

Longdon Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting of Longdon Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 7pm at C W and GVH Buds Road Cannock Wood

Present: Chairman: Trevor Johnson (Chairman)

Parish Councillors: Nick Betteley, Brendan Cooper, Louise Cotter, Gladys Crowe, Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman)

Other Councillors: Rob Strachan

Clerk: C E Gracey

Public Attendees: Three residents

Councillor Apologies:, County Cllr. Richard Cox.

The Chairman Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Chairman) opened the meeting and welcomed Members to this month's meeting.

Min No.	Item	Action
95	Apologies & Acceptance of Absence	
095.1	Cllrs. Richard Cox, submitted his apologies for this evening's meeting.	
096	Declarations of Interest	
096.1	None	
097	Chairman to close the meeting for the public session – this will be limited to 15 minutes (5 minutes per speaker)	
097.1	A resident from Cherry Tree, Longdon Green, attended. He drew attention to the driving conditions on Lysways Lane, in particular: - the extent to which the hedgerows/tree etc have been allowed to overgrow the carriageway, the persistent problems of flooding/lying water and the amount, of debris at either side of the carriageway. The resident also expressed his deep concerns regarding the speed at which vehicles travel whilst using Lysways Lane. The Chairman agreed to meet the resident onsite to discuss what actions might be taken and costs.	
097.2	The Chairman reported that he had recently met with Sir Michael Fabricant MP and one of the items discussed was the reduction of speed limits on country roads. The MP requested the parish council to write to him with the names of three roads/lanes which they wished to have the speed limit reduced from 60 to 40 mph achieved apply for more. Members discussed Borough Lane – Church Hill – Lysways Lane – Hay Lane which has a particular problem with the numbers of speeding tractors that will not slow down when approaching other vehicles or pull over.	
97.3	Two residents from properties neighbouring Sandmart Farm attended, and to draw members attention to the long-outstanding Enforcement Notice dated 2019 and which Lichfield District Council failed to enact. They reported that a recent email from the enforcement officer stated that they may need to go back to the beginning for re-assessment. Both residents commented on the contempt displayed by the landowner to the legal status of the Enforcement notice exemplified by piles of wooden pallets and old timber which posed a fire risk. The residents also commented on the problem of rat infestation. District Cllr. Rob Strachan responded to the resident on the fire risk, rat infestation, he will report both to Environmental Services and advised them to initiate a formal complaint on the Enforcement Department.	

Signed.....Date.....

	The closed the public section at 7.20pm and the three residents left the meeting.	
098	Council Minutes: To confirm as a correct record Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4th July 2023	
098.1	Resolved that the minutes of the monthly Full Council Meeting held on 4 th July 2023 were approved proposed by Cllr. Brendan Cooper seconded by Cllr. Louise Cotter and carried.	
099	Matters Arising	
099.1	None	
100	County Councillor's Report	
100.1	None	
101	District Councillor's Report.	
101.1	<p>Cllr. Rob Strachan reported on the following:</p> <p>The appeal date for Cherry Orchard site has been set for 21st November 2023</p> <p>The container has been removed from the Swan with Two Necks PH.</p> <p>The reported bus at the A51 layby will be removed.</p> <p>Following the email on local Neighbourhood Plans and the Local Plan he advised that it was a good time to review the parish council NHP and to contact an officer Patrick Jervis at LDC for advice.</p> <p>Speeding traffic on country lanes, Sir Michael Fabricant MP is recently on Members Question Time in parliament and may use this as an item. The Chairman commented on compiling a speed watch group with the use of a handheld device, and he will look into the cost, Cllr. Nick Betteley commented on traffic calming. Cllr. Rob Strachan commented that it is advisable to contact the SPCA to see if they were conducting a national poll to reduce speed on country roads.</p> <p>Cllr. Rob Strachan asked if we had received any reported incidents with the contractors LDC are using about the services they provide. It was confirmed that Longdon church had reported that their refuse bin had not been emptied for several weeks.</p>	
102	Planning	
102.1	23/00571/FULM Catmint Lodge Bardy Lane Upper Longdon – Installation of an all-weather gallop track and associated ancillary works and structures – no objection, concerns about F/P 48 and 49 and pedestrian use, will the tract be warning signposted where the track meets the footpaths.	
102.2	23/00785/FUH Keepers Cottage Startley Lane Upper Longdon – Installation of new bay window, extension to porch to front and replacement of wooden windows with uPVC – no objections – concern over replacing wooden windows with uPVC	
102.3	23/00945/FUH The Cottage School Lane Gentleshaw – Erection of two storey rear extension – deferred for more information.	
103	Outside Body Representatives Feedback	
103.1	The Chairman confirmed that he had met with County Cllr. Richard Cox and Sir Michael Fabricant MP.	

