

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 7.00pm at Longford Village Hall

1. Attendance noted as

Cllrs C Young (Chair), C Byers (Vice-Chair), K Doherty, L Gough, R Harris, R Meek

Also present: Mrs J Shirley (Clerk), County Cllr P McLain

Members of public present: 8 members of public.

Apologies: Cllr Bocking, Cllr Melvin, Borough Cllr S Hands

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Gough declared an interest in item 9a (Planning).

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2024

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2024. Proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Gough, all in favour

4. No applications received to fill the one councillor vacancy by co-option.

5. Council received an update on outstanding items from the last meeting not already on the agenda.

Cllr Byers noted that he hadn't been able to purchase the lights for the playing field as agreed at the last meeting. Cllr Gough requested that as the council has yet to progress plans for a memorial stone on the playing field, a donation be made to the Royal British Legion instead of purchasing a wreath to lay at a memorial outside of the parish. A donation of £25 was agreed.

Public Participation

A resident was present regarding three issues:

- electric scooters on the playing field, the Council confirmed these are not permitted on the field and to notify the police in future (as advised to the council by local police officer).
- the grass cutting had not been done well on the last occasion, noted by Council.
- there are moles digging on the playing field, but not within the football pitch area.

A resident was present regarding two planning applications he had submitted and on the agenda this evening. He outlined the changes in the plans and was at the meeting to hear comments on the plans.

Report from Borough Councillor: Councillor Hands forwarded a report to the parish council which the Clerk read out to the meeting. The main items were the changes to the scheme of delegation for planning applications, and the parish and town council seminar to be held on 28th November.

Report from County Councillor: Councillor McLain gave an update on County Council matters: works to Sandhurst Lane are underway, there are additional funds available through the Build Back Better grant scheme for youth activities, and the M5 junction works at junction 9/10 are likely to impact Longford if they proceed. County Council is currently looking at draft budgets for 2025/26, particularly the impact of the employers' national insurance changes next year.

Cllr Doherty asked for an explanation as to why the Gloucester end of Sandhurst Lane is not being resurfaced along with the Twigworth end of the lane. Cllr Doherty commented that the resurfaced end of Sandhurst Lane would likely be damaged by heavy plant when work undertaken to install solar farm. Cllr McLain explained that developers are obliged to make good any damages to the highway caused through developing the area which is funding the works. Cllr Harris asked about the requirement to upgrade sewers prior to developments proceeding and whether this has been removed from planning policy. Cllr McLain will find out.

Two members of the Longford Football Club youth section joined the meeting and were invited by

Signed

126

Date

the Chair to address the meeting. There was a request to put a banner on the village hall gate, this was referred to the village hall committee.

6. Flooding

- a) Emergency Plan update: Cllr Meek reported on the meeting with GRCC regarding the draft plan. There are several actions that need to be completed by the working group before the plan can be published.
- b) Council received updates on the request flood gate for Sandhurst Lane. A meeting was held with Cameron Thomas MP and Borough Cllr Hands on-site at Sandhurst Lane. Several issues identified including the location of depth gauges and flood signage which are in the wrong places. Cameron Thomas and Cllr Hands are going to follow this up with Highways.

7. Finance / Procedures

- a) Council received the latest bank reconciliations and budget versus spend report for the 2024/25 accounts.
- b) Council noted that the NJC pay scales have been updated with effect 1st April 2024, with an hourly rate increase of 61p per hour backdated to 1st April (total £106.75).
- c) Council noted that Lloyds Bank are introducing monthly charges for the council's banking. Council will monitor the charges and performance.
- d) Council approved the latest invoices for payment including two late invoices:

Invoice date	Supplier	Details	Gross
11/10/24	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit 2023-24	£378.00
11/10/24	Royal Mail Group Ltd	Annual PO Box fee	£424.20
22/10/24	Complete Weed Control (North Wessex)	Weed Control at gutters and kerbs of residential roads in Longford on 15/10/2024	£486.00
31/10/24	Glebe Contractors	Ground Maintenance October 2024	£649.78
31/10/24	GAPTC	Chairmanship training	£45.00
		Total	£1982.98

8. Parks, Open Spaces & Allotments

- a) Council received an update on the community orchard; grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council has been approved. Volunteers from Imjin Barracks helped to trim the orchard. Bulbs have been planted in the orchard. 18 trees are on order, further purchases are on hold until the grant amount has been confirmed. The County Council ash-dieback scheme will provide a silver birch tree for the wildflower area.
- b) Council agreed the next working party date of 23rd November to maintain trees.
- c) Council reviewed arrangements for the maintenance and support of the CCTV system. Cllr Byers proposed not renewing the contract with Redhand, and appoint Laser Alarms to resolve the remote access issues and annual maintenance contract which includes two visits a year. Seconded by Cllr Doherty, all in favour. **Action: Clerk.**
- d) Council agreed a request from Longford football club to site a 30-foot storage container on the playing field adjacent to the village hall. **Action: Clerk** to apply for planning permission.
- e) Council discussed options for alleviating car parking issues when the playing field is used at the same time as the village hall. There has been confusion about the overflow parking area on the grass and it was agreed to publish information on the village hall website and parish council website showing clearly where the overflow car parking. Council and village hall will continue to monitor issues. **Action: Clerk.**
- f) Council deferred the request for a memorial bench for Phil Awford until Cllr Melvin present to outline her proposal. **Action: Clerk** to add to next agenda.

9. Planning

- a) Council considered the following planning applications:
- 24/00776/FUL - 382 Longford Lane Longford – no objection
 - 24/00800/FUL - 382 Longford Lane Longford – no objection
- b) There were no planning applications received since publication of the agenda.

10. Highways

- a) Council received an update from the Road Safety Working Group. The requested traffic restriction order to reduce the speed limit of Tewkesbury Road is still with the County Council safety team.

11. To receive reports from representatives for information only:

- Allotments: There was a working party on 12th October which was well-attended by ploholders. Cllr Doherty noted that the allotments would benefit from attention, particularly clearing abandoned plots prior to re-letting. The allotments are a parish council asset and needs some maintenance.
- Finance: no additional updates. Cllr Meek to conduct a check of the accounts, a date to be arranged with the Clerk.
- Personnel: no further updates.
- Playing Field: lighting around the playing field needs to be looked at to ensure the lights work, but perhaps not have motion sensing as this can be intrusive to neighbouring properties. **Action: Clerk** to discuss with Laser Alarms.
- Village Hall: advertising for additional volunteers has attracted some interest.

Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 7.00pm. Deadline for agenda items is 25th November 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.