

# Longworth Parish Council

## FIRST DRAFT MINUTES of PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

Held at Longworth Village Hall at 6 pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

**PRESENT:** Mrs Carlisle (Clerk), Mr Hodgkins, Mrs Kinch, Mr Longstaff, Mr Pearce (Chairman), Ms Sabathy, Mr Shaw and Mrs Woodford plus 22 members of the public

**18/17 APOLOGIES** **Action**  
No Apologies

**19/17 DECLARATIONS of INTEREST**  
No new declarations of interest

**20/17 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**  
The minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> January meeting were put before the Councillors and accepted as being correct and duly signed.

**21/17 MELINDA TILLEY**  
Councillor Tilley was pleased to update that the budget had been approved. Councillor Tilley circulated the "One Oxfordshire document" to councillors and requested that we made comments.

**22/17 ANTHONY HAYWARD**  
Mr Hayward was unable to attend

**23/17 OPEN SESSION**  
A member of the public reported Hinton road rubbish, in particular Beer Cans to be reported to Biffa

**24/17 MATTERS ARISING**  
Allotment gate now repaired, invoice received  
Response from Fix my street Arthur McEwan-James Field Officer (South West) Countryside Access Team OCC 01865 810257 07827 979205  
The issue of motorbikes using public bridleways will need to be reported to the police, a phone number was given to the family concerned  
The issue of muddy footpath between Longworth and Southmoor will be reported to the Oxfordshire branch of the Ramblers to see if they can spend a few hours trimming back and removing the mud build up

### **CHURCHYARD AND BURIAL GROUND – ROBERT LONGSTAFF/MICHAEL PEARCE**

Mr Longstaff and Chairman met with Rector & one of the Church wardens, to discuss the maintenance needs of the churchyard. The Church Warden also attended the Parish council meeting to give input as necessary.

- Oak Trees, one tree in particular is disturbing graves to an extent, and might be doing damage. Mr Longstaff reported that this corner has subsided quite badly, this has always been a difficult and wet area but he didn't think that this tree was doing any more damage to the area generally. The parishioner who raised the issue, has no strong views, but wanted to bring it to the attention of the PC. It was agreed that there is a Duty of care to protect the graves, and that professional advice was needed re the **potential** damage the tree is doing. Report has been requested for guidance, this is due in the next few days. Discussion re whether the trees should be removed, deferred until guidance received. Mr Longstaff to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote, quotes so far received from BGG and Lloyds, with varying prices dependant on the extent of work to be carried out, ranging from trimming back and maintaining, cutting down and leaving stump, or removing completely. To completely remove both trees the cost is in the region of £870, to

**RL**

reduce by 25% all round as maintenance approx. £600. This discussion to continue when final written quotes are received

- Clerk to get quote for perimeter fencing, GC
- Compost heap enclosure & bins. It was agreed that the compost area should be removed, clerk to obtain quote. GC
- Part of the new burial ground was never consecrated, the Rector is currently going through a process with the Diocese to arrange for this to be done. It was agreed the relatives of the people who are buried there need to be informed as soon as possible. Clerk to provide list of people buried and contact details if available. There will have to be a consultation and notices will be displayed, the burial ground needs to retain a small non-consecrated section of ground. It was thought that the section where the compost is being removed would be a good area for this GC
- Clerk to circulate to councillors grave application procedure now, this needs updating with regulations for future reservations GC
- Churchyard - BGG have agreed to the cutting schedule provided and supplied a revised quote for taking away grass every time of £135 per cut and clear. A member of public updated on his findings re alternative grass cutters, it was agreed as these were much more expensive than BGG to stand them down. He was thanked for his work
- Discussed the quotes received for Grave repairs, 2 quotes received Abingdon Stone and Marble, and Reeves, 3<sup>rd</sup> quote still outstanding. ET shepherd in Henley require £610 for their report, it has not been decided at this stage to go ahead with this as the other companies are willing to quote for nothing RL
- Sunken Tomb –The PCC can apply online for faculty this will save the application fee, it was agreed to approve the sum of £580 plus vat by vote – vote unanimous
- The Church Warden thanked the PC and in particular Mr Longstaff and The Chairman on behalf of PCC for all the work going into the issues with the Churchyard.
- Entrance Gate has swollen and is now unable to close. This was supplied and fitted by Eynsham Sawmills, Chairman/Clerk to write to them to advise that it was incorrectly mounted and see if they offer to sort it out, alternative quote to be sourced to pull back or remount the Posts. A member of the public volunteered to provide details of where to source alternative quote MP/GC
- Working Party – discussion re Volunteer party to remove some of the shrubbery, to be undertaken when the weather improves probably April or later. It was agreed that there needs to be someone qualified to deal with root poisoning. Risk assessment would need to be carried out beforehand and Insurers will need informing of the working party. RL/GC

