

Longworth Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Held at Longworth Village Hall at 7pm on 19th August 2015

PRESENT: Mr Hodgkins, Mr Longstaff, Mr Pearce (Chairman), Ms Sabathy, Mr Shaw, Mrs Woodford and Mrs Carlisle (Clerk) and 12 members of the public.

81/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Kinch & Councillor Tilley,

82/15 MINUTES OF LAST 2 MEETINGS

The minutes of the 24th June meeting and 8th July extraordinary meeting were put before the Councillors and accepted as being correct and duly signed.

83/15 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

There were no changes reported.

84/15 OPEN SESSION

Mrs Auckland thanked the Parish Council for the grant of £100 on behalf of the flower arrangers at the allotments, £80 has been spent so far and the plot coming along nicely.

85/15 MATTERS ARISING

Mr Longstaff has contacted Gigaclear, every month for the last 6 months, and received several apologies but no action he feels this is no longer acceptable, and has sent Gigaclear a bill for putting right the mess they made.

Clerk updated overgrown Verges all reported to Highways and now cut back, 30 MPH sign by Duck cottage also reported and resolved.

86/15 POTTING SHED NURSERIES – ROBBIE SEAGROVE & HENRY VENNERS

Mr. Seagrove attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Jack Moody (Owner of Potting shed nurseries for the best part of 30 years) together with Henry Venners from John Phillips Planning Partnership. Mr. Seagrove advised that Mr. Moody wants to consider the best use for the site. Mr. Venners suggested that this could be taken forward with an outline planning app, to see if the site is suitable for development. However they would like to know how villagers feel about development on the Nursery site and ideally would like to do this with the blessing of the community. Mr. Venners wanted to know what the Neighbourhood Plan is looking for in terms of number of houses and suggested that they could prepare a presentation for the village maybe in the form of information boards, in the Village Hall. Ms. Sabathy advised that this Neighbourhood plan information is not yet available. Mr. Pearce thanked them for attending the meeting and it was suggested that if they wished to pursue development then perhaps the best way would be to formulate such proposals and, come back with plans to be presented to the village in some way. Mr. Venners suggested that if anyone had ideas to get his details from the Clerk. A member of the public suggested that as the Vale local plan is almost achieved in respect of land/housing supply, the pressure is off for smaller villages apart from limited infill. Mr. Venners suggested that they were looking to achieve a proportionate level of development. Another member of public, commented that the infrastructure is barely able to cope with sewage etc... at the moment even without further development. Mr. Venners informed that there is a legal obligation for Thames water to allow new houses to their network, but new capacity cannot be added until capacity is available.

87/15 GRASS CUTTING AT THE CHURCH – MR LONGSTAFF

Mr Longstaff updated the meeting, and advised that so far quotes had been received from Sorbus Garden Care in Southmoor and BGG, the 3rd quote has not yet been received. The preference is to remain with BGG who supplied 3 quotes, at a very fair price. BGG would be flexible. The council

agreed to go for the middle ground to start with at an annual cost of approx. £1,725, with clearing every other cut, this compares to the current year budget of £1,200 for cutting only. The Parish Council also agreed that the tree clearing and hedges should be done yearly. Clerk to include this in the budget revision.

88/15 BUCKLAND COMMUNITY BUS – TRISH ADAMS

The community Bus is paid for by fundraising and /or bus pass repayment. It runs twice a week, to provide a service for Longworth and nearby villages. In recent years it has been difficult to get drivers. The bus provides a service into Faringdon to the doctors and also once a month each to Witney and Wantage. Mrs Adams was asking for volunteers either to drive the bus and/or join the committee (who are responsible for running charity events). For more information see the article in this month's Seven Voices. David Fox (villager), expressed an interest in becoming a driver. Volunteers over 70 need to get a medical certificate from their doctor (this can be obtained from Gavin Bartholomew at the WHMP). The Committee meets 4 times per year. Clerk to circulate seven voices advert to village email

89/15 NAG UPDATE – MICHAEL HODGKINS

Mr. Hodgkins updated the Parish council on NAG developments. The last meeting was in Denchworth on 30th July. OCC are to consult on possible closure of Stanford recycling centre, everyone at the meeting was against it. PC Chris Linzy reported an astonishing uptake of 80% of smartwater, he congratulated Longworth residents the police were very pleased with the response. As members of this committee we have an opportunity to raise any crime issue in the village. For example antisocial behaviour, drug use etc... Longworth's participation to the Speed-watch initiative has been confirmed at a cost of £300, NAG are hoping to get the scheme up and running in the next month or 2. The next NAG meeting is to be held in Southmoor on 17th September at 7pm. Clerk and Mr Hodgkins agreed to draft a communication to send out to Longworth villagers, and distribute as a flyer in advertiser and also via village email.

