

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7.30pm at Longford Village Hall

- 1. Attendance noted as**
Cllrs L Gough (Chair), C Byers, R Harris, R Meek, D Melvin, C Young
Also present: County Cllr Awford, Borough Cllr Bocking, Mrs J Shirley (Clerk)
Members of public present: Two.
Apologies: Cllr J Ford, Cllr K Doherty.
- 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**
None.
- 3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2022**
Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2022. Proposed by Cllr Gough, seconded by Cllr Byers, all in favour.
- 4. To receive an update on outstanding matters not on the agenda.** None.
- 5. Co-option (1 vacancy)**
No applications.

Members of the Public were invited to address the meeting.

A resident noted that Tewkesbury Road was starting to flood, Cllr Harris will inform Local Highways Manager.

A resident was present regarding the Sivell Close wildflower area and thanked Council for listening to his views at the previous meeting and overall was supportive of the proposals. However, the resident has concerns about the plan to plant a Horse Chestnut tree due to the maximum height the tree could reach at maturity and the proximity to the properties bordering the open space. Council listened to the resident's concerns and will review plans for the tree.

The resident also spoke regarding the previous request for the council to maintain the boundary fence and his solicitor states that the fence is the responsibility of the parish council as it is the council's boundary and as the council has previously repaired the fence a precedent has been set. The matter was discussed at the previous council meeting. The boundary fence was installed by the house builder after the land transferred to the parish council and there is nothing in the land transfer covenant to require the council to maintain the fence.

The resident also spoke about the council's decision to not sell the Sivell Close open space and that he hadn't been given the opportunity to make an offer for the land. The Council had understood that a verbal offer had been made, discussed the matter at the previous council meeting and the decision made cannot be rescinded for 6 months.

To receive a report from County Cllr Awford. Cllr Awford has some funds left in his Highways funding and has confirmed to the Local Highways Manager that it be put towards road improvements on Sivell Close. Cllr Awford is aware of the issues caused by the gas works on Longford Lane. Highways cannot prevent utilities companies from accessing their network, however any unauthorised works can be penalized such as the traffic controls that extended onto the A38 from Longford Lane.

To receive a report from the Borough Councillors.

Cllr Bocking had circulated a report ahead of the meeting and highlighted a few items: Places Leisure Centre is extending its catchment area by sending out free vouchers to use the centre. Cllr Bocking also updated the council on flooding caused by run off. Different soil types affect the saturation rate, a recalculation has shown that there is extra water run-off from the new developments.

Groundworks are taking place on land where the barn was demolished. There is no planning consent on this land so Cllr Bocking will follow-up with Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Cllr Bocking will follow up the dog/litter bin for Sandhurst Lane.
Cllr Bocking is also chasing up the request for camera at fly tipping hotspots.

Cllr Bocking has been working with County Cllr Awford to restore crossings that should be in place on the new developments.

Cllr Awford, Cllr Bocking, and residents left the meeting.

6. Finance / Procedures

- a) Council received the bank reconciliation and budget analysis reports for the year to date.
- b) Council agreed the quote for play area repair to basketball hoop and clockface stones at a cost of £509+VAT. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) Council considered the Clerk's report on moving to Microsoft Business and subscribing to SaaS protection. Council resolved to move to Microsoft Business with Edge IT undertaking the migration and subscribe to SaaS protection. **Action: Clerk.**
- d) Council considered the first draft of the budget for 2023/24 and made some adjustments, the revised budget will be presented to Council at the December meeting for approval. **Action: Clerk.** There was a discussion about installing solar lights and CCTV to improve security and safety around the village hall. **Action: Cllr Young** will discuss with the Village Hall Committee.
- e) Council approved a donation of £20 for the poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday. **Action: Cllr Gough.**
- f) Council noted there were no payments due at the current time apart from the Royal Mail Post Box renewal and the Clerk's salary which will be calculated during November.

7. Cllr Byers gave an update on the plans for planting trees and managing the wildflower areas on the playing field and Sivell Close. Council is awaiting the contractor to do the rotavating, it is now nearly too late to complete the work before winter. **Action: Clerk** to contact the contractor about the rotavating, it needs to be completed by 9th November, otherwise Council will hire a rotavator, Councillors volunteered to plant seeds and bulbs.

The horse chestnut tree has been ordered and it was agreed that the tree will be planted on the playing field in the space between the village hall and Victoria flats rather than on the open space at Sivell Close. Cllr Byers circulated a list of fruit trees that will be planted in the community orchard on the playing field.

8. Council agreed the Bee Squared wildflower initiative for next Spring and will make up 5 gram envelopes of seeds to give to participants. **Action: Clerk** to prepare materials.
9. Council agreed to apply to the Severn Trent Community Fund for the community orchard (creation of a nature superhighway). **Action: Clerk.**

10. To consider planning applications

- a) There were no applications received after agenda published.

11. Highways

- a) Council received an update from the Road Safety Working Group and noted that Longford Community Speedwatch Group has been registered. Cllr Byers has completed the online training as speedwatch co-ordinator. The Local Highways Manager visited Sivell Close and has acted on some of the highways matters previously agreed. There has been no progress on 20 is plenty.

12. To receive reports from representatives for information only:

- Allotments: annual competition was held in July. Currently 3 people on waiting list, 1 full plot will be available 1st April which could be let as 2 half plots. There has been complaints about allotment bonfires and tenants have been given guidance on when they can have bonfires.
- Environment: all covered during the meeting.
- Finance: check of the accounts to be arranged with Cllr Ford and Cllr Meek.
- Personnel: national pay award has been agreed.
- Play Park & Playing Field: no issues to report.
- Village Hall Working Group: Cllr Young and Cllr Harris attended the last meeting. A bouncy castle had been sited on the playing field without consent. Council requested that the village hall booking form has a tick box acknowledgement that the hall hirer is not using the field. Council also requested that the Parish Council pop-up banner be displayed in the foyer. **Action: Cllr Young.**

Next meeting Tuesday 6th December 2022, 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.03pm.