were the Clerk; Cllr. N. J. Roberts, of Lichfield District Council;
the Community Beat Officer, PC Andy Brown; and one parishioner –
Mr. Roger Adams, of Upper Way, Upper Longdon.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. the Rev. J. R. Andrews; Cllr. N. J. Bird; Cllr. B. J. Butler; Cllr. H. A. Meere;
and County Councillor F. W. Lewis

The Chairman expressed his disappointment and concern over the attendance
record of some Councillors and the reasons given for absence.

He believed that there was a level of commitment expected of Councillors which
some were failing to meet.

The Clerk referred to the practice of another Parish Council which distinguished
between receiving and accepting apologies; only illness and business were
deemed as acceptable reasons for absence, the choice of holiday dates being
largely at the discretion of individual Councillors, who were expected to take into
account the dates of previously decided meetings of the Council.

However, both Cllr. Stanfield and Cllr. Reynolds felt that meetings might be
better supported if they were 'snappier', arguing that that a distinction should be
made between items of business which needed a decision and those which were
for information only.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in the W. I. Hall, Longdon, on Tuesday,
September 12th, 2006, were, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by
Cllr. Juxon, approved and signed.

3. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Chairman welcomed PC Brown and Mr. Adams and invited PC Brown to address
the meeting first.

PC Brown gave details of recent crimes in the parish: there had been a burglary at
a property in Stoneywell Lane the previous day, and reports of two or three garden sheds
having been broken into, together with the theft of scrap metal left on a driveway.

There had also been two burglaries in Chapel Lane, Gentleshaw.

All had been carried out in the daytime, but no link had been established.

He had spoken to Andrew Oakley about the promised zig-zag lines outside Gentleshaw
School, which Mr. Oakley had assumed had already been laid down!

Cllr. Hemmingsley thought that some extra provision should be made for the growing
number of parental vehicles but acknowledged that finding the space would be difficult.

Regarding a speed check in Upper Longdon, PC Brown said that he had been promised time
by Inspector Emma Griffiths, Inspector Kozam's replacement, in which to carry one out; he
did, however, explain that, before mounting such a check, it was necessary to identify places
where it would be safe to park and to pull over speeding vehicles.

He assured the meeting that, while it was not legally possible to prosecute on information provided by the local Speedwatch team, the data collected was taken note of, and persistent offenders were cautioned.

Mr. Adams thought that the speed management scheme in Upper Way was demonstrably unsuccessful: the chicane outside North Lodge was insufficiently conspicuous and the red walkway/cycle-path alongside the pavement did not offer enough of a contrast.

The Chairman explained that, since the village was within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this had to be in natural rock, and, in fact, pink quartz chippings had been used. However, the Highways Authority had been asked to provide a continuous white line defining its width, and Cllr. Lewis was now pursuing the matter on the Parish Council's behalf.

For the same reason, the wooden frames surrounding the speed restriction signs had never intended to be chicanes, but merely to emphasise to motorists that they were entering a village.

Mr. Adams also asked about the credibility of a report that the route of the new bus service through Upper Longdon was about to be discontinued; the Chairman was able to assure him that this was a rumour without substance.

He agreed with Mr. Adams, however, that the absence of a bus service on Saturdays placed a severe restriction on the recreational opportunities of younger residents and felt that this was an issue that the Council could pursue, particularly since no suitable site for ball games had yet been identified in the parish.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) Footpath across Glebe Field

The Clerk reported that he still awaited a reply from the Secretary of the Glebe Committee to his letter of 4th January 2006, and would seek an early opportunity to pursue the matter further.

(ii) Footpath No. 2 (Gentleshaw)

The Clerk reported that there had been no response to his letter to the landowners requesting them to trim the hedge which was obstructing the stile at the side of Briertey Hill Lane and, consequently, he had sent a copy of his letter to Mr. and Mrs. Cluer to Paul Rochfort, Principal Rights of Way Assistant, asking him to use his authority to ensure they accepted their responsibilities in this matter.

(iii) Longdon Green

The Clerk reported that he had now received a letter from R. Wootton, of the South Staffordshire Water PLC, Walsall, dated 12th September 2006, confirming that the existing chamber on Longdon Green outside "The Meads" was to be replaced and that the area to be disturbed would at most be from the existing chamber to the road and some 10m. long.

