

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.30pm at Longford Village Hall

1. Attendance noted as

Cllrs K Doherty (Chair), J. Ford, C. Byers

Also present: County Cllr Awford, Borough Cllr Ockelton (7.46-8.15pm), Borough Cllr Bocking (8.15pm onwards)

Members of public present: Two

Apologies: Cllr L Gough

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2021

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2021.

4. To receive an update on outstanding matters not on the agenda.

None.

5. Co-option (4 vacancies)

There were no applications to fill councillor vacancies by Co-option (4 vacancies). It was noted that Cllr Wallace has resigned from the parish council, the Clerk will report the vacancy to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Members of the Public were invited to address the meeting; a resident asked how it was decided where the electric scooters are located, the ones on Longford Lane are in a poor location. Cllr Awford will take this up with the Local Highways Manager. Grass verge parking on Tewkesbury Road is causing a visibility issue, Cllr Awford will also take this up with Highways.

To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Cllr Awford opened his report by advising he had seen the presentation earlier in the day for the proposals for Junction 10 and had made comments around his concerns on some aspects of the plans. County Council was to be the following day where a packed agenda would take a considerable time with both Motions and questions.

He advised that he had a meeting scheduled with the Local Highways Manager on the 12th and would pick up Parish issues with him. He went on to advise he was Chairing the GCC working group looking at river pollution and so far had taken evidence from the EA and three water companies but there was still much more to do with other bodies such as the NFU and OFFWAT together with an Authority that had achieved some success and created bathing quality water. He committed to forward the one-page strategy document to the Parish Council and took on board the concerns about activities in flood risk areas.

He advised he had committed to a major piece of work to support Down Hatherley Parish Council given the next proposal for the A1 site where drainage and flooding features together with highway access issues

The Growing Communities Fund now called Build Back Better via County Councillor, projects need to have direct community benefit eg dog bins, Longford lockdown memorial garden etc. **Action: Clerk** to complete the application and send to GCC and copy Cllr Awford.

To receive a report from the Borough Councillors.

Cllr Bocking circulated a report prior to the meeting; Cllr Ockelton joined the meeting at 7.45pm after coming from a meeting at Tewkesbury Borough Council. Cllr Ockelton reported that Tewkesbury BC had considered an item to no longer automatically refer planning applications to committee after parish and town councils have submitted objections; the item was deferred

pending consultation with parish and town councils.

Community Governance Review: the proposed amendments to boundaries etc will be out for consultation in the new year. The boundary with Innsworth is proposed to move so that the clocktower comes into Longford parish and the boundary with Sandhurst is also proposed to be moved so that Walham comes into Sandhurst parish.

Cllr Ockelton also reported there has been anti-social behaviour around the shops in Longford.

Cllr Ockelton and Cllr Awford left the meeting.

Cllr Bocking arrived at 8.15pm.

The Chairman of Friends of Longford Village Hall gave an improvement progress report on the works taking place at the hall and outlined the reasons for the funding request to the parish council.

6. Finance / Procedures

- 6.1. Council received the bank reconciliation and budget versus spend reports for October 2021.
- 6.2. Council reviewed second draft of budget 2022-23. Proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Ford all in favour to set the budget at £26,800 with a precept of £23,000 using £800 income from allotments and £3,000 from general reserves, this will have a 10% increase for Band D properties which equates to £3.38 per year extra. The budget for 2022/23 is appended to the minutes.
- 6.3. Council approved the reimbursement of purchases and expenses for Clerk (£466.30).
- 6.4. Council resolved to donate a £20 gift voucher for the Friends of Longford Park Academy raffle. **Action: Clerk.**
- 6.5. Council resolved to provide £30,000 (using powers under Local Government Act 1972 section 133) to Longford Village Hall for the hall improvements as it is an asset to the community, proposed by Cllr Byers, seconded by Cllr Ford, all in favour. The money will be drawn down by the Village Hall when they get to the relevant phase of the improvements.
- 6.6. Council approved the accounts for payment, proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Byers, all in favour:

Invoice Date	Payee	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
30/11/21	Salaries November 2021	£455.99	£0	£455.99	Admin
30/11/21	Expenses October & November 2021	£415.30	£51.00	£466.30	Insurance
23/11/21	Glebe Contractors	£100.00	£25.00	£125.00	Maintenance
11/11/21	Lynn Gough (Poppy Wreath)	£20.00	£0	£20.00	S137
				£1067.29	

7. Parks and Open Spaces & Allotments

- 7.1. Council approved play area repairs as detailed in the report. Proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Byers. All in favour. **Action: Clerk** to place the order. It was noted that the youth pod will need re-painting next year.
- 7.2. Council received an update on the Sivell Close memorial wildflower area and noted the research undertaken; to be discussed further particularly when Council is setting the grass cutting tender for 2022.

