

Longworth Parish Council

MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Held at Longworth Village Hall at 7 pm on 18th May 2016

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

48/16 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Hodgkins proposed Mr. Pearce as Chairman and this was seconded by Mrs Kinch. The decision on Vice Chair was postponed until the next meeting.

49/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ms Sabathy and Councillor Tilley

50/16 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST

There were no changes reported.

51/16 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 15th March meeting were put before the Councillors and accepted as being correct and duly signed

52/16 MELINDA TILLEY

Mrs Tilley sent her apologies.

53/16 OPEN SESSION

A member of the public, Praised the public footpaths which were cleared last week. Verge mowing was requested by a member of the public in particular the verges along the A415 at the junction with the Appleton road driving out of the village and also Cow lane where it meets Appleton Road, Clerk to report to Highways. *Post meeting note, reported and cleared*

54/16 MATTERS ARISING

The bus shelter repair is now complete, and an excellent job as been done. Reply received from Trading Standards re Lorries turning at Newbridge. Clerk to advise Trading standard that signs on approach need updating to advise that there is no turning available for Lorries at Newbridge.

55/16 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT

It was resolved to adopt the code of conduct

56/16 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was resolved to adopt the standing orders

57/16 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was resolved to adopt the financial regulations

58/16 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF RISK ASSESSMENT

It was resolved to adopt the risk assessment

59/16 2015/16 GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (Annual Accounts)

It was resolved to accept the governance statement, and it was duly signed and minute reference noted.

60/16 2015/16 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS, 2015/16 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

It was resolved to accept the accounts and they were duly signed and minute reference noted.

61/16 2016/17 BUDGET & RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

A Budget was issued to all councillors in January 2016 and precept request for £8,600 was sent to VOWH, precept has been received for first half of the year. Clerk suggested that the budget be reviewed quarterly and revised Forecast issued, all councillors agreed to this.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS for April/May 2016

Income	£
Income from NSI Investments	31.53
Income from Tenancies	148.50
Precept	4300.00
VOWH Grant	112.00
VAT refund (prior year)	618.02
Total Receipts	5210.05
Expenditure	
Clerks Salary (April/May)	-797.94
Meeting Room	-15.00
Allotment Water rates	-8.29
Internal Audit fee	-60.00
Churchyard Grass cutting	-125.00
Footpath Clearing (3 footpaths)	-550.00
rCOH planning consultancy	-750.00
VAT on consultancy and grass cutting	-175.00
Bus shelter repair	-120.22
Total Expenditure	-2601.45

62/16 NAG UPDATE – MICHAEL HODGKINS

The next NAG meeting will be on 26th May at 7pm in Denchworth. Mr.Hodgkins to mention the Smartwater signs discussed at the March meeting. Clerk to get cost for sticky speeding signs for rubbish bins.

63/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE – MICHAEL PEARCE

The Longworth Neighbourhood Plan has passed both village consultation and Vale consultation neither raising any issues. An examiner has been appointed – Mr Paul McCreery FRTPI, to examine whether the plan meets the basic conditions as set out in the Localism Act and he will recommend whether or not the plan should go to referendum. If the plan does go to referendum and it is successful then after a period of time the Plan will be considered “made”.

A member of the public questioned whether the Village Plan should be revisited as a result of the recent planning applications, the Chairman replied that it was clearly the wishes of the village, as evidenced by the very recent Village Consultation, to adopt the plan and the policies contained therein and so with the current mandate it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to consider those policies when considering their response to planning applications. It was though acknowledged that it is inevitable that the plan will be reviewed over time.

The Chairman also commented that the primary reason that the Nursery application had been consented was because the policies in the emerging Vale plan, that provided protection to smaller villages, were not considered to be up to date whilst a 5 year housing supply is not available. This however is not necessarily the case with a Neighbourhood Plan, as even if it is not “made” and under certain circumstances and dependent on progress it can carry weight. For example if there is evidence of local support prior to the referendum this should be acknowledged when applying weight to such a plan.

Our consultants view was that the Vale have seriously understated the weight that our plan should receive in the decision making process hence why we have asked the Secretary of State to consider the matter under his “calling in” powers.

64/16 RESERVOIR UPDATE – MICHAEL PEARCE

At the Village Meeting earlier in the year, Mr Pearce agreed to contact Ed Vaizey’s office, a reply has been received from Mr Vaizey and a letter from Thames Water broadly saying the preferred option is still Abingdon, with Longworth and Chinnor as reserves.

Thames water are happy to come along to a future PC meeting, Clerk/Chair to write to Thames water to invite to PC meeting.

Matthew Barber from VOWH has also written to the Parish stressing the safeguarding of land, to ensure that no one builds on it, meaning that VOWH cannot approve planning applications to build on the land.

Mr Pearce attended a planning hearing in Wantage, Thames Water purely want the land safeguarding, and the hearing was because TW applied too late to get it included in the plan. The Inspectors report is anticipated in June and the expectation is that it will instruct the Vale to include the safeguarding request within their emerging local plan. The consultation process thereafter will allow the Village to comment.

The new resource plan will be published in 2019, then it is likely that the preferred option will progress in more detail.