He assured the Council that the ground would be fully re-instated and reseeded when the work, which was expected to take three weeks, was completed.

(iv) Horsefair Practice

The Clerk reported that he had, as instructed, informed Emma Beaman, Community Development Officer, Community Council of Staffordshire, of the proposal of the Horsefair Medical Practice to introduce a local transport service for patients and asked her whether this would qualify for consideration as part of the Community Council's new project looking at communities' access to services.

(v) Anti-Social Behaviour in Cleat Hill Lay-By

The Clerk reported that his letter to the Divisional Highway Manager drawing his attention to this problem had been acknowledged.

(vi) Trees on Land at side of “The Farmhouse”, Lysways Lane, Longdon Green

The Clerk reported that he had written to Gareth Hare, the District Council’s Arboricultural Officer, asking him to inspect these trees.

It appeared that, since both the District Council and the County Council had disclaimed ownership of the land, it remained part of Longdon Green, in which case ensuring the safety of the trees might devolve to the Parish Council.

It was suggested that, while Mr. Hare had already reported to his employers that the trees were healthy, it would be prudent for the Council to check with its insurers whether the Council would be covered in the event of a claim arising from damage caused by one of the trees falling.

(vii) Land in front of Nos. 70-76 High Street, Longdon

The Clerk reported that Homezone had confirmed that this land still belonged to and was maintained by them, and consequently any ‘improvement’ should not take place without their permission.

5. PLANNING

(i) Report of Working Group

Cllr. Hemmingsley reported that the Working Group had considered the following planning applications:

06/00754/FUL: Longdon Stud Ltd.: Erection of Studman’s Dwelling: Longdon Stud, Bardy Lane, Upper Longdon

There had been concern that the submission would create a new holding in addition to Deva House.

In view of the limited period that foaling took place and the proposed increase in the number of stables, it was difficult to justify a new dwelling in the Green Belt, as accommodation could be provided in Deva House.

It was noted that, while it had been stated that alternative properties had been rejected as too expensive, that property and land close to or bordering the applicant’s land had recently been sold and barn conversions were taking place at Horsey Lane Farm.

It was felt that the design of the proposed dwelling would be out of character with its environment and noted that no provision had been made for parking or garaging vehicles.

If, however, the District Council concluded that a new dwelling was essential, a condition of appropriate occupancy should be imposed.

06/00755/FUL: Longdon Stud Ltd.: Replacement purpose-built stable block: Longdon Stud, Bardy Lane, Upper Longdon

It was agreed that the proposed new stable block could not be considered to fall within the definition of “small stables” as identified in Policy No. PPG 2 for development within the Green Belt.

Moreover, while Policy PPS7 encouraged the re-use of farm buildings for “small-scale horse enterprises” of up to ten horses, the proposal was not re-use and would exceed the guide-lines for horses.

Despite the removal of the existing building, the new proposal, due to its design and size, would not conserve or enhance the landscape, while it was not clear from the limited details provided whether the proposed new stable block and new studman’s dwelling would form an integral part of Longdon Stud Ltd. Or a separate business.

Objections to both of these applications had been submitted on behalf of the Parish Council.

06/00850/ABN: Mr. Kevin Healey: Agricultural Determination – Agricultural Machinery and Produce Store: Land at High Street, Longdon

An objection to this application had also been submitted since it had been felt that, by reason of size and scale, the proposal would have an adverse effect on the character of the landscape and would be disproportionate to the indicated site.

It was also noted that, although the total area of the agricultural unit was stated as 148 acres, the proposed site to which the application related was only 12 acres and it was therefore assumed that the remainder was at the applicant's address in Aldridge.

The District Council had been urged to demand a full application from the applicant.

06/00754/FUL (Amended): Longdon Stud Ltd.: Erection of Studman's Dwelling:
Longdon Stud, Bardy Lane, Upper Longdon

06/00755/FUL: Longdon Stud Ltd.: Replacement Purpose-Built Stable Block:
Longdon Stud, Bardy Lane, Upper Longdon

It was understood that the area of land within the continuous blue line on the site plan was not in single ownership, and it was not clear as to the ownership of the site on which it was intended to build the new studman's dwelling.

