

Longdon Parish Council

**Minutes of Council Meeting of Longdon Parish Council held 7.00pm on Tuesday 14th March 2023
7pm @ W I Hall Ford Lane Longdon.**

Present: Chairman: Trevor Johnson(Chairman)

Parish Councillors: Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman) Helen Hulme,
John Watkins-Smythe, Gladys Crowe, Nick Betteley, Brendan Cooper.

Other Councillors: None

Clerk: C E Gracey

Public Attendees: 6

Councillor Apologies: Louise Cotter, Rob Strachan & Richard Cox

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

Min No.	Item	Action
866	Apologies & Acceptance of Absence	
866.1	Cllrs. Louise Cotter, Rob Strachan & Richard Cox all submitted their apologies for this evening's meeting.	
867	Declarations of Interest	
867.1	None	
868	Chairman to close the meeting for the public session – this will be limited to 15 minutes (5 minutes per speaker)	
868.1	<p>Three residents reported that their children have been playing on The Green at Berkeley Way junction Beech Walk, they were cycling on the unmade paths and created jumps and ramps to facilitate the play. The children were approached by 2 adults who were quite rude to them. The parents reported that The Green is the only facility for children to play in the village and that to assist with the area not becoming impassable, would the parish council consider putting bark on the unmade paths. The Chairman Cllr. Trevor Johnson responded that he had no knowledge of any adults approaching the children, he reported that there was a conflict of interest between children playing and nearby residents who wanted the area kept tidy, the parish council have concerns about the insurance and as to whether they have cover should anyone injure themselves on the land. The parish council acquired the land in 1973 as common land for any one's use and then in 2015 is attained village green status. One of the residents reported that land is for everyone's use and that the trees on the land have TPO status. Some of the bushes and shrubs need attention as they overhang the footpaths & the roadway. One of the residents reported that she had looked at the past minutes of the council and their committees and from 2004 to 2014 there were minuted discussions to provide a children's provision in Longdon, which has never occurred. The Chairman commented that the interested residents should consider funding raising to purchase a suitable plot of land to accommodate a children's play area, should one become available. Cllr. Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman) apologised for any misunderstanding caused from the social media postings.</p> <p>The Chairman closed the public session at 7.25pm and commenced the council meeting. Five of the residents present left the meeting.</p>	
869	Council Minutes: To confirm as a correct record Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th February 2023	

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869.1	Resolved that the minutes of the Monthly Full Council Meeting held on 14 th February 2023 were approved proposed by Cllr. Helen Hulme seconded by Cllr. Gladys Crowe and carried.	
870	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>870.1 853.2 Additional Grass Cutting – The clerk reported that there had been no response from the contractor regarding the grass cutting, Members concluded that as the new season cutting would commence shortly no further cuts will happen at this time.</p>	
871	<p>County Councillor’s Report</p> <p>871.1 In his absence Cllr. Richard Cox had submitted a report to the Chairman as follows:</p> <p>Reported overgrown trees in Gentleshaw – This has been reported to the Tree Officer and has been raised on the system, as yet no visit has been made to the site and subsequently no work carried out</p> <p>Flooding Stockings Lane –the cause, a blocked/damaged underground pipe is to be investigated, a road closure is required to carry out investigation and possible works.</p> <p>HS2 Phase 2a – The recent PC briefing was as normal. The subsequent recent comments by the Government had not been taken into consideration. We’re awaiting further clarification on the consequences of the 2 year delay.</p> <p>Highways Investment – SCC will be investing a further £30m over the next 2 years, taking the overall budget to approximately £80m to deal with the level of potholes, blocked gullies and major road network improvements.</p> <p>Church Lane Double Yellow Lines request – Cllr. Cox confirmed he is prepared to contribute from his forthcoming DHP budget, along with a contribution from the parish council but the remainder would have to come from the highways budget.</p> <p>Upper Way SID Pole – No further information to advise at the present time.</p>	
872	<p>District Councillor’s Report</p> <p>872.1 In his absence Cllr. Rob Strachan had submitted the following report:</p> <p>Planning Enforcement</p> <p>Cherry Orchard – The Appeal Inspection will be taking place over the next week as an informal oral hearing at the District Council House. I have made representations as has Cllr Thomas Marshall as Chair of the Planning Committee. The outcome will not be known immediately however I am advised that the Council’s enforcement case is strong. The case for retention is more finely balanced and will be influenced by the application of matters of decided planning law on either side. I am hopeful that a direction for removal can be secured rapidly.</p> <p>Sandmart Farm, Hay Lane – Enforcement continue to deal with both the planning incursion and noise nuisance elements of this application</p> <p>The Giddies, Hay Lane – I am currently chasing an enforcement decision and understand that a site visit has taken place recently. I would thank Cllr Brown for her ongoing diligence in this matter.</p> <p>Ongoing Consultations</p>	

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Consultations are ongoing for the future of the Birmingham Road Site, which closes on 30th June 2023, and for the trial pedestrianisation of Lichfield City Centre closing on 30th August 2023. Representations can be made on the District Council's website. The District Council are aware of the widely reported adverse impact on disabled parking and are actively seeking dialogue and solutions with the affected community. Public meetings have taken place already and if there are anymore, I will communicate them to you.