**26/17 ROB ELLIS AND JAMES O'SHEA TERRA STRATEGIC/HAYFIELD HOMES PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

The land in question is situated behind school close and Bowbank. Mr Ellis and Mr O'Shea wanted to discuss issues at school with the headmaster to see if they could plan in improvements for the school. The headteacher didn't feel in a position to discuss this openly without any idea of what was being planned. Mr Ellis advised that Terra Strategic manage the Land Development and Hayfield homes the building, both gentlemen are ex. Banner Homes house builders. They suggested in these times of resources being cut from councils, and need for housing, they were proposing to put forward a planning application for affordable housing (although they had initially looked at general housing) which would be accessed through land currently occupied by no 5/6 School close (2 bungalows owned by Sovereign housing). They discussed school parking issues and advised that they have the resources to do planning and building.

The Chairman advised that a Neighbourhood Plan had been progressed at the request of the village, over a 3.5 year period and that this is now formulated into a plan, which was "made" in Autumn last year.

Key issues for the school, The Headteacher was not prepared to share needs at this stage but did advise that there is currently an intake of about 10 children per year, and that he would be looking to increase

that, he also advised that although there are a few Issues with parking, currently this was not a huge problem.

Chairman asked if anyone had been consulted at the Vale about the development proposals and he was advised that discussions between the planning department and Mr Ellis and Mr O’Shea had taken place. Chairman advised that any comments on plans would be based in line with the policies in the neighbourhood plan.

Ms Sabathy advised that about 5 years ago a similar site, went through a similar process in respect of affordable housing at that it was found that demand was not sufficient to warrant further progress by land owner.

**27/17 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017**

<b>Receipts</b>	
Investment Income	16.42
Comet bus contribution	53.75
Graveyard receipts (re John Roberts grave 76)	200
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>238.92</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
Clerks Salary Feb	408
Allotment gate	45
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>453</b>

**28/17 PLANNING MATTERS/APPLICATIONS**

**New Applications**

**P16/V1858/FUL Land adj to Moorlands High Street**

A retrospective application as the building has not been built in the specific location as denoted in the original consented application. Vale Planning officer – Penny Silverwood clarified that the question was broadly “ is the difference in position of material significance”. This was a difficult application for many of the councillors as they felt that there had been a unforgiveable failure on the part of the planning enforcement team. Vote: 2 for and 5 ABSTENTIONS . Chairman to draft response to be circulated to councillors before submission

**MP**

**29/17 PLAYGROUND**

- January inspection was carried out by Mr Shaw in early February
- February inspection done by Mr Pearce
- March Inspection to be carried out by Mrs Woodford

**30/17 ALLOTMENT UPDATE – WENDY WOODFORD**

Outstanding Tree issues were dealt with during February, bill expected, no more movement on plots. Letters sent to allotment holders where their plots were in an unacceptable state

**31/17 TRANSPORT UPDATE – LESLEY KINCH**

First AGM of bus users group 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Plough in Appleton. The Comet Bus is running well and being well used

**32/17 SPEEDWATCH INITIATIVE**

Problem with radar gun at the moment, the next session is scheduled for 4 weeks time

**33/17 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

Terra Strategic, request to come to PC meeting  
 ONE Oxfordshire proposal  
 Junior Citizens funding request to be brought to next meeting  
 Response from Arthur McEwan-James OCC re fix my street

**34/17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Overhanging trees along Hinton Road specifically, to be reported via fix my street  
Biffa issue, food waste was witnessed being emptied into recycling bin by Biffa staff, resulting in  
contamination of a lorry load of recycling. Reported to Biffa by Mr Longstaff

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

5<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.40pm

Signed.....

Date.....