It was believed that, before the granting of planning permission was considered, the applicant should be required to make clear whether the land on which it was proposed to erect either of these buildings was owned by the applicant or in a private capacity by one of the partners, who would then lease it to the company.

It was agreed that neither of these amendments had sufficiently addressed the Parish Council's earlier objections.

06/00883/FUL: Maple Property Developments Ltd.: Replacement Agricultural Building:
Dark Lane Farm, Dark Lane, Longdon

It was the view of the Working Group that this enterprise, about whose viability it had doubts, did not constitute the special circumstances necessary to re-site the proposed new building within the Green Belt.

It believed that, if planning permission was granted, the new building should occupy the site of the building which it replaced.

06/00895/FUL: Mr. & Mrs. Kibble: First-floor side and single-storey rear extension:
16 The Croft, Longdon

There was no objection to this application.

(ii) For Consideration

There were no further planning applications for consideration.

(iii) Approved by Lichfield District Council

The Clerk reported that no Notices of Approval of Planning Permission had been received since the last meeting.

(iv) Refused by Lichfield District Council

The Clerk reported that no Notices of Refusal of Planning Permission had been received since the last meeting.

(v) Other Planning Matters

(a) Caravan in field at side of Commons, Gentleshaw

The Clerk reported that he had received from Sue Burlison, Democratic and Legal Services Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, a letter dated 6th October 2006, acknowledging receipt of his letter of 28th September 2006 and informing him that the matter was being investigated.

In a subsequent telephone conversation, Christine Hibbs, one of the District Council's Principal Planning Officers, had told him that this was one of 150 separate complaints being investigated and that her department had insufficient resources to deal with them, particularly as one of her colleagues, Anna Priestley, would shortly be leaving to take up the post of Principal Enforcement Officer with Tamworth Borough Council.

Cllr. Stanfield said that this had become a too-familiar situation, and he feared that such tardiness in pursuing enforcement would only encourage others to ignore planning regulations. He reminded the meeting that failure to respond to an enforcement order was a criminal offence.

Cllr. Roberts intervened to say that it was becoming increasingly difficult to recruit planning officers prepared to take responsibility for enforcement, though the District Council would have a new enforcement officer in place from the beginning of October.

He agreed to ascertain with Beth Harries, the Council Solicitor, the current situation regarding the caravan.

6. REPORTS OF MEETINGS

(i) Lichfield District Parish Forum: September 13th

Both Cllr. Stanfield and the Clerk had attended the meeting of the Lichfield District Parish Forum which had taken place in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Lichfield, on Wednesday, September 13th, 2006.

Copies of the minutes of the meeting had been distributed to Councillors before the present meeting.

The Forum was given an update on planning issues by Rob Duncan, Principal Planning Officer, and this had been followed by a brief update by Paul Ansell, Planning Policy Manager, on the Local Development Framework.

The next meeting of the Forum would be in the Council Chamber on Wednesday, November 8th, 2006, when there would be a presentation on tree conservation and an update on litter control.

(ii) Meeting at Lichfield Cathedral School, Longdon Hall

The Chairman gave a brief report on a meeting which had taken place at the Lichfield Cathedral School, Longdon Hall, on Monday, October 2nd, 2006, between members of the Parish Council and staff of the Lichfield Cathedral School.

Present on behalf of the Council were the Chairman, Cllr. Andrews, Cllr. Hemmingsley, Cllr. Juxon, Cllr. Mrs. Nichols, Cllr. Stanfield and the Clerk.

Present on behalf of the School were the Headmaster and Mrs. Allwood, the Bursar, Christopher Spruce, the Head of Pre-Prep, Mrs. Margaret Pearson, the School's Development Officer, Abbie Alcock, and one of the School's Governors, the Rev. Peter Holliday.

Cllr. Neil Roberts also attended.

The party were given a tour of the School, and the visit ended with a question-and-answer session, during which refreshments were served.

It had been, Cllr. Welch concluded, a pleasant evening, and the Council welcomed the early opportunity which it gave to establish a relationship with the School.

The offer to make rooms available for hire to the local community during non-teaching hours was especially welcomed as a positive move to establish a relationship with the Longdon community.

Cllr. Hemmingsley said that he would set up a link on the Parish Website to the School's own website.

7. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that he had received notice of the following meetings:

- (i) Staffordshire Playing Fields Association Annual General Meeting: Wednesday, October 18th, 2006, at the Staffordshire Football Association Headquarters, Dyson Court, Beaconside, Stafford, commencing at 2. 00 p.m.
The Clerk expected to attend.
- (ii) Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership – Parish Councils' Meeting: Wednesday, October 18th, 2006, at Tixall Village Hall, commencing at 7. 30 p.m.
The Chairman expected to attend.
- (iii) Construction Health and Safety Day ("A training scheme for those small contractors who work on the highway"): Thursday, October 19th, 2006, at the Britannia Stadium, Stanley Matthews Way, Stoke-on-Trent.
Both morning and afternoon sessions are available.
Details of this event had been sent to the Council for information only.
- (iv) Longdon Club and Institute – Public Meeting in support of bid for Lottery Funding: Friday, October 20th, 2006, at Longdon Memorial Hall, commencing at 8. 00 p.m.
The Club Secretary had appealed for support for this meeting from members of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Reynolds said that he would certainly be attending, and the Chairman and the Clerk both added that they would try to be there as well.
- (v) "Community Engagement and Local Leadership" – SPCA Training Seminar for Councillors and Clerks: Wednesday, October 25th, 2006, in The Dove Room, Moorlands House, Leek, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.
Principal Speaker: Lesley Savage, Community Development Manager for the Staffordshire Moorlands.
Fee for SPCA members £18. 00, including programme notes, tea and coffee.
There was no interest in attending this event.
- (vi) SPCA Lichfield Area Committee: Wednesday, November 1st, 2006, in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.
Guest Speaker: Ruth Plant, Corporate Director – Operational Services, Lichfield District Council.
All Parish, Town and City Councillors would be welcome at this meeting, which would include a buffet supper and drinks and was intended to publicise the aims and objectives of the Area Committee to Councils and Councillors who were not yet supporting its meetings.
Cllr. Stanfield and the Clerk intended to be present at this meeting, and
Cllr. Hemmingsley hoped that he too could be present.
- (vii) Police Authority Consultation: Wednesday, November 8th, 2006, at Hammerwich W. I. Hall, Burntwood Road, Hammerwich, commencing at 7. 00 p.m.
The Clerk hoped to be present.
- (viii) Lichfield District Parish Forum: Wednesday, November 8th, 2006, in the Council Chamber, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, commencing at 7. 15 p.m.
The main topics would include a presentation on tree conservation and an update on litter control.
Cllr. Stanfield expected to be present, but Cllr. Mrs. Nichols was uncertain whether she would be able to attend

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

(i) Public Footpaths Improvements

(a) Kissing-Gate sited at rear of Longdon Hall

The Clerk reported that this kissing-gate was now in place, and he had received an invoice from Alan Johnson, of Aqua Jet Services, who had carried out the work.

Mr. Johnson had described the task as not as straightforward as fitting previous galvanised gates, hinges having to be drilled and fixed and bored out to take an adjustment screw.

He had also advised the Council that erecting the next two gates would require the hire of a post borer at a cost of £49. 00 an hour.

(b) Kissing-Gate between The Croft and the A51

The Clerk reported that he had received from Will Rose, of The Croft, Longdon, a letter dated 21st September 2006, enclosing a copy of a letter which he had written to David Grain, Project Manager for the recent road works on the A51, suggesting that a short section of fence on The Croft side be removed to allow the gate to be opened fully for pushchairs and prams to pass through.

In his reply, Mr. Grain had informed Mr. Rose that, during the safety audit preceding the work, it had been decided that, for the present, the kissing-gate should remain in place unaltered, though the adequacy of this arrangement would be monitored once the puffin crossing had been installed.

However, Mr. Rose had not been satisfied with Mr. Grain's reply, and, in his letter to the Parish Council, Mr. Rose had asked the Council to consider making the kissing-gate accessible to pushchairs and prams.

The Council concluded, however, that it had already fully considered the matter, but welcomed Mr. Grain's assurance that the situation would be monitored.

The Clerk further reported that he had received from Mr. Charles Brown, of Upper Way, Upper Longdon, a letter dated 11th September 2006, in which he had acknowledged that, in his previous letter, he had overlooked the fact that there was a safety element built into gate and was now quite happy with the Parish Council's decision.

