

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.00pm at Longford Village Hall

1. **Presentation of awards to Allotment Competition winners.**
2. **Attendance noted as**
Cllrs C Young (Chair), C Byers (Vice-Chair), G Bocking, K Doherty, L Gough, R Harris, R Meek, D Melvin.
Also present: Mrs J Shirley (Clerk)
Members of public present: Four members of public.
Apologies: County Cllr P McLain, Borough Cllr S Hands
3. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**
None.
4. **Approval of the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd and 25th July 2024**
Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd and 25th July 2024.
Proposed by Cllr Byers, seconded by Cllr Bocking, all in favour.
5. **No applications received to fill the one councillor vacancy by co-option.**
6. **Council noted two items that were outstanding from the last meetings, both are on the agenda for discussion (flood gate and noticeboard).**

Public Participation

The tenant of the field adjacent to the allotments was present to advise he would be taking on ownership of the land soon and was present to discuss the water usage and access through the fence. There was a water leak on the field and the Clerk will submit a leakage allowance request to Water Plus and deduct the allowance from the outstanding amount due if granted by Water Plus. The tenant also enquired about planning permission for an animal shelter and he was referred to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

7. Flooding

- a) The Emergency Plan draft had been reviewed by GRCC and comments passed onto the working group. Cllr Doherty ran through the points raised by GRCC and noted that flooding impacts Sandhurst Lane more severely than central Longford due to the depth and proximity of the watercourses. Cllr Byers proposed requesting a meeting with GRCC and the working group to go through the points raised to progress the draft plan, seconded by Cllr Harris. All in favour. **Action: Clerk** to contact GRCC and copy the Emergency Working Group.
- b) Cllr Melvin updated the Council on the requested flood gate for Sandhurst Lane. Cllr Melvin had contacted various authorities as a resident to highlight the need for the flood gate. Gloucestershire County Council are reviewing options for the flood gate; it was agreed that the Clerk will send a follow-up letter to GCC to reiterate the parish council's support for the flood gate. **Action: Clerk.**

8. Finance / Procedures

- a) Council received the latest bank reconciliations and budget versus spend report for the 2024/25 accounts.
- b) Council received the external audit report for the accounts 2023/24 and noted that no comments had been made by the auditor.
- c) Council ratified the payments made since the July meeting and approved the latest invoices for payment:

Date	Supplier	Details	Gross
03/07/24	Morgan Supplies Ltd	Topsoil for playing field	£60.00
04/07/24	Biz Stationery	Printer ink for Vice-chair printer	£42.49

Signed

120

Date

09/07/24	Glebe Contractors	Ground Maintenance June 2024	£649.78
09/07/24	Chris Arnold Tree Surgery	Remove two limbs from tree overhanging	£240.00
09/07/24	Longford Village Hall	Annual Grant towards wifi at village hall	£150.00
09/07/24	Karen Doherty	Thank you gift for Allotment judge	£10.39
09/07/24	Glebe Contractors	Ground Maintenance July 2024	£649.78
12/07/24	GiffGaff	Mobile phone monthly top-up	£6.00
12/07/24	Fasthosts Internet Ltd	Webhosting & email 13-07-24 to 13-08-24	£12.00
12/07/24	The Range	Varnish, hammer for Playing Field	£14.43
22/07/24	WaterPlus	Water supply at allotments – monthly	£80.10
26/07/24	Broxap Ltd	Derby E Litter Bin 120 Litre capacity	£472.74
26/07/24	Drain Doctor	Water leak on allotments standpipe	£852.00
13/08/24	Fasthosts Internet Ltd	Webhosting & email 13-08-24 to 13-09-24	£12.00
13/08/24	GiffGaff	Mobile phone monthly top-up	£6.00
22/08/24	WaterPlus	Water supply at allotments – monthly	£82.25
05/09/24	Complete Weed Control	Weed Control at gutters and kerbs	£486.00
05/09/24	Pipeline Logistics Ltd	Install new standpipe at allotments	£1,176.00
05/09/24	NB Construction	Collect & install noticeboard from Tewkesbury	£366.00

9. Parks, Open Spaces & Allotments

- a) Council received an update on the community orchard; Cllr Byers outlined the list of fruit trees he proposed be purchased and planted in the orchard and along the railway sleepers. The majority of councillors were in favour of the types of fruit trees, dependent on the successful outcome of the council's grant application to Tewkesbury Borough Council. The victoria plum tree in the orchard died and will need to be replaced as it was sponsored by a member of public.
 Cllr Byers proposed purchasing bulbs for the orchard at an estimated cost of £200, seconded by Cllr Melvin. All in favour. The bulbs to be funded from the earmarked reserve if sufficient available, otherwise defer the purchase. **Action: Clerk to confirm balance of earmarked reserve.**
 Cllr Byers confirmed that the wildflower area on Sivell Close can be cut back by the contractor. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**
- b) The quote to remove mistletoe from the silver maple on the playing field had not yet been received; Council approved the work providing the quote is no higher than the previous quote of £350+VAT. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) Council reviewed the tree inspection summary and updated the summary to confirm works that had been completed and those still to be actioned.
- d) Council agreed working party dates as: Saturday 21st September at 11am (strimming the orchard).
- e) Council discussed the issue of dog fouling on the playing field; updated signage to be sourced to publicise the issue on social media. **Action: Clerk.**
- f) Council confirmed the replacement of the dog waste bin at the junction of Longford Lane / Tewkesbury Road and the lid of the old bin will be reused to repair the bin on Fircroft Road.
- g) Council noted that the noticeboard from Tewkesbury Borough Council had been installed at the allotments.
- h) Council confirmed the position of the new noticeboard for Fircroft Road to be the same as currently on the fence.
- i) Council reviewed the water supply usage at the allotments and noted that quotes not yet received to check the standpipes and disconnect the sub-meter. Council also noted the difficulty to access the sub-meter to read it monthly; Cllr Harris volunteered to clear around the sub-meter. **Action: Cllr Harris.**
- j) Council reviewed the arrangements and protocols for the remote access of the CCTV system at the playing field and confirmed that whilst equipment was in place to access remotely, there was an IP conflict that the contractor needed to resolve. There was also an issue with the flood lights that needs input from the contractor. **Action: Clerk to follow-up with Redhand.**

10. Planning

- a) Council objected to the following planning application: 24/00612/24 – Land at Horsbere Drive - Erection of 17 dwellings comprising 3 two-bedroomed houses, 2 three bedroomed houses, 6 two-bedroomed apartments and 6 one-bedroomed apartments with associated car parking and landscaping.
Action: Clerk to submit comments as drafted by Cllr Bocking. It was also agreed that Cllr Bocking will represent the Parish Council if the application goes to Development Committee.
- b) There was no planning applications received since publication of the agenda.

11. Highways

- a) Council received an update from the Road Safety Working Group.

12. To receive reports from representatives for information only:

- Allotments: skip to be organised for Saturday 12th October, Cllr Harris to assist.
- Finance: no additional updates. Cllr Meek will conduct a check of the accounts.
- Personnel: no additional updates.
- Playing Field: no additional updates.
- Village Hall: Cllr Young attended the latest meeting with Longford Village Hall committee and gave an update to Council.

Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.00pm. Deadline for agenda items is 23rd September 2024. Requested items for next meeting: memorial bench for Phil Awford.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.