

Longford Parish Council
Chairman's Report
May 2022

There have been a number of changes in the composition of the Council over the past year. Councillor Peter Gough who served for a great many years has left the Council. Councillor Eamonn Doherty also departed after a number of years service. We would like to thank them for their service and efforts on behalf of the Parish. Over the course of the year Council has been joined by six new Councillors, Councillors Chris Byers, and Jim Ford were welcomed in May last year and in March of this year Councillors Dawn Melvin, Richard Harris ,Christina Young and Rosie Meeks swelled the ranks. Councillor Mark Wallace who joined in 2021 had to leave after a short time but in the time he was with Council he actively promoted the Hedgehog Highways initiative

As mentioned in last years report there are some areas where work in, around and for the Parish does not progress as quickly as Council and parishioners might wish, in part because of reliance of action from other agencies. A case in point is:-

Highways

It has proved to be very difficult and frustrating to progress issues relating to highways and road safety. Having been disappointed in its efforts to install a VAS speed reduction system Council had hoped that measures could be taken to deal with what was felt to be unsafe parking, particularly in Fircroft Road and create a safe haven for crossing on Tewkesbury Road. To this end a number of Councillors met on several occasions with the local Highways manager who advised that the vehicles Councillors believed were parked unsafely were parked within legal parameters. He had hoped however to progress the latter matter. Unfortunately he has now left and to date not been replaced and there has been no progress on a safe haven. However, Councillor Chris Byers is taking a lead on the 20 is Plenty initiative and thinks that this is having some impact but speeding still remains an issue of concern.

On a more positive note :

Allotments

There has been a lot of activity on the allotments in the past year. It is very pleasing to see the progress made in tidying up the allotment, in large part a result of two volunteer action days which also had the benefit of an additional allotment being created. The competition for the best kept allotment took place on a very hot

summers day last year. This years judging will take place on Monday 18th July at 10.00 a.m.

Parish Clerk Julie Shirley successfully applied to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant towards the cost of installing rabbit proof fencing to the perimeter of the allotments. Allotment holders also held a couple of barbecues.

Defibrillator

Council again funded a short, informative training session on how to use a defibrillator and a little on how to carry out basic CPR. Attendance was a little disappointing but Council feels it is important that those parishioners who are interested know how to and feel confident in using the defibrillator should they be called on to do so.

Park and Playing Field

The annual inspection of playground equipment has been carried out and all necessary work undertaken or in progress. Repair work to two benches near the village hall will shortly be carried out. Council has agreed to fund a small community orchard in one corner of the playing field and hope to plant some local heritage varieties of fruit trees. This cannot take place until autumn. Council hope that some parishioners may be interested in helping with the tree planting and would be very happy to hear from any potential volunteers.

Website

Parish Clerk Julie Shirley has now set up a .gov website for the Parish Council.
www.longford-pc.gov.uk

Village Hall

Council continues to work closely with the Village Hall Committee and has made two grants in the past year to enable work on the extension and refurbishments of the village hall. It is very pleasing to see work on the new entrance to the village hall progressing. Council is liaising with the Village Hall Committee about improving lighting to the drive. The sensor lights it installed are not as efficient as was hoped, particularly in the winter months. The VHC plans to install cabling for internet at some point and the P.C will re visit the question of lighting at that point. Council made a donation for the attendance and work of the police at the well attended bike marking event and the village hall committee offered the use of the hall for this event at no cost.

Council has agreed in principle to the VHC using the playing field for car boot sales and also for a Platinum Jubilee Fair in June of this year.

Longford Lockdown Memorial Garden

This is to be sited on the small patch of land the Parish Council owns on Sivell Close. Work has been very slow whilst the necessary research was undertaken but has now started. A pathway will be mown through the grass this year rather than the whole area being mown. This will allow naturally occurring species to grow and flower and will help determine what species to plant in the future. Council has agreed to plant a tree as part of the garden and also as part of the Platinum Jubilee tree planting initiative. It will also fund a memorial plaque. It is still intended to involve the school where possible but understands that things are frustratingly slow as far as the school is concerned but this is an evolving project and involvement of and with the school in parish events and projects remains an important objective.

Grants/Donations

As already mentioned Council approved grants to the village hall. It also funded a wreath for Remembrance Sunday and made a donation to UNICEF to help with its efforts in Ukraine. A donation was also made for the bike marking event.

Routine Maintenance

A boring but necessary and on going part of Councils work is maintenance of its assets. This includes such things as grass cutting, hedge maintenance around the playing field, tree safety, weed spraying, maintenance of the park and playing field equipment. Our very efficient clerk ensures that all the necessary is done in timely manner and that quotes are obtained for all work to ensure Council obtains best value for money.

Our thanks go to Julie and also to County Councillor Phil Awford and Borough Councillors Graham Bocking and Paul Ockleton for their work on behalf of the Parish.

Karen Doherty
Chairman Longford Parish Council

LONGFORD PARISH COUNCIL		
BALANCE SHEET		
	Year ended 31 March 2022	
Receipts		
Precept	£20,750.00	
Grants	£3,250.00	
Allotments	£1,007.00	
Playing Field	£0.00	
VAT Reclaim / Other	£1,407.05	
		£26,414.05
Payments		
VAT	£1,863.78	
Staff costs	£6,332.22	
General Admin	£2,083.78	
Donations	£40.00	
Parks/Open Spaces	£7,161.00	
Allotments	£498.87	
Maintenance	£800.00	
Training	£599.00	
IT	£0.00	
Newsletter/Website	£133.99	
Notice board	£0.00	
New equipment/projects	£10,425.00	
		£29,937.64
Excess Receipts/(Payments)		<u>-£3,523.59</u>
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022		
Opening Reserves	£79,618.75	
Excess Receipts	-£3,523.59	
	£76,095.16	
Represented by:		
Bank Balances		
Lloyds Bank - Treasurer Account	76095.16	
Lloyds Bank - Business Savings	0	
Unpresented debits	0	
	£76,095.16	