(ii) Community Paths Initiative 2005/2006

The Clerk reported that he had received from Crispin Percival-Hughes, Rights of Way Improvement Plan Officer, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 8th September 2006, in which he had confirmed that the documentation supplied with regard to the purchase of the kissing-gates was sufficient and that, consequently, he had arranged for the sum of £390. 00 to be sent under separate cover.

(iii) State of Road Surface in Mill Way

The Clerk reported that he had received a phone call from Mrs. Val Passey, of Mill Way, Longdon, drawing his attention to the need to resurface the edge of Mill Way next to the W. I. Hall, which was crumbling away and providing fertile ground for weeds.

There was already a broad band of weeds against the wall of the Village Hall opposite.

It was agreed that this problem should be referred to the Divisional Highway Manager.

(iv) Management of Space at side of No. 12 Berkeley Way, Longdon

The Clerk reported that there was a similar problem to one side of the paved footpath between Berkeley Way and Beech Walk.

He added that Mrs. Cauldwell had phoned to say that she had been advised that the chippings laid between the path and her fence were too high, and a board was needed across the bottom of the fence to prevent it from rotting.

The Chairman said that he would investigate.

The Clerk also reported that he and the Chairman had signed the Tree Preservation Order Consent Form provided by the Arboricultural Officer and returned it to Mr. Hare.

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Nichols, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Acme Tree Services, the firm that had previously carried out work on the robinia (false acacia), as soon as consent was obtained and ask them to carry out the work on the tree under Mr. Hare's supervision.

(v) Notice-Board at Brook End

The Clerk reported that he had received from Ken Owen, Divisional Highway Manager, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 15th September 2006, in which he had confirmed that the area in Brook End on which the Council proposed to erect a notice-board was adopted highway and that once the actual position had been identified he would arrange for the licence required to dig a hole in the highway to be issued at a cost of £205. 00.

He recommended using Staffordshire Highways to dig the hole so as to circumvent any potential problems and, for this service, estimated a maximum cost of £250. 00, plus VAT.

There was agreement amongst Councillors, however, that alternative and cheaper labour should be sought.

It was agreed that the occupants of Crown Bank should be advised of the Parish Council's intentions, and, on a motion proposed by Cllr. Stanfield and seconded by Cllr. Juxon, it was further agreed that a planning application should be prepared and submitted as soon as possible.

(vi) Requirements for Installation of Decorations on or above Highway

The Clerk reported that he had received from Stephen Bradbury, Lighting and IT Manager, Development Services Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 27th September 2006, advising the Council that decorations installed in or over the highway required a licence under the provisions of Section 178 of the Highways Act.

However, the Council had no plans to install such decorations.

(vii) Replacement of dead and broken trees in Upper Way

The Clerk reported that the tree outside No. 52 Upper Way had been broken off and the tree outside No. 68 Upper Way had died.

It was agreed that both should be replaced.

The Council agreed to act on Cllr. Roberts' suggestion that Gareth Hare be approached to see if he could provide the replacements as part of a bulk order which he was about to submit on behalf of the District Council.

(viii) New Access onto Thorleys Hill

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Stanfield had drawn his attention to a new access onto Thorley's Hill recently made in the hedgerow at the side of Fir Tree Cottage.

While it seemed at present that it was being used as no more than a parking bay, it meant even then that a vehicle would be exiting backwards onto the lane at a blind spot on the corner; consequently, the Clerk had reported its existence to the Divisional Highway Manager for investigation.

9. GREENS AND OPEN SPACES

(i) Management of Longdon Green

The Clerk reported that he had received from David Brammer, of the Resources Directorate, Staffordshire County Council, a letter dated 25th September 2006, on the subject of access across a registered green, in which he had expressed the view that it was not possible to create a prescriptive right of way across a common and that it remained an offence to drive a vehicle over common land.

Copies of this letter had been distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Council felt that too many grey areas remained and that the matter had now been explored in sufficient detail for the Council's purposes.

10. COMMUNITY HALLS

The Clerk reported that he had received from Neil Vyse, Chairman of the Longdon Village Hall Management Committee, an email dated 12th September 2006, informing him that the matter regarding the Deeds of the Village Hall had been discussed at the last meeting of his Committee but, in view of a heavy agenda and the need to appraise new Committee members, no conclusion had been reached.

