

# Longworth Parish Council

## **MINUTES of PARISH MEETING.**

Held at Longworth Parish Church (Houlton Room) at 7:30 pm 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014

**PRESENT:** Chairman Mrs Boyce, Mr. Auckland, Mr Hodgkins, Mr Longstaff, Mr Pearce, Mrs Carlisle (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

### **69/14 OPEN SESSION**

The Chairman has been in touch with highways about the hedges at Barn Ground cottage and The old Bakery discussed at the last meeting, although the hedges at the old Bakery have been trimmed they are still too wide and cannot be seen past when exiting Sudbury Lane. Clerk to contact highways to report the issue. (*Highways contacted 29/8/14*) Robert Longstaff also reported that outside Martens Hall, there is vegetation growing across footpath making access difficult.

### **70/14 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST**

There were no changes in relevant personal circumstances reported.

### **71/14 APOLOGIES**

Apologies received from Mrs Broad, Ms Sabathy, and Mrs Tilley(OCC). And Mr Hayward D.C.

### **72/14 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Meeting 21<sup>th</sup> May 2014, and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 were accepted as correct.

### **73/14 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising apart from items included on the agenda

### **74/14 PLAYGROUND INSPECTION**

Mr Longstaff carried out the July inspection, Ms. Sabathy carried out the August inspection. Rospa carried out their annual inspection during July and the Clerk went through Rospa report, there are various issues with the wooden activity course with some wear and tear which needs addressing. Clerk agreed to circulate in the Blue bag and forward to Justine and Park improvement Team, to see if they can help with sourcing the repairs.

Mrs Boyce is listed for the September inspection, and October Mr Pearce.

### **75/14 BRAMBLE CLEARING ON MANOR LAND**

The agreement for the woodland is held between LEN & Longworth Manor (legal contract), The Parish council to pass this back to Robert Longstaff, who holds a copy of paperwork, and sits on LEN. There is a Community action group for Oxford meeting in early September which Robert Longstaff will attend. LEN agreed to look after the trees until they were big enough to look after themselves. Once past first 2-3 years trees will look after themselves. LEN cannot remain responsible for the trees ad-nauseam , it probably doesn't

need it unless there is public access, and currently there is only permissive access. LEN took on responsibility for ever – so agreement needs to be renegotiated.

**76/14 CHURCH ROOF – FABIAN FRENCH**

Speaking as Church warden, every 5 years there is a report. The last report identified Urgent repairs to effect including repair and re-slating of north side of Chancel and the vestry roof, and other repairs of about £7k. Quotes have been obtained for the necessary work, together with inflation and contingency. Total cost approximately £50K inc VAT excl VAT £40k Friends of St Marys having raised money through fireworks/ concerts etc... leaving a balance of £25k to be raised by appeal. Looking to launch a public appeal in the Autumn. Mr French is In discussion with local groups including HALF, and hopeful that the target will be reached with the help of the community. The Church is a treasured and archeologically loved part of the community, used for concerts, and other community resource. Mr French is hoping that the Parish Council will be willing to support the Vestry roof £13k Chancel roof £29k other small works £7k, in some way. Mr French to hold a conference call with the Vale on Friday, they have grants available (up to £5k). The Parish council will consider a request given by November, and if agreed will be added to the budget.

**77/14 CHURCH BELLS – VALIA BATTAT**

Valia came to address the meeting to discuss why the minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> May were inaccurate and the need to ensure that this doesn't happen again. None of this information should be in the public domain in Longworth at this time as she has an agreement with the PCC that the fundraising for the repairs to the Church roof take priority. Bells are In a state of complete decay. PCC has already given permission to go ahead to look into restoration of Bells, but not with the involvement with the village yet as the 2 projects cannot run concurrently. Plans are almost in place for the restoration. The bell restoration project needs to be properly launched at a later date with full information provided.

**78/14 ALLOTMENTS**

No issues with the allotments currently 5 vacant plots. Jenny Pointon is concerned with the Ragwort on the allotments. Wendy Woodford has put together communication to allotment holders, about Tansy seed. It is only a dangerous to horses if in their hay so use on the allotment should pose no threat.

**79/14 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE – ALAN BOYCE**

The NP committee has completed the questionnaire after over a year's detailed work; it has taken so long partly because of slow agreement on its precise contents and partly because of the need to supplement local resources from outside (*expenditure on which was approved at a public meeting*). It will be ready for distribution to all the village adult population (*with reply-paid envelope*) in mid-September. Replies will be anonymous. At the PC's request questions on the church bells will not be included. Its distribution will be preceded by a village-wide flyer, announcing it. Completion and return of the

questionnaire is hoped to be achieved by early October. The overall project plan anticipates publication in early 2016.

At the PC's request, copies of both questionnaire and flyer will be circulated to councillors by e-mail and/or hard copy. *(this was done on 26/8)*.

Initial conclusions from the questionnaire will be published to the village as early as possible in the New Year.

<b>80/14</b>	<b>RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS</b>	
	<b>Receipts</b> - for the month of July & August were as follows:	
	Interest on NSI	14.62
	Lloyds Investment	12580.03
	Refund from school	15

	<b>Payments</b>	
	Clerks Salary July	180.00
	Meeting room hire	15.00
	Allotment Water rates	30.40
	Parish insurance	825.09
	Rospa playground inspection	132.00
	Neighbourhood plan Postal charges	108.00
	Footpath clearing	450.00
	Church grass cutting	528.00
	Website Hosting fee	60

The Clerk stated that the Annual return was with the Auditors for review and feedback will be communicated when received. A special item about the investment/reinvestment of Lloyds £12k to be added to next meeting agenda.

**81/14 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Footpath Warden, Jan Kelly, A420 and A417 road works, to be circulated in Blue Bag together with ROSPA report.

**82/14 COUNCILLORS' CONCERNS**

Eric – A415 towards the A420 signpost has disappeared into the Shrubbery, also the sign to Longworth. Clerk to contact Highways about this. *Highways contacted, reference for the problem 526325.*

The meeting ended at 9pm

Next meeting. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 at Houlton room (Longworth Church).

Signed.....

Date.....