

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7.00pm at Longford Village Hall

1. Attendance noted as

Cllrs J Ford (Chair), C Byers (Vice-Chair), G Bocking, K Doherty, L Gough, R Harris, R Meeks, C Young

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

Members of public present: Three members of public.

Apologies: Cllr D Melvin, Borough Cllr S Hands

2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None.

3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023. Proposed by Cllr Byers, seconded by Cllr Gough, all in favour.

4. To consider applications to fill councillor vacancies by Co-option (1 vacancy)

There was one applicant to be co-opted onto the council. Cllr Gough proposed co-opting Mr Bocking onto the council, seconded by Cllr Byers, all in favour.

5. Public Participation

A representative of the Longford Football Club raised concerns about the rotavating of the community orchard as the tractor left tyre tracks on the football pitch and mud on the village hall driveway. The football club are having difficulty finding training pitches and asked if it would be possible to use portable flood lights once a week for football training; the football club were invited to submit their proposals for council to consider at the next meeting.

A resident of Longford Lane addressed the meeting regarding the lighting on the playing field that is intruding on their home and garden. Additionally, the lighting has encouraged young people to gather at the basketball court and the residents are experiencing anti-social behaviour. The resident requested that the lighting be removed from the basketball court and play area. The Clerk noted that one of the cameras is not working so the contractor will need to come out to fix the camera and can remove the bulb above the basketball court as a temporary measure whilst Council considers a permanent solution. **Action: Clerk.**

County Councillor Report: no report received.

Borough Councillor Report: Council noted the borough councillors report received from Cllr Hands via email. Cllr Ockleton advised that he and Cllr Hands are working with the flood authority regarding flood issues at Twigworth which will have an impact on neighbouring parishes if not addressed. Cllr Ockleton was disappointed that the application to develop 21 apartments in Longford was approved by Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Cllr Gough noted that the alerts for flooding are misleading and may cause panic amongst residents that are not familiar with the local area and history of flooding.

Cllr Doherty raised concerns about anti-social behaviour on Sandhurst Lane and requested Cllr Ockleton's assistance in highlighting the issues with the Police.

Cllr Byers noted that the issue of dog fouling has worsened on the playing field; Cllr Ockleton will raise this at Tewkesbury BC.

6. Finance / Procedures

a) Council received the latest bank reconciliations and budget report for the 2023/24 accounts.

- b) Council reviewed the first draft of the budget for 2024/25 and noted that a decision on the budget and precept will be made at the December meeting once the taxbase for 2024/25 is known.
- c) Council approved payment of invoices:

Invoice date	Details	Gross £
11/10/23	Edge IT Systems Ltd	£82.80
30/10/23	Glebe Contractors (2 invoices)	£1076.29
23/10/23	Hanman Split Ltd	£506.94
25/10/23	Redhand	£320.11
11/10/23	Royal Mail Group Ltd	£396.00
31/10/23	Salaries October 2023	Confidential

7. Parks, Open Spaces & Allotments

- a) A report was received from Cllr Byers regarding the community orchard and wildflower areas on the playing field and Sivell Close. There was a discussion about attaching the plaques to granite to display in the orchard, or whether to have a boulder with a flat side to attach the plaques. Council deferred further discussion.
- b) The next playing field working party date is 25th November at 11am to plant trees in the community orchard.

8. Planning

- a) There were no planning applications received after publication of agenda.

9. Highways

- a) There was no update from the Road Safety Working Group.

10. To receive reports from representatives for information only:

- Allotments: no update.
- Finance: no update.
- Personnel: Councillors volunteered to take responsibility for displaying agendas in the notice boards to save the clerk time each month. Clerk to pass on the notice board keys to councillors.
- Village Hall: LVH is investigating a key entry system to improve access for hirers. A list of proposed events have been circulated to the council.

Next Meeting to be held on 5th December 2023 at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.