In reply, the Clerk had asked Mr. Vyse to keep Robin Heslop, who had initiated the enquiry, informed of progress.

He had subsequently met Mr. Vyse and reminded him about the proposed meeting between members of the Council and members of his Committee. Mr. Vyse had said that he was seeking a mutually convenient time for such a meeting and would be contacting both Cllr. Welch and Cllr. Hemmingsley.

11. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

(i) Judges' Comments

The Clerk reported that he had received the judges' comments on both entries.

On *Longdon and Longdon Green*, the judges had commended the display of BKV and children's posters and the display of local information.

General maintenance was excellent, as was the map, which clearly identified all judged items.

The new finger posts were thought to be excellent, and an idea that could usefully be copied elsewhere.

The judges were, however, critical of the condition of the notice-board at the Village Hall, and suggested that the hedge at the back of the telephone kiosk be pruned back so as not to conceal the kiosk.

They also thought that the churchyard needed more attention.

On *Upper Longdon*, the judges felt that more posters were needed and were critical of a lack of local information and recycling publicity.

They also felt that the map needed amending to ensure that items on the entry form corresponded to those on the map.

The public house was well presented but the public open space maintained to a disappointing standard, and litter and dog fouling were observed in a few places.

Private gardens, however, were of a uniformly excellent standard.

The judges had concluded that Upper Longdon needed a little more attention to reach the standard to be eligible for the District Finals.

The Chairman thought that the comments on Upper Longdon were harsh, since, in his view, the village had sustained a generally well-maintained appearance throughout the Competition, and he feared that they would only discourage residents from committing to the Competition next year.

The Clerk was concerned by the comments about the need for more posters, pointing out that the suppression of fly-posting was now the responsibility of parish councils, who could hardly set a poor example by displaying BKV posters on highway verges and lamp-posts, especially in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

He pointed out that the Council made a substantial investment in publicity by enclosing an official leaflet in each copy of "Longdon Life" distributed in the weeks immediately before the beginning of the Competition, a fact which he recorded on the entry form.

Moreover, notice of the villages' entry was posted on the parish website.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Chairman of the BKV Working Group, making these concerns known to him.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(i) Accounts for Payment

On a motion proposed by Cllr. Hemmingsley and seconded by Cllr Mrs. Nichols, payment of the following accounts was approved:

Longdon W. I.	Hire of Hall	£ 12. 00
G. C. McCulloch	Mowing – September 20 th : £205. 00; Cutting & collecting long Grass on Longdon Green: £160. 00	£365. 00
Aqua Jet Services	To fit first of 3 kissing-gates – labour: £156. 00 materials: £ 20. 00	£176. 00
≠ Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	Annual Subscription	£ 15. 00

(≠ Payment made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act of 1972)

(ii) Payments Received

The Clerk reported that, since the last meeting, the following payments had been received:

Olwyn Bennett	Advertisement: “Longdon Green”	£ 8. 00
L. Marshall	Advertisement: “Longdon Life”	£ 7. 50
C. T. Marshall	Advertisement: “Longdon Life”	£ 5. 00
Staffordshire County Council	Community Paths Initiative 2005/6	£390. 00

(iii) Current Balances

The Clerk reported that, at 30th September 2006, the Council’s balances stood as follows:

NatWest c/a: £1866. 33 (less uncleared cheque: £12. 00)	The Halifax d/a: £15062. 52
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(iv) Appeals for Grant Aid

(a) Staffordshire Wildlife Trust

The Clerk reported that he had received an appeal from the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust for a financial grant towards the cost of purchasing Brankley Pastures, in East Staffordshire.

However, the Council concluded that it could not make such a grant, since it could not be shown to be of benefit to Longdon parishioners.

(v) Presentation of Reconciliation Statement for Half-Year ending 30th September 2006

The Clerk presented a Reconciliation Statement for the half-year ending 30th September 2006 which showed a total balance of £16928. 85 (made up of £1866. 33 in a NatWest current account and £15062. 52 in a Halifax deposit account).

When an uncleared cheque for £12. 00 was deducted, the final balance was £16916. 85.