Signed.....Date.....

104**Environment Issues**

104.1

The Brook at Lysways Lane – The Chairman Cllr. Trevor Johnson reported that he had received a letter from the Golf Club, stating that due to holidays no work had taken place, but from week commencing 18th September staff will be back to normal.

Public Rights of Way– stiles – No work carried out due to loss of the handyman. A new stile gate is required at Brierley Hill Lane, there will be a surplus kissing gate when Footpath 73 requirements are changed to a horse friendly gate. The Chairman reported that he had spoken with SCC Paul Rochfort Public Rights of Way Officer who had asked the parish council for a contribution toward the installation of a Farmers gate on FP 73 soon to be a new bridleway, this was agreed.

Grass Cutting – Members discussed the grass cutting and agreed that more cuts were required, proposed by Cllr. Louise Cotter seconded by Cllr. Nick Betteley for 2 additional cuts and also to cut the protected area and carried.

Schedule Update – No further comments

The Green, Longdon Green – On-going

105**Finance**

105.1

Payments to be approved

Payee	Invoice Nr.	Cheque Nr.	Nett	VAT	Total
WCAVA(Payroll fees and clerk's August paye)		002787	152.50	1.10	153.60
C E Gracey(Clerk's September salary)		002788	587.20	-	587.20
C E Gracey Expenses July and August (postage, photocopying)		002789	37.95	-	37.95
G C McCulloch (7 and 8 th cuts)	39 and 47	002790	1060.00	-	1060.00
LDC (Annual charge for dog bin emptying)	M0075943440	002791	1128.40	225.68	1354.08
CW and GVH (Hall hire for 2023)	CW/2023/LPC	002792	153.00	-	153.00
Mazars LLP(External audit 2022-23)	2227099	002793	210.00	42.00	252.00
T Johnson(Expenses – Bulbs, stationery and hedge trimming)		002794	154.88	-	154.88
TOTAL			3483.93	268.78	3752.71

Accounts for payment during August – proposed by Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Chairman) seconded by Cllr. Louise Cotter and carried.

105.2

Receipt & Payments 1st April to 31st July 2023 proposed by Cllr. Louise Cotter seconded by Cllr. Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman) and carried 1st April to 31st August 2023 proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Gladys Crowe and carried along with the copy bank statements for July and August.

Bank Reconciliation

Current Account @ 31/08/23 £78,170.86
Less unrepresented cheques £ 153.40

Balance @ 31/08/2023 £78,017.46

Bank Reconciliation**Cash Book Reconciliation,**

C/FWD £54,178.15
Receipt £33,510.53
Payments £ 9,671.22

Bal @ 31/08/23 £ 78,017.46

Cash Book Reconciliation,

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Current Account @ 31/07/23	£77,254.43	C/FWD	£54,178.15
Less unrepresented cheques	£ 1,051.50	Receipt	£31,670.00
		Payments	£ 9,645.22
Balance @ 31/07/2023	<u>£76,202.93</u>	Bal @ 31/07/23	<u>£ 76,202.93</u>

Budget Tracking – deferred

Budget Projections 2023-24 – The Chairman presented projections of the remaining budget for 2023-24 and reported that he was getting quotations for various projects including the clearance of footpath Brook End – Borough Lane – High Street.