Ongoing Initiatives - Voter ID – The forthcoming elections in May will be the first elections in the UK for which photo ID must be produced at the polling station. Valid documents can include passports and driving licenses, bus passes and other documents bearing the name and photograph of the bearer. We are attempting to be as inclusive as possible and do not wish to disenfranchise anyone wishing to vote. If anybody has no photo ID, the District Council is issuing free voter ID certification with photo ID and I would urge anyone to come forward and get that well in advance of the election.

Other matters - Berkeley Way / Beech Walk green space – I am aware of the issues and have not made any public statements to date, as the area is firmly in the domain of the Parish Council. However, I would offer some gentle advice and reassurance:

- Children have played on that open space since the more modern part of the village was built many years ago. I recall being told off for riding my bike on that area, for playing cricket and football, and for climbing the trees. I would be strongly against any motion to prevent play in that area, especially as it is publicly owned while much of the open land around the village is privately owned and used for stock.
- I would encourage all involved to try to respect the land that they are using. While I have seen evidence of minimal damage so far, at least one resident wrote to me suggesting that there was evidence of a fire on the area. I have also seen reports of unattended tools. I have no desire to stoke the fires again, so would simply call for a responsible approach to be taken by those using the green.
- It is a sad truth that there is little available open space for children to play, and a lack of play equipment. I have repeatedly made offers, and make them again, that the District Council is able to provide play equipment suitable for a wide range of ages subject to a suitable site being identified. I am aware that the land at the rear of Longdon Club was mooted a few years ago and enquiries were well underway to see what could work there, but consent was subsequently not secured. I am absolutely willing to support the Parish Council if it wishes to secure and develop land for this purpose and believe that LDC still has equipment if you need it.
- A number of statements made via social media have concerned me with the personal and aggressive tone made. Equally, there are statements made which may require further clarification, or which deserve proper scrutiny via public channels. I would urge all concerned to show restraint in their tone and respect in their debating. This is a beautiful village which is best served if we all work together for solutions rather than clashing in argument. If there is any requirement for fair brokering I would be happy to mediate.

HS2 – I have seen the pause in Phase 2 and via our MP am seeking clarification on the effect that will have on Phase 2 which terminates at

	Handsacre. A number of elected representatives at a number of levels are asking what this means for the current projected works and impacts – HS2 have not yet provided any clarification. I shall let you know as soon as I do.	
873	Planning	
873.1	22/01474/COU Conversion of two former agricultural buildings to form commercial units at Cleat Hill Farm Stafford Road Longdon – approved 16 th February 2023	
873.2	22/01207/FUH Proposed rear extension & front porch at The grange Upper Longdon – approved 16 th February 2023	
873.3	22/01733/FUH Erection of single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory, two storey rear link extension, replacement dormers, installation of 3 rooflights to main dwelling & associated works at Smithy Hay, Hay Lane, Longdon Green – approved 21 st February 2023	
873.4	20/00666/FUL Retention of land as residential caravan site for 1nr. Gypsy family including 1nr. Touring caravan and 1nr. Static caravan with provision of 1nr. Amenity building, septic tank, hardstanding area and access at Land at Cherry Orchard Farm Stafford Road Longdon – refused 10 th November 2020 – appeal hearing date postponed until further notice.	
873.5	22/01712/FUH Erection of single storey and side extensions, external insulation and render, new window openings and internal reconfiguration at Bardy Farm Cottage, Bardy Lane Upper Longdon – Approved 6 th March 2023.	
873.6	23/00255/PNH Prior notification single storey rear extension projecting 6m from the rear wall of the original dwelling and reaching a maximum height of 3.3m and eaves height of 3.3m at Churchfield House Smithy Lane Longdon.	
874	Outside Body Representatives Feedback	
874.1	The Chairman reported that he had attended the following: Hearing of the F/P 73 Appeal, the landowner was unable to attend due to ill health, however the hearing continued to hear evidence. The landowner was represented by his agent. An announcement is expected shortly. Staffs CC Liaison meeting on HS2 Phase 2a – comments on Borough Lane junction A51 and High Street junction A51 junctions are already overloaded with traffic and speeding vehicles. Consideration to dual carriageway or a roundabout in the area, although there are no funds to support these considerations, so traffic lights may be the option available from funding left from HS1. The Chairman had reminded the committee about future proposals for the junction at Longdon Green and Brereton Hill Lane.	
875	Environment Issues	
875.1	The Brook at Lysways Lane – The Chairman reported that work is still ongoing by Seedy Mill Golf Course. Cllr. Nick Betteley reported that their progress is slow and a fallen tree was still there and has not been removed, the Chairman said he would report it to them.	TJ
875.2	Public Rights of Way– stiles – Cllr. Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman) reported that following discussions with SCC, they will provide materials to replace the way markers on two footpaths if the parish council install them. Cost will be calculated before the work goes ahead. No further audits on the	C

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outstanding paths have been carried out. Cllr. Nick Betteley reported a collapsed footbridge adjacent to the farm at Broomy Fields, he will forward the details to Cllr. Craig Stevens.

The last resident left the meeting at 8pm.

876

Finance

876.1

Payments to be approved

Payee	Invoice Nr.	Cheque Nr.	Nett	VAT	Total
WCAVA(Payroll fees March)	433	002690	152.30	1.10	153.40
Lichfield DC(Annual charge for emptying refuse bins at St. James Church & Gentleshaw)	M0075933339 M0075930563	002691	1090.00	-	1090.00
C E Gracey(Clerk's March salary)		002692	587.60	-	587.60
C E Gracey Expenses(postage, photocopying & anti virus)		002693	39.03	-	39.03
J P Howells(Replacement collection box)	Inv 17666	002694	16.66	3.33	19.99
I Billingham(bridle path Brereton Hill Lane/Upper Way)		002695	100.00	-	100.00
SPCA (2023-24 subs)	SI-1069	002696	355.76	-	355.76
TOTAL			£2341.35	£4.43	£2345.78

Accounts for payment during February – proposed by Cllr. Trevor Johnson seconded by Cllr. Brendan Cooper and carried.

876.2

Receipt & Payments spreadsheet 1st April to 28th February 2023 & copy of the bank statement @ 28th February 2023 proposed Cllr. Trevor Johnson(Chairman) seconded by Cllr. Brendan Cooper and carried.

Bank Reconciliation

Current Account @ 28/02/23 £ 55,587.28
Less unrepresented cheques £ -

Balance @ 28/02/2023 £55,587.28

Cash Book Reconciliation,

C/FWD £53,211.34
Receipt £ 30,630.15
Payments £ 28,254.21

Bal @ 28/02/2023 £ 55,587.28

876.3

Budget Tracking – February 2023 Cllr. Craig Stevens reported on the present expenditure and submitted the figures. noted.

876.4

Consider grant to St. James the Great Church - declined

876.5

Consider grant to Longdon Show Committee – approved amount inline with grant rules. The rules will be reviewed by council.

877

Correspondence Report

877.1

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

- Email from Local Government Boundary Commission on forthcoming SCC boundary changes emailed to council 20th February 2023
- SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 21st February 2023
- HS2 Phase 2 Extraordinary Meeting Summary & actions emailed to councillors who may have attended the meeting 2nd March 2023

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 2nd March 2023 • SCC Newsletter emailed to council 2nd March 2023 • SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 6th March 2023 • Email from resident regarding Berkeley Way Green emailed to council 8th March 2023 • SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 13th March 2023 • LDC details of Cherry Tree Orchard appeal postponed emailed to council 13th March 2023 	
878	Annual maintenance on street furniture – benches, finger posts, notice boards, bus shelters, clean gateway signs	
878.1	Work ongoing by the contractor – Bridle path Brereton Hill Road junction Upper Way.	
879	Speed Indicator Device Upper Way Upper Longdon	
879.1	Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Chairman) reported that the matter is ongoing.	
880	HS2 Phase 2a	
880.1	As discussed in minute 871 & 874.	
881	Church Hill – double yellow lines	
881.1	Further to minute 871, members voted in favour of moving forward to getting double yellow lines painted. The Chairman will discuss this with Cllr. Richard Cox.	
882	Calendar 2023	
882.1	The Chairman reported that all the monies from the sale of calendars have now been banked.	
883	Land Adjacent to Lichfield Cathedral School	
883.1	Cllr. Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman) reported that other matters are being considered for the land, therefore no further action at the present time. This item will be removed from the agenda.	
884	Projects – A51 Footpath Cleared and Cleaned	
884.1	The Chairman reported that he will speak to County Cllr. Richard Cox about the partial work carried out and the rest remains in need of clearing.	
885	Berkeley Way Green – Status of land – Childrens Provision	
885.1	As discussed in public participation.	
886	Footpath – Brook End – Borough Lane – High Street	
886.1	The problem of the footpath becoming overgrown with grass has been exacerbated by recent hedge cutting require attention. Cllr. Richard Cox has been asked to help.	
887	Dog Issues – Keeping dogs on leads – picking up after your dog	
887.1	Cllr. Brendan Cooper presented a paper on the public health issues of not	

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	picking up dog droppings and leaving them on the footpath, open spaces, fields & verges. Members discussed the contents of the paper and agreed to use it as the basis to inform dog walkers WHY it's so important to pick up their dog litter promptly.	
888 888.1	Items for future meetings: To consider items for inclusion on future agenda (no decisions will be taken in this item) Asset Register to be reviewed, a copy will be issued to all Members	Clerk
889 889.1	Date of the Next Planned Council Meeting Tuesday 17 th April 2023 5.45pm at WI Hall Ford Lane Longdon Annual Parish Assembly 17 th April 7.45pm at Village Hall Brook End Longdon	
890	Meeting closed at 8.50pm	

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