

Longworth Parish Council

MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Held at Longworth Village Hall at 7 pm on 14th September 2016

PRESENT: Mrs Carlisle (Clerk), Mr Hodgkins, Mr Pearce (Chairman), Ms Sabathy, Mr Shaw, , Mrs Woodford and 8 members of the public

111/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mrs Kinch, Mr Longstaff and Councillor Tilley

112/16 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

Mr Longstaff declared an interest re Orchard View planning app.

113/16 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 3rd August meeting were put before the Councillors and accepted as being correct and duly signed

114/16 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Ms Sabathy was nominated by Mr Hodgkins and seconded by Mrs Woodford and subsequently duly elected.

115/16 MELINDA TILLEY/ANTHONY HAYWARD

Report received from Councillor Tilly, with an update on the Unitary debate, Oxfordshire Comet - bookable transport service, and Carers strategy and personal budget consultation. Also notification that residents can get their electric blankets checked free by calling Trading Standards on 01865 815000 and select option 4 to arrange.

116/16 OPEN SESSION

A member of the public asked for clarification why the PC objected to the Mill Barn application at the meeting on 3rd August, and stated in his opinion there appeared to be no consistency between decisions made. Mr Pearce advised that he had prefaced the discussion on 3rd August with the need to be consistent, VOWH granted permission on this application despite the Parish Council comment.

117/16 MATTERS ARISING

Clerk has requested dog waste bins, by the Church and by the allotments, awaiting a response from the waste team.

The public gate next to Longworth House and adjacent to the allotments still needs repairing, clerk to organise.

Presentation re land safeguarding and Water resources received from Thames water loaded onto the village website

118/16 ACCOUNTS INCL. RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2016

Income from NSI Investments	32.84
Precept	4300.00
Total Receipts	4332.84

Expenditure	
Clerks Salary August/Sept	836.08
Parish Insurance	886.68
Grass cutting	250.00
Footpath Clearance	375.00
Consultancy Re Potting Sheds RCOH	3,000.00
VAT	650.00
Total Expenditure	5,997.76

The Annual accounts have been received back from BDO, the accompanying letter and certificate were forwarded to councillors and also loaded onto the village website. The councillors confirmed acceptance of the annual return (including BDO certificate) and report of the auditors.

119/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The Neighbourhood plan referendum was held on 18th August. There was a 39% turnout 185 votes in total. 80% voted in favour (147) and 20% (38) voted against. The next and final stage is for this plan to be recommended at the Council meeting in Oct. Resistance is not anticipated, and Vale Planning are now referring to our neighbourhood plan when reviewing applications. New Neighbourhood Planning bill to be posted on village website.

110/16 PLANNING MATTERS/APPLICATIONS

New Applications

P16/V1953/FUL 4 Bowbank Close, no objections

P16/V2074/FUL Orchard View, Appleton Road,

This application falls within the designated built up area, therefore Neighbourhood Plan conditions for limited infill need to be followed: Development must consist of no more than one of the following on any single site: 2 detached homes; 1 pair of semi-detached home and 1 detached home or 1 terrace of up to 3 homes. Councillors were in agreement that this application does not follow the policy, but not in agreement with how to treat it. There was a disagreement whether to allow the application as it stands, or to ask for it to be amended to comply with the above conditions as stated in the plan. The principle of development was not in itself an issue. One Councillor was in full support of the application because of Brownfield site implications. One Councillor was in favour of letting the 3 units be built, because it is a large site and there is plenty of room, the remaining councillors were in favour of allowing planning on the site, but would prefer the application to be amended and resubmitted to comply with the requirements of the Neighbourhood plan.

It was resolved that the PC would confirm to the Vale in its response that they supported development on this site but at present the density proposed was not compliant with the Neighbourhood Plan although they recognised the implications of part of the site being Brownfield designated and as such that other policies may come into play. If those policies did not come into play then the PC objected to the application in its current form.

P16/V2215/T56 Replacement equipment cabinet, no objections

Updates

P16/V0304/FUL Squirrel Cottage application (10 dwellings)

This application went to planning committee on 3rd August. The draft minutes from the Vale website report that the plans have been refused.

P15/V2863/O Potting Shed nurseries application update

The inquiry date is set for 7th and 8th December, location TBA. The PC have appointed a Barrister and planning consultant to assist and advise with the process.

The PC were Served with legal papers for a judicial review on the conduct of the Secretary of State, but this has subsequently be withdrawn.

111/16 PLAYGROUND

- July carried out by Mr Hodgkins, August by Mrs Woodford
Generally the equipment was sound, however Waste bin overflowing at both inspections, and it was felt that something needs to be done about this. It was agreed to provide bin liners, also to investigate the possibility of getting black and green bins from VOWH and to cost having the bin emptied commercially. Clerk to contact Appleton playground to see what they do. At the August inspection someone had tried to pull the wooden gate off, and this had to be fixed. Safety matting is ripped at tunnel, zip wire needs weeding as there are nettles growing
- September inspection to be done by Mr Pearce and October Mr Longstaff
- Rospa report postponed until completion of the playground project

112/16 CHURCHYARD AND BURIAL GROUND – ROBERT LONGSTAFF

A couple of months ago we asked Mr Longstaff to report on two things:

- The Contractor (BGG) who looks after the Landscaping. The contract is not functioning properly, this needs to be looked at.
- The collapsed tombstone in the Churchyard which is managed by the P.C. where diocese approval is needed to do repairs and the PC will have to pay for a faculty. The faculty, which needs to include other work required still needs reporting on with photographs and a description of what needs to be done.

In addition to this in the adjacent Parish Council owned burial ground, there is a new issue with a self-seeded oak tree at the Eastern end, and this is causing problems with nearby gravestones. This also needs to be dealt with.

Mr Longstaff produced a lengthy report to be discussed and recommendations will be brought to a subsequent meeting.

Gary Smith cleared the compost heap.

113/16 ALLOTMENT UPDATE – WENDY WOODFORD

There has been Petty thieving, off 3 plots.

One of the water taps was left on.

3 plots have been let this month leaving only 4 vacant plots.

There are 5 or 6 plots not being tended properly, tenants to be contacted about these.

114/16 NORTHERN ALLOTMENT FIELD

It was agreed at the last meeting that Richard Spencer and Pippa French would share the rental of the field. Draft contract documents have been prepared and reviewed, (based on business farm tenancy), it is hoped this will be signed by the end of the month.

There have been a few issues arising re the transfer of land from one occupant to the next these need to be ironed out before contracts can be signed

115/16 TRANSPORT UPDATE

A trial bus will be starting on Wednesday 12th October (free for first 8 weeks).

Following the trial it is thought the cost will be £130 per month.

The bus will run between 3 parishes leaving Hinton at 10am, through Longworth and Appleton and then returning from Oxford at 1pm.

It is planned to charge people £5 per month. Parish councils will have to pay approx. £20 per week. The test bus starting 12th October, will be tweaked till service is perfect, and we can cancel at any time. This does not conflict with the Buckland community bus which runs on Tuesday and Friday. Information to be distributed to village.

116/16 SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE – WENDY WOODFORD

3 volunteers are needed for each session in order to get the information needed. In general we need more volunteers, to be advertised in Seven Voices otherwise the initiative will fold . The next NAG meeting is 24th November, Mr Hodgkins will discuss with other villages at this meeting. Light up signs were requested again, this also to be discussed at NAG meeting

117/16 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Letter requesting permission for Tree cutting on allotment where unsheathed electric cables are in danger of being damaged by trees Mrs Woodford co-ordinating this.

118/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

119/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26th October in the Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Signed.....

Date.....