

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm at Longford Village Hall

### 1. Attendance noted as

Cllrs K Doherty (Chair,) J. Ford, C. Byers, R Harris (item 5 onwards), D Melvin (item 5 onwards)

**Also present:** County Cllr Awford, Borough Cllr Ockelton, Mrs J Shirley (Clerk)

**Members of public present:** Two

**Apologies:** Cllr L Gough, Borough Cllr Bocking

### 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

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

Sivell Close wildflower area: grounds maintenance contractor has mown a pathway as requested; the Clerk is investigating underground services.

### 5. Co-option (5 vacancies)

There were four applications to fill councillor vacancies by Co-option (5 vacancies).

The Council heard from the four candidates, two of which have experience of serving on councils. Cllr Doherty proposed co-opting Dawn Melvin and Richard Harris to the Council, Cllr Ford seconded, all in favour. The other two candidates were invited to stay for the meeting and if still interested in being co-opted can be voted on later. There was a pause in the meeting whilst Declarations of Acceptance of Office were completed.

### To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Cllr Awford opened his report by advising that given an increase in his Highways Local Budget he had bid for some resurfacing on the A38 though the area of concern around the Lewis Avenue junction. He went on to advise the Parish Council that the current LHM was changing his role with Highways and moving on to the Project Team and for now to use Sally Godwin as the contact for Highways until the new LHM is appointed.

Since February his work has been dominated by flood issues given his roles with the Severn and Wye RFDC and work with the Environment Agency (EA). He had been asked by the EA to write a report around the February events and on submitting his report had been asked to speak at the RFDC debrief given his reports content. He had been critical of the Authorities messaging for the anticipated storm surge of the 18th of February, not in the need to prepare which he supported but the door-to-door messaging doing comparisons with 2007 by both GCC and TBC. He had also raised concerns about signage, barriers and communications between the Authorities and the EA. There had been some confusion as the well-made plans were not enacted as the Officers with that knowledge were on leave at that time.

Cllr Awford had been invited to attend the GRCC Flood Wardens Meeting the previous week where these issues were raised; the Officer from TBC recognised the issue and apologised for how that messaging was taken out in the Borough. At that meeting, many raised the issue of sewerage discharge issues, he suggested that Parishes highlight those areas for him to raise at a future RFDC meeting with the representative from Severn Trent to establish the need for further work in the Parishes impacted.

In answering a few questions about local issues he advised that he had committed funding to some improved signage and would seek to get a new drop down sign in Sandhurst Lane at a key point. In the future highways were less likely to use barriers as they simply get removed by vehicle drivers who think they can get through floods, highways only have advisory powers, enforcement is

a matter for the Police.

A Parish Councillor also highlighted his attempts to get the EA to investigate an obstructive willow tree in the Hatherley Brook and the effect this had on that part of the network. Cllr Awford will pick this issue up with the EA and also the relevant Officers at the LLFA.

He advised the Parish Council that he was actively working with the Borough Councillors around the wider drainage network related to both the A40 gateway project and the new developments that were already constructed and those yet to be constructed.

He asked to be copied into the Parish Councils considerations of the 20 mph zones as given the urban nature of much of the Parish it could be part of a wider cluster to negate an individual TRO process which is expensive and takes considerable time in consultation.

**To receive a report from the Borough Councillors.**

Council noted the report forwarded by Cllr Bocking prior to the meeting; Cllr Ockleton gave a verbal update and is liaising with Cllr Awford on flooding / drainage issues for the local area. The planning application for 166 dwellings at Twigworth has been deferred due to concerns about reliance that the surface water drainage scheme involves pumping the water off site into the road drainage. Cllr Ockleton has also requested an updated traffic and transport survey.

Cllr Ockleton left the meeting (8.05pm)  
 Cllr Awford left the meeting (8.05pm)

**6. Finance / Procedures**

- 6.1. Council received the bank reconciliation and budget analysis reports for February 2022.
- 6.2. Council noted that the National Salary Award for 2021/22 has been agreed as 1.75% with effect from 1st April 2021, a small amount of back pay for the Clerk to be added to the next payrun.
- 6.3. Council received the internal audit report for 2021-22.
- 6.4. Council approved the reimbursement of expenses to the Clerk (£340.90).
- 6.5. Council approved the quote to weed spray pavements and gutter 3 times a year at a cost of £385+VAT per visit. **Action: Clerk.**
- 6.6. Council discussed arrangements for the annual parish meeting and agreed to hold the annual parish meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm and follow it with the annual meeting of the parish council at 8pm.
- 6.7. Council approved the accounts for payment, proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded by Cllr Ford, all in favour. Payments will be made using online banking, authorised by Cllr Ford and Cllr Doherty:

Invoice Date	Payee	Net	VAT	Gross	Budget
28/02/22	Glebe Contractors	£170.00	£34.00	£204.00	P&OS
03/03/22	Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire	£250.00	£0.00	£250.00	S137
08/03/22	GAPTC (audit)	£175.00	£0.00	£175.00	Admin
31/03/22	Salaries March 2022	£235.33	£0.00	£235.33	Admin
31/03/22	Expenses March 2022	£336.90	£4.00	£340.90	Admin
31/03/22	HMRC Q4	£176.40	£0.00	£176.40	Admin
01/04/22	GAPTC (subs)	£428.07	£0.00	£428.07	Admin
04/03/22	WaterPlus (DD)	£8.59	£0.00	£8.59	Allotments
				£1818.29	

**7. Parks and Open Spaces & Allotments**

- 7.1 Council resolved to replace the timbers on the two concrete benches with hardwood timber at a cost of £680, and to repair the two noticeboards at a cost of £110. **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.2 Council resolved to provide a skip for the allotments for May to clear winter rubbish. **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.3 Council agreed to meet for a walkabout around the field to identify hedging required and tree areas; Cllr Doherty proposed a small orchard for the corner of the playing field, seconded by Cllr Byers, all in favour. Proposed date for the walkabout is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. **Action: All.**

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

- 8.1. Village fete on Jubilee weekend 2022 – the Clerk gave a verbal update from the Village Hall Committee. Council considered the request for 2 small fairground rounds to attend the fete; Cllr Doherty proposed, seconded by Cllr Byers, all in favour. It was agreed to request a grounds deposit to cover the cost of any damages to the field, and site away from the football pitch. **Action: Clerk.**

**9. Council considered the following planning applications:**

Application no: 22/00355/FUL - Erection of two storey rear extension - 366 Longford Lane, Longford. The Council had no objections to the plans. **Action: Clerk.**

**10. Council discussed updates from Highways including 20 is plenty campaign**

Cllr Byers reported that Longford Lane still has considerable potholes; traffic appears to be moving slightly slower with the 20 is plenty signs in place. Council would like a 20mph zone throughout the parish. **Action: Clerk to advise County Cllr Awford.**

**11. To receive reports for information:**

- Allotments – work party was arranged prior to the installation of the rabbit proof fencing. Allotment competition will be judged by the same person as last year and will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, Cllr Ford will design a poster.
- Finance – no update
- Personnel – no update
- Play Park & Playing Field – no update
- Village Hall representative – no update.

**Co-option**

The two candidates confirmed they would like to be co-opted onto Council; Cllr Doherty proposed co-opting Rosie Meeks and Christina Young on the council, seconded by Cllr Ford, all in favour.

Next meeting: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 7.30pm for the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 8pm.

Meeting closed at 9.12pm