Asset Register – deferred until the next meeting

Consider grant application for CW & GVH - declined

Consider grant application for Longdon Old Peoples Welfare Committee – proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Louise Cotter and carried.

106

Correspondence Report

106.1

To receive a report from the Clerk on Correspondence received and forwarded to Council.

- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 5th July 2023
- Response from SCC Highways re parking on Church Hill emailed to Chair 8th July 2023
- SCC Road Traffic Order for Horsey Lane emailed to council 8th July 2023
- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 18th July 2023
- Email from WI Hall re: work at the hall emailed council 18th July 2023
- Email from resident re: enforcement at Sandmart Farm Hay Lane emailed to council 18th July 2023
- Email from District Cllr. Rob Strachan with an update on an enforcement matter at The Swan with Two Necks, emailed to council 29th July 2023
- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 1st August 2023
- SCC Legal Department notice of confirmation of modification order for part of FP 73 being upgraded to a bridleway from 9th June 2023 emailed to council 2nd August 2023
- Email from resident re: planters and tree planning at Stockings Lane junction Giddywell Lane emailed to council 2nd August 2023
- Email from District Cllr. Rob Strachan on the Cherry Orchard appeal emailed to council 7th August 2023
- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 9th August 2023
- Boundary Commission consultation details on Staffordshire boundary changes emailed to council 9th August 2023
- Response from 114 Upper Way Upper Longdon emailed to Chair 15th August 2023
- Response from SCC re: 114 Upper Way Upper Longdon emailed to Chair 15th August 2023
- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 18th August 2023
- Email with details of a campaign to protect NHP emailed to council 18th August 2023
- Response from District Cllr. Rob Strachan on the campaign to protect the NHP emailed to council 4th September 2023
- Email from LDC with details of the planning appeal for Land at Cherry Tree Orchard Farm emailed to council 4th September 2023

Signed.....Date.....

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from St. James Church re emptying of the refuse bin, response confirmed that the contract for 2023-24 was in place. 	
107	Speed Indicator Device Upper Way Upper Longdon	
107.1	Whilst continuing to assert the land in which the pole is located is owned by them, SCC have decided to attempt to meet with the resident to find an amicable solution to the present impasse.	
108	HS2 Phase 2a	
108.1	The Chairman reported he had written again to SCC/HS2 liaison team to request a further update following their recent Teams meeting.	
109	Church Hill – Inconsiderate Parking	
109.1	The parish council's request for double yellow lines has been included in the HS2-A51 Road Safety proposals.	
110	Projects – A51 footpath between Longdon Green and Cleats Hill cleared & cleaned.	
110.1	No progress to report.	
111	Footpath – Brook End – Borough Lane – High Street	
111.1	<p>The Chairman reported he had quotations for these and the footpath leading from Brook End to Bradley Lakes to be cleared. Members voted in favour of the work being done and allocated funds accordingly.</p> <p>Cllr. Nick Betteley requested that the footpath leading from Brook End up past the church and then opposite to the top of Church Hill is also considered. The Chairman agreed to get a quotation for the October meeting.</p>	
112	Dog Issues – Keeping dogs on leads – picking up after your dog	
112.1	The non-clearance and proper disposal of dog litter continues to be a concern.	
113	Children playing and status of the Berkeley Way Green	
113.1	This issue appears to have gone away. The parish council will continue to monitor the situation.	
114	Swan with Two Necks PH - Container	
114.1	The container has now been removed. Many thanks to all concerned.	
115	BKCV 2024	
115.1	Members agreed to defer this topic until residents come forward with requests/proposals of how they wish to proceed.	
116	Items for future meetings: To consider items for inclusion on future agenda (no decisions will be taken in this item)	
116.1	None	
0117	Date of the Next Planned Council Meeting	
117.1	Tuesday 10 th October 2023 7pm at WI Hall Ford Lane Longdon	
0118	Meeting closed at 8.45pm	

Signed.....Date.....