90/15 PLAYGROUND

Mr Hodgkins carried out the July inspection (together with Lesley Kinch) and reported that the bin needed emptying, hedges & dead elms need clearing/trimming back and grass cutting, also bird droppings making some equipment unusable. The August inspection was carried out by Mr Longstaff, who reported that the signs need replacing with more permanent signage, the dead Elms still need removing, there is evidence of Moles and the bench is overgrown The Clerk has tried to contact parks and open spaces re grass cutting, and left a couple of voicemails and an email. The Playdale Tunnel is starting to crack, Clerk has reported this to Jamie Martin at Playdale and promised to send photographic evidence for them to view, so that they can decide how to repair. First Quote received from Sovereign, 2nd quote requested from Playdale meeting 10th September and Justine to get 3rd quote from Homefront. The September inspection will be carried out by Ms Sabathy, Clerk to issue checklist and October Mrs Kinch.

91/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE SANDRA SABATHY

The team thought they were close to delivering the draft pre-submission plan to the PC for their review and hopefully approval for taking it then to village consultation. However, they recently received further feedback received from the Neighbourhood planning consultant and the planning contact at the Vale that needed to be reviewed and decisions made as some of the information and advice differed in approach. Once those issues are resolved and the final draft complete, hard copies of the draft pre-submission plan will be submitted to Parish Council. One part of plan which will remain firm and not changed is no sites will be listed. This will not preclude any property owners or developers for I'm submitting a plan; it does mean that the plan will not contain any preferential support from the Neighbourhood Plan for specific sites for any type of development. The Neighbourhood planning committee will try to get the draft to the Parish Councillors prior to the next PC meeting.

92/15 ALLOTMENTS UPDATE AND ISSUES WENDY WOODFORD

Letter received from Mrs Pointon, about Ragwort on the allotments. There are currently 4 plot holders with a small amount of Ragwort, Mrs Woodford to contact these plot holders as a matter of courtesy to Mrs Pointon. There is also Evidence of Ragwort on 5 of the 6 vacant plots in the

allotment car park and outside on the road. Mrs Woodford to find out from DEFRA if this has to be dealt with as a legal requirement and get a quote for pulling, preferably in the spring when the ground is a bit softer. In the meantime, Mrs Woodford will try and cut the heads off to stop the seeds spreading

93/15 RISK ASSESSMENT

The risk assessment from 2014 was updated following the changes requested at the June meeting, for review. The 2015 Risk assessment was issued and approved at the meeting

94/15 STANDING ORDERS

The standing orders were issued at June meeting to councillors to be reviewed. Clerk and Chairman to speak to Jan Gossett for advice before updating and bringing back to a subsequent Parish Council meeting for signing off.

95/15 TRANSPARANCY CODE FOR SMALLER AUTHORITIES

Clerk updated that a new directive has been received from Department for Communities and Local Government, discovered on the CPALC website. Appendix A lists the information required on Village website.

So far we have complied with the following:
 Items of expenditure above £100 for 2014/15
 End of year accounts
 Annual governance statement
 Internal audit report
 List of councillor responsibilities
 Minutes and agendas from formal meetings

Still to do/ outstanding:
 Associated papers from meetings (if relevant)
 Location of public Land and building assets

96/15 NEW PENSION REGULATIONS

New regulations received. Clerk has registered the Parish Council and nominated point of contact. Nothing to do on this until 2016, comes into force in 2017

97/15	RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS	
	Receipts for July/August 2015 were as follows:	
	Interest on NSI	14.62
	Maturation of Money Market investment together with interest	12484.84
	Payments July/August 2015 :	
	Clerks Salary July	199.49
	Office expenses (postage and stationery)	9.00
	Parish Insurance	849.84
	Village Hall rental (4 meetings)	60.00
	BGG invoice for cutting the churchyard grass	240.00
	Kristian – Footpath Clearing	300.00
	Election Costs	170.00
	Allotment Water rates	24.16
	Donations (Church roof £5000, Flower arrangers £100)	5100
	Playground rent 3 years	150.00

Clerk advised that the accounts and associated papers have been sent to the auditors by recorded delivery in line with timetable, no news on these yet.

98/15 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Letter about Ragwort passed to Mrs Woodford, Household waste recycling centre strategy notification to be forwarded to the village email, Bell ringing communication from Valia Battat. Various communications from VALE/OCC in response to fix my street postings

99/15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Parish council were obligated to nominate 2 people for vacancies on the Longworth Charities trustees Mr Hodgkins has accepted one position and other nominee Christine Shepherd still to be contacted for the second position.

The meeting ended at 8.10pm

Date of next meeting 30th September in the Village Hall, clerk to confirm with Sue Sandbach

Signed.....

Date.....