8. To note arrangements for community events with Longford Village Hall

- 8.1. Village fete on Jubilee weekend 2022 – no update.
- 8.2. First Aid – two companies provided additional information and Council considered the quotes and resolved to use Community Heartbeat Trust to provide a CPR and defibrillator course at a cost of £175+VAT for up to 50 attendees. **Action: Clerk.**

9. Council considered the following planning applications:

21/00781/FUL – Council agreed to withdraw its objection based on the additional information provided by the Development Control Manager. **Action: Clerk to advise Tewkesbury BC.**

10. To consider retaining a stock of empty sandbags within the parish

The Parish Council lacks storage facilities to hold empty sandbags on behalf of the community for distribution in an emergency; therefore, the Council declined to accept stocks of sandbags from Tewkesbury BC but offered to accept some sandbags to pass on immediately to those householders that are prone to need them who would be able to store now. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Council discussed updates from Highways

Cllr Byers gave an update on the 20 is plenty campaign, over 40 parishes in Gloucestershire have signed up to the 20 is plenty campaign. Cllr Byers has several 20 is plenty signs to put up around the parish to encourage a small reduction in speed and emissions. It was noted that to purchase 150 wheelie bin stickers would be £125.

There was a short discussion about resurrecting the newsletter and have a Council Facebook page; **Action: Clerk to research options and report back to Council.**

12. Council discussed promoting “hedgehog highways”.

Action: Clerk to add information to the Council’s website.

13. To receive reports for information:

- Allotments – 2 quotes received for rabbit proof fence, awaiting a 3rd quote.
- Finance – Cllr Ford will review Finances before the next meeting.
- Personnel – Cllrs Doherty and Ford will arrange to appraise the Clerk 17th January, 2pm at Cllr Doherty’s house.
- Play Park & Playing Field – no further updates.
- Village Hall representative – no further updates.

Next meeting Tuesday 1st February 2022 at the village hall.

Meeting closed at 9.37pm.

LONGFORD PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2022/23					
		£		£	
Budget Heading	2020/21 Actuals	2021/22 Budget	6 months spend to 30/09/21	Balance	Approved 2022/23 Budget
Staff costs	5739.43	7000	3986.13	3013.87	8000
General Admin/expenses	2392.30	2700	1010.42	1689.58	2700
Insurance	590.20	700	472.36	227.64	700
Donations	20.00	250	0.00	250.00	250
Parks/Open Spaces	5089.16	4500	3851.70	648.30	6000 Grass cutting & tree maintenance
Allotments	3006.20	2000	82.45	1917.55	2000
Maintenance	2010.00	2250	700.00	1550.00	2250 Incl kerbside weed spraying 3 times a year
Training	0.00	300	599.00	-299.00	600 Incl Annual Clerks conference
IT	0.00	150	0.00	150.00	2000 Incl allotments & finance software, tablets for councillors
Newsletter/Website/Email	14.99	200	14.99	185.01	300
New equipment	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0
Projects	2295.00	1500	10000.00	-8500.00	2000 Village Hall £10k contribution in 2021/22
Earmarked Reserves contribution	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	0
	21157.28	21550	20717.05	832.95	26800
Anticipated other income					800 Football & Allotments
					3000 Use of General Reserves to reduce Precept
Agreed precept 2022/23					£ 23,000 Impact on Band D to be provided once tax base known
					35.94 2022/23 Estimated Band D Council Tax for the year
EARMARKED RESERVES as at April 2021					32.56 2020/21 Band D Council Tax for the year
Projects		5954			3.38 £ increase on previous year
Playground eqpt/fencing		15150			10.37 % increase on previous year
Existing Notice Boards x 2		1600			
New Notice boards Fund		3199			
Defibrillators/cabinets		960			
Web/IT eqpt/Transparency fund		1550			
Fencing/other assets		5000			
Park furniture 12 benches		3600			
Annual inflation allowance		77			
TOTAL EARMARKED RESERVES		31136			