65/16 PLANNING MATTERS/APPLICATIONS

- P16/V0304/FUL Squirrel Cottage application (10 dwellings)
it was reported that Squirrel Cottage are re-jigging their plan and resubmitting it, it was indicated by the Planning officer that it would be going to committee, possibly June or July.
- P15/V2863/O Updated Potting Shed nurseries application
Mr Pearce reported that he had applied to the National Planning Casework Unit for

the application to be called in by the Secretary of State for self determination about 4 weeks ago. Following the meeting on the evening of 20th April, the NPCU spoke to the Vale planning department to find out when the notice would be issued and how long the Section 106 agreement would take to formalise. The response was 1 to 3 months which MP was initially advised was the target date for the SoS decision, ie within the month. The issue is as stated in minute 63/16 above.

POST MEETING NOTE

MP has subsequently spoken again with the National Planning Casework Unit and the matter is now with the Secretary of State, however the decision is likely to take “some weeks” to determine. In the intervening period should the Vale advise NPCU that they are in a position to issue an agreed 106 notice with the planning approval NPCU will issue a Holding 31 Direction Notice to the Vale which prevents the Vale from issuing such notices pending the SoS decision.

- P16/V1003/PDH Playfoots Appleton Road, Longworth
A permitted development application to build rear extension to provide Kitchen, dining and utility room, Councillors had no problems with this.

66/16 PLAYGROUND

- Inspection
Ms Sabathy carried out April inspection and was happy that all was sound May inspection to be carried out by Mrs Kinch and June By Mr Shaw. The Rota for 2016/17 was issued to councillors together with an inspection sheet.
- Transfer of ownership (estimated legal cost of £2k) grant confirmed and Peter Beer at Vale contacted for next steps
- New Equipment - £12k grant application submitted and accepted (see below)

Capital costs

Description	Amount Requested (£)
Timber Activity Trail comprising Net Traverse, inclined balance, swinging steps, Burmah bridge, tyre challenge and balance beams	4245
Spinning Disc platform	1310
Transportation and installation of above items less special discount	2385
Safamat surfacing (mesh, underlay, pegs and tiles)	240
Removal of existing activity trail	500
Replacement seat, chains, rope and carriageway for zip wire	540
Repaint existing swing frames (baby & child swings)	600
installation of rubber compound to repair existing roundabout	180
Total	10000

Revenue costs

Description	Amount Requested (£)
Legal Costs associated with land transfer of playpark from Vale of White Horse to Longworth Parish Council	2000
Total	2000

- Quotes have been received from 4 suppliers. So far the only supplier willing to do the whole project including repairing the old zip wire, roundabout and painting up swings was Streetscape, who provide a 15 year guarantee and are very competitive, so the

grant application was based on this quote. Samples of the wood used for activity trails provided for decision making from Streetscape. Playdale unable to repair existing equipment, Playdale offered instead to fit new roundabout at a cost of over £9k. Sovereign are returning to the playground on 14th June to see if they can quote for the repairs. Clerk still to check if Homefront will repair old equipment and one more company to check out. Information will be provided prior to P.C. meeting on 22nd June so that a decision on which supplier to go with can be made.

67/16 CHURCHYARD AND BURIAL GROUND – ROBERT LONGSTAFF

No information has been received re legal matters, or contact with anyone since questions asked by Mr Longstaff. The ongoing maintenance is working well, Mr Longstaff had a meeting with BGG, costs have been reduced to bare minimum for a year. Public feedback is very positive which is good because this is a big outgoing. There was discussion of gravestone maintenance in particular Ivy clad stones, where we have a duty of care also the collapsed gravestone needs to be dealt with. Mr Longstaff to speak to BGG re repairing grave. In the meantime this has been fenced off by Mr Hodgkins.

68/16 ALLOTMENT UPDATE – WENDY WOODFORD

2 quotes received re dead saplings, Plum trees and sycamore tree of £480+VAT and £250+VAT PC voted to go with the lower quote. From Westwood Tree surgeons. Potential problem re electric cables outside the allotment wall. Electricity company need notifying that the trees need trimming back to make safe. Clerk to contact Southern Electric

69/16 QUEENS 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

There will be a Street Party on 12th June, with music and a Pimms bar, on the High Street. The Street closure has been approved by VOWH together with Temporary events license for the sale of alcohol and regulated entertainment, costs incurred so far £341.76. The planning team to speak to The Old Post Office for permission to take aerial photo. Estimated total costs of £350 were approved at previous meeting, a grant has been received of £128 to partially offset the costs incurred.

70/16 SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE – WENDY WOODFORD

At the last speedwatch, there was an offender every 3 minutes ranging between 34 and 49 mph two sessions were run 8-9.30 & 3-5pm. More volunteers are needed, the police have advised that it is difficult to approve more sites, due to narrow roads. A member of the public and the Clerk volunteered to go on the speedwatch team. The Police have agreed to attend the next Speedwatch, and if they assess that there is a problem have promised to run their own speedwatch session. Mrs Woodford to contact the school to see if more volunteers can be drummed up and the Police contact to see where mobile (light up) speed signs can be borrowed from.

71/16 NORTHERN ALLOTMENT FIELD

The 6.6 acre field north of the allotments has been rented by Mr and Mrs Pointon of Princes Farm since 1990. In April they gave notice to terminate their lease, effective 5th April 2017. A member of the public asked what will happen with this land, discussed a tree planting idea for communal woodland which the school would be able to use for forest school. It was mentioned that that a farmer from Hinton Waldrist has expressed an interest in taking over the lease. It was agreed to advertise the land in Seven Voices (6.6acres grazing land to let Longworth.)

71/16 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED
Email from Complete Weed Control

72/16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
None

73/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
22nd June in the Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting ended at 8.50pm

Signed.....

Date.....