

# Longworth Parish Council

## **MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**

Held at Longworth Village Hall at 7pm on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**PRESENT:** Mr Hodgkins, Mrs Kinch, Mr Longstaff, Mr Pearce (Chairman), Mr Shaw, Councillor Tilley, Mrs Woodford, Mrs Carlisle (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

### **114/15 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from, Mr Hayward

### **115/15 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> September meeting were put before the Councillors and accepted as being correct and duly signed

### **116/15 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST**

There were no changes reported.

### **117/15 MELINDA TILLEY**

Councillor Tilley reported that there will be budget cuts this year, and offered to answer any questions. All subsidies for buses have been stopped, but this will not affect school buses. The council are investigating if a pot can be put aside for struggling rural areas and are waiting to hear from Treasury to hear if all cuts have now been found. Oxfordshire have saved £290 million over last 5 years, been asked to save another £50 million (best estimate). Councillor Tilley was asked if there were any reserves to spend, and was able to confirm that reserves getting very low.

### **118/15 OPEN SESSION**

A member of the public reported signs down on Kingston Hill (*reported*), and Draycot Road, in addition to the one on the junction with the A415. Clerk to report on fix my street together with a Pothole at Northfield farm.

It was also reported that the Perspex in the bus shelter has been taken, Clerk to report to the police and get a crime number then investigate if it is worth claiming on the insurance.  
(*Crime number 43150349872*)2

### **119/15 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising

### **120/15 DONATION REQUESTS AND POLICY**

I was agreed that there should be a Policy in place for donations, and to support local charities. The current year budget is £620 and this was thought to be too high. All councillors voted in favour of having a budget of £250 per year for donations going forward. It was agreed to pay the £67 to British Legion for the Poppy wreath plus donation.

### **121/15 NAG UPDATE – MICHAEL HODGKINS**

The Speed watch machine has arrived and ready to use. Clerk to notify volunteers and get information about training. Mrs Woodford volunteered to be co-ordinator for the scheme.

### **122/15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

P15/V2480/FUL West View cottage Church Lane. Planning for a new detached Garage and new access road from the High Street. Councillors discussed the application and, concerns were expressed that it was out of proportion for the size of property and that this could potentially be changed by the "change of use" policy to residential development in the future, which the council would like to avoid. It was agreed to put these reservations on the council's response to the

application.

**123/15 PLAYGROUND – INCLUDING POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF LAND**

VOWH have suggested that the Parish Council might like to take ownership of the playground for a transfer fee of £1 plus their legal fees (to be capped at £1,000). This was discussed and a vote held. It was unanimously agreed that the council would be interested in taking this forward to ensure that it remains a protected Greenspace, however Councillors were keen to try and get the legal costs reduced.

The October inspection was carried out by Mrs Kinch, Playdale have confirmed that the repairs to the split tunnel went ahead at the beginning of November. Mr Eastwood confirmed that he is still happy to empty the rubbish bin. The Hedges need trimming back Clerk to get quotes. More bark chippings are needed on the cableway, Clerk to order. The November inspection will be carried out by Mr Shaw

**124/15 CHURCHYARD AND BURIAL GROUND**

Mr Longstaff updated that BGG carried out a tidying day in addition to the usual grass cutting, and the churchyard is generally looking a lot better. There was a charge of £450 for this extra work. There are still a lot of dead and overhanging branches, and the hedge around the outside also needs cutting back (scheduled to be trimmed sometime soon TBA). It was suggested that a Capital injection might be needed to get the graveyard to a standard that everyone is happy with, and the possibility of a contribution towards this from the PCC was discussed. Mr Longstaff to write a report of what work needs doing. It was also suggested by some villagers to hold a work party/ Volunteer day, this will be considered. Clerk/Chairman to look into legislation re graves themselves and who is responsible for the upkeep.

**125/15 COMMUNAL ROAMING LAND SUGGESTION**

A suggestion put forward by a villager, to develop the 6.5 acres plot to North of allotments, (currently let to Mr & Mrs Pointon) this was discussed. The proposal: To fence the plot, plant trees and have free roaming land, where people can walk their dogs and enjoy the beautiful views. This idea was discussed and a Vote taken. It was agreed unanimously not to take this forward.

**126/15 ALLOTMENT ENHANCEMENT SUGGESTION**

Another suggestion received from a villager to provide clubhouse on the allotment, with plumbing, electricity etc. The costs of upkeep would fall within the PC budget, together with cleaning and utilities. A vote was taken and it was agreed not to take this suggestion forward.

**127/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE SANDRA SABATHY**

The Parish Council approved to move to the next stage of the planning process at the extraordinary meeting held on 8th July in the Village Hall. The next stage is village consultation. The Village consultation is expected to take 6 weeks, and is likely to be early in 2016, the plan will go on the village website and be available at an event in the Village Hall. The Plan also has to go to an independent examiner. Following the consultation a number of organisations will feed back their responses, these will be compiled into a document together with any comments received from the public. Finally the village will get invited vote for or against the plan early in the New Year. If the vote is in favour of adopting the plan it will be ratified shortly after.

**128/15 ALLOTMENTS UPDATE WENDY WOODFORD**

There have been a few unfortunate incidents over the last couple of months, sheds have been broken into, and crops have been stolen from plots. Also an incident occurred where a tap was left on (maybe accidentally, or maybe sabotage/hooliganism) this has resulted in a large bill. The old "No Dogs signs" near the main gate have been replaced with shiny new signs some Villagers expressed upset at this. Dog walkers should use the public footpath which is clearly marked and runs from Church Lane (by Longworth House) to Tucks Lane.

**129/15 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**

Clerk advised that financial regulations are being worked on and will be presented to the December meeting together with updated 2015/16 forecast and 2016/17 draft budget/precept

request. Also the information provided will be updated in line with the requirements of the new standing orders which will come into effect from the new financial year.

<b>RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS</b>	
<b>Receipts for October/November 2015 were as follows:</b>	
Interest on NSI (7.19 & 7.43)	14.62
Tax refund	184.64
Churchyard grave reservations	400.00
Churchyard grave reservations	200.00
<b>Payments October/November 2015 :</b>	
Clerks Salary £398.97 and ytd adjustment (£1196.88)	1595.85
Admin including meeting room hire (£45)	47.05
BGG invoice for cutting the churchyard grass	120.00
Allotment Signs	20.72
Footpath Clearing	450.00
Playground signs	96.31
Neighbourhood plan RCOH consultancy fee	4128.00

**130/15 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Letter from Mr & Mrs Pointon to be discussed at the next meeting.

**131/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Standing Orders and financial regulations are currently being updated.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm

Date of next meetings: 16<sup>th</sup> December and 27<sup>th</sup> January in the Village Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....