Receipts had totalled £24751. 77 and payments £7834. 92, also leaving a balance of £16916. 85.

(vi) Presentation of Financial Statement for Half-Year ending 30th September 2006

The Clerk also presented a Financial Statement for the half-year ending 30th September 2006.

This showed total expenditure of £7834. 92, compared with £7240. 20 in the corresponding half-year in 2005, which was largely the result of increased support for community halls and a donation to Longdon Cricket Club.

(vii) Meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was agreed that there should be a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Monday, November 13th.

This needed to be preceded by a meeting of the Highways and Footpaths Working Group so that its members had the opportunity to discuss possible projects for the consideration of the Committee and the approval of the Council.

(viii) Funding Opportunities

(a) Rural Community Chest Scheme

The Clerk reported that he had received from Emma Beaman, Community Development Officer, Community Council of Staffordshire, a letter dated 11th September 2006 informing the Council about funding in the rural area of Staffordshire of up to £1000 for environmental, social and economic projects such as the purchase of tables and chairs for a local community centre or flower beds to improve the aesthetic appeal of a community building.

Copies of the accompanying posters had been displayed on parish notice-boards.

13. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

All correspondence received since the last meeting had already been dealt with in the course of the meeting.

14. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk reported that, in addition to the above correspondence, he had received the following communications:

- (i) From Beth Harries, Solicitor, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Executive Arrangements – Forward Plan 2006/2007 – Version 1 (issued 15th September 2006 – effective from 1st October 2006 to 31st January 2007);

Executive Arrangements – Forward Plan 2006/2007 – Version 2 (issued 27th September 2006 – effective from 1st October 2006 to 31st January 2007);

Executive Arrangements – Forward Plan 2006/2007 – Version 3 (issued 28th September 2006 – effective from 1st October 2006 to 31st December 2007);

Calendar of Meetings, fortnight ending 15th October 2006.

- (ii) From The Licensing and Electoral Services Manager, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Gambling Act 2005 – Consultation on Draft Statement of Principles and Policy.

- (iii) From The Licensing Officer, Democratic, Development and Legal Services, Lichfield District Council:

Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 15th September 2006;
Licensing Act Applications registered during w/e 22nd September 2006.

- (iv) From The Policy and Performance Manager, Organisational Development, Lichfield District Council:

Minutes of meeting of District Parish held on 13th September 2006.

- (v) From The Arts Development Officer, Lichfield District Council:

Poster of Events.

(This had been duplicated and posted on parish notice-boards)

- (vi) From The Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association:

Advisory Notes and Newsletter: Issue 1005, 2006.

- (vii) From The Community Council of Staffordshire:

Annual Report 2005-2006.

- (viii) From The Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service:

“From Time 2 Time”: Issue 12, Autumn 2006.

- (ix) From The Cannock Chase AONB Unit:

AONB News: Auutumn 2006.

- (x) From The East Midlands Regional Assembly:

Draft East Midlands Regional Plan;
Draft Regional Plan Consultation – Local Public Events.
(Northampton 1 November; Leicester 8 November;
Lincoln 14 November; Derby 15 November)

- (xi) From DEFRA:

Guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005
- Addendum.

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- (i) Cllr. Mrs. Nichols reported that the gap at the side of the gate at the entrance to the St. James Church car park had been blocked with two planks of wooden nailed to the posts on either side, she thought because of damage caused by a reversing vehicle.

The Clerk was instructed to ask for their removal.

(ii) Cllr. Parsons reported that he had observed a van turning right out of Brook End opposite Borough Lane.

The Clerk suggested that, where possible, a note be made of the vehicle's identity and the time of the incident so that a letter could be written to the driver's employers asking for him to be admonished.

(iii) Cllr. Mrs. Nichols asked for the success of the speed management scheme on the A51 to be assessed at the January 2007 meeting of the Council.

(iv) Cllr. Juxon reported that one of the trees on Longdon Green, close to The Farmhouse, appeared to be dead.

It was agreed that it should be replaced.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday, November 14th, 2006, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

This meeting had been scheduled to take place at Christ Church, Gentleshaw, but the Clerk reported that that the Meeting Room would not be available (though the room on the other side of the Nave would be free), and he was instructed to see whether the W. I. Hall would be available as an alternative venue.