

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 7.30pm at Longford Village Hall

1. Attendance noted as

Cllrs J Ford (Chair), L Gough (Vice-Chair), C Byers, R Harris, R Meek, C Young

Also present: Borough Cllr Bocking, Mrs J Shirley (Clerk)

Members of public present: Four.

Apologies: Cllr K Doherty, Cllr D Melvin, County Councillor Awford.

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Young declared a personal interest in item 9.

3. Presentation of awards to Allotment Competition winners

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022. Proposed by Cllr Gough, seconded by Cllr Byers, all in favour.

5. To receive an update on outstanding matters not on the agenda. None.

6. Co-option (1 vacancy)

No applications.

Members of the Public were invited to address the meeting.

Residents from Dawn Drive were present concerning the agenda item to replace the boundary fence on Sivell Close open space and reiterated the request that the boundary fence be replaced as the council has done in the past for neighbouring properties. The item will be discussed later in the meeting and the residents' comments will be taken into consideration. The residents also asked that a proper consultation take place regarding the plans for planting trees and wildflowers on the open space at Sivell Close. The residents were invited to remain for agenda item 8 for the update on the project.

A resident asked when the contractors will return to tidy up following the recent roadworks on Tewkesbury Road and Longford Lane; Council will forward the comments to Gloucestershire Highways.

To receive a report from the Borough Councillors.

Cllr Bocking reported that Twigworth Parish Council is seeking views about the church and traffic on A38. The Public Space Protection Order for dog control has been approved by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Parish councils can raise issues and report hotspots to the borough council. Tewkesbury Borough Council is consulting on policy to include CCTV in taxis. Expected groundworks on the new estate Longford/Innsnorth have been followed-up by Cllr Bocking to ensure that all the public areas are being maintained.

Cllr Bocking left the meeting at 7.55pm.

7. Finance / Procedures

a) Council received the bank reconciliation and budget analysis reports for the year to date.

b) Council ratified the reimbursement of expenses to the Clerk (£360.58)

c) Council noted the external audit for 2021/22 had been completed and there were no recommendations to action.

d) Council considered quotes for tree and ground maintenance remedials, Cllr Byers proposed accepting Greenfields quote to reduce the height of the 3 poplar trees, remove the brash at Hayes Court and refurbish the oak bench, seconded Cllr Gough, all in favour. **Action: Clerk.**

e) Council noted there were no payments due at the current time.

8. Cllr Byers gave an update on the plans for planting trees and managing the wildflower areas on the playing field and Sivell Close. The wildflower area to be rotavated so that the seeds can be planted on bare earth. Residents were invited to address the meeting and they urged the Council to pause the plans to rotavate the land until proper public consultation can be undertaken, they felt that those that overlook the land should be consulted about how the land is managed and were not happy that the land needed to be taken to bare earth for the seeding of wildflower seeds.

Residents left the meeting.

Council discussed the plans, and it was agreed that the Clerk will prepare a letter to be sent to the properties around the Sivell Close open space advising of the plans for the wildflower area. It was confirmed that there will be a one metre boundary around the land that will be maintained as mown grass. There will be mixed crocus and daffodil bulbs planted, and a wildflower seed mix that includes Corncockle, Cornflower, Poppy, Corn Marigold. A horse chestnut tree will be planted towards the road side of the land; maximum height is 20 metres over 300 years. The Clerk will also arrange the information board / plaque as previously agreed by Council. **Action: Clerk.**

Playing field orchard: the chippings from the poplar trees will be used in the holes as mulch for the orchard trees. The open day at Days Cottage is coming up, Cllr Byers will attend to select the trees for the community orchard.

9. Council agreed the request to allow Longford Little Library use of the notice board on Longford Lane to publicise the library opening hours. The Clerk provided a notice board key to Cllr Young.
10. To discuss the protected tree lost through development on Saintbridge Road field. **Action: Clerk** to report the loss of TPO266 to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

11. To consider planning applications

- a) There were no applications received after agenda published.
- b) Council considered the planning appeal: Ref: APP/G1630/W/22/3299413 (Bus Bungalow Sandhurst Lane Longford); **Action:** Clerk to submit additional comments to the Planning inspector regarding flooding concerns.

12. Highways

- a) Council received an update regarding the temporary traffic lights on Longford Lane and the impact it has had on the residents of Sivell Close and Fircroft Road. A site meeting was held with the Local Highways Manager with residents concerning the road surface on Sivell Close and pavements, the lack of dropped kerbs on the road, visibility of the playing field signage to make drivers aware of children playing in the area. Also looking to have SLOW painted on the road and request another traffic survey for Sivell Close / Fircroft Road.
 - b) Council resolved to form a Road Safety Working Group and register as a Community Speedwatch Group with the Police (more information available here <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/speedwatch/community-speedwatch/>) – Cllrs Byers, Harris and Ford were appointed to the working group and residents will be invited to join. **Action: Clerk** to register the Community Speedwatch Group.
 - c) There was no update regarding the 20 is plenty campaign.
13. To receive reports from representatives for information only:
- Allotments: annual competition was held in July. Currently 3 people on waiting list.
 - Environment: all covered during the meeting.
 - Finance: check of the accounts to be arranged with Cllr Ford and Cllr Meek.

- Personnel: to be discussed under item 14.
- Play Park & Playing Field: Cllr Byers has carried out the monthly inspection, no issues to report.
- Village Hall Working Group: Cllr Young was unable to attend the last meeting and gave an update from the previous meeting, including an update on some teething issues with the Longford Little Library.

14. Separate Business

Pursuant to 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting.

The Clerk left the meeting for the next item.

- Council received an update on recruitment for new clerk; recruitment had been unsuccessful, and Council considered its options including re-advertising or utilising the services of a locum clerk. It resolved to request the current clerk to remain in post and offered a salary scale increase to LC2 point 28 and increase the working hours from 20 to 25 per month with effect from 1st October 2022. The Clerk returned to the meeting and accepted the offer.
- Council considered the request to sell the Sivell Close open space. Council acknowledged that the land would have to be advertised on the open market to ensure best value sought. Following a discussion, Council declined the offer to sell the land. **Action: Clerk.**
- Council considered the request to replace a section of fence bordering the Sivell Close open space. The land transfer document does not include a covenant requiring the Council to maintain the fences which were erected by the developer after the land was transferred to Council. Council declined the request to replace the fence. **Action: Clerk.**

Next meeting Tuesday 1st November 2022, 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm.