

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 7th JUNE 2021 IN THE VILAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Angie Filippa (AF) – Vice Chairman acting as Chairman of the meeting
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)
Cllr Alice Foster (AFo)
In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor, Colin McIntyre (CM) Leckford Estate, Toni Wilden (TWi) Head Teacher at Test Valley School, and 27 local residents.

1. **Apologies:** Sophie Walters (SW), PC Chairman, who was away; and Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor, for late arrival due to commitments with other Council meetings.
2. **Minutes of AGM Meeting of 6th May.**
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and will be signed by SW.

n.b. At this point AF asked MF to confirm the details of the co-option of AFo as a new member of the PC. The notes of this confirmation are included below under Item 8. PC Vacancy

3. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21536802** – Blocked drains opposite LOYO unit. HCC have confirmed that the work is required and been passed to the contractor, but no work carried out yet. **ACTION:** MF has sent another chaser
 - **21547787** – Potholes at 18 Roman Road. Work done. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **21556657** – Potholes at 20 Roman Road. HCC website claims work completed, but AF advised that still pending. **ACTION:** MF to chase
 - **21560523** – Road Sign on Bunny at A3057. Work done. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **21560535** – Road Drainage problems at The Grange. Pending with HCC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21562761** – 3 Potholes at Test Valley School bus bays. Work started. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21562764** – Road signs and markings at Bottom Road. Pending at HCC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **HCC Mowing Damage** – MF to contact new HCC Councillor, David Drew (DD) re HCC Contractors. **ACTION:** SW to provide DD's email and MF to follow up
 - **Dog Walkers** – SW to contact the TVBC dog warden post-Covid-19 – still pending. **ACTION:** SW
 - **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – Request assistance from DD at HCC **ACTION:** MF
 - **Barn Cottage Issues** – SW went to discuss build project at Barn Cottage with the owners and they have assured us that all landscaping, hedge reinstating etc. will all be completed by the end

of this year 2021. SW apologised to the residents for any upset caused. **ACTION:** Closed

- **War Memorial Cleaning** – With ex-PC member John Eastwood. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
- **Disused Chalkpit** – Awaiting draft agreement from owner of Tamlyn for temporary use during building works. **ACTION:** MF
- **Village Litter Pick** – To be reviewed in July. **ACTION:** MF for agenda
- **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – TVBC review pending. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
- **Stockbridge Surgery** – Draft letter to be reviewed. **ACTION:** MF/SW
- **Die-back Ash Tree at Recreation Ground** – Dangerous root on side path access on to road. **ACTION:** CM/SW to review

n.b. At this point two separate agenda items were brought forward:

- AF invited TWi to provide an update on Test Valley School. The notes of this discussion are included below under Item 6.d Test Valley School.
- AF invited residents to comment on the proposed Affordable Housing project on Church Road. The notes of this discussion are included below under Item 7. Affordable Housing on Church Road - Update

4. **Planning Applications.**

- Yew Tree Cottage – Natural Swimming Pool. Unanimous PC support. **ACTION:** MF

5. **Finance.**

- MF confirmed that the 2020/21 Audit has been reviewed and approved by local auditor Patrick Coates.
 - The AGAR Certificate of Exemption has been sent and acknowledged.
 - The Accounts and the supporting documents are available on the PC website.
 - The Exercise of Public Rights Notice has been posted on the notice boards and the website, and the inspection period has been set from 2nd June to 14th July in line with the regulations.
- NHP Grant Funds - MF advised that the £5,170 of unused NHP grants for the 2020/21 financial year have been returned to Locality.

6. **Councillors' Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing. (AF)

- This PC portfolio will now be handled by AF in view of its close connection to the ongoing NHP.
 - For discussions see Item 7 below.

b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).

- IG confirmed that the allotments are fully occupied with a waiting list
- Re Cemetery – MF advised:
 - The ashes of Alexander (Sandy) Burnfield were buried on 24th May.
 - The wording of a new ashes plaque for Mrs Amey was reviewed and agreed. MF will advise the stonemasons. **ACTION:** MF
 - The new memorial wording for Mrs Duncan had been agreed by the PC and the stonemasons advised.
 - The ashes plaque design for Mrs Savage will be changed and re-submitted for approval. **ACTION:** MF

c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).

- Footpaths – CG advised that FP6 needs cutting and he will contact the landowner
ACTION: CG
 - Lengthsman – Current work includes tidying the Bunny and cleaning the benches
 - Next month: the cemetery gates, a litter pick, and paint/treat the benches.
- d. Test Valley School and Neighbourhood Plan. (AF).
- AF confirmed that TVS/PC issues will now be dealt with by AFo. **ACTION:** AFo
 - TWi advised that TVS is progressing positively, and the latest interim report confirmed that the school is continuing to improve.
 - Student numbers for Year 1 have risen from 58 to 94, with a total of 490 students on roll.
 - The decision to de-commission the swimming pool has been taken following a detailed review. The pool is not considered to be economically viable, as the upkeep and maintenance costs, together with the safeguarding and insurance issues, are considered excessive in view of the only 6/7 weeks that the pool can be used each year.
 - It is intended that the space will be used to create an “open area” to act as a “heart for the community”. This could include; community events, outdoor learning, AmDrams, and a collaboration with Winchester University.
 - AF advised of local disappointment following significant fund-raising efforts, and TWi confirmed that the decision had been taken after balancing all the various elements.
 - AF advised that local landowner Ian Armitage is very keen to link up with TVS, and that he has a background in youth engagement. **ACTION:** AF to forward contact details to TWi.
 - TWi confirmed that TVS is working closely with Leckford Estate, and via School Governor David Hall on local initiatives.
 - TVS would also like to be involved in a village litter-pick when it is organised.
 - Re NHP - AF confirmed that the NHP local engagement event is scheduled for 24th June in the Village Hall, subject to any further changes in the Covid regulations.
 - It is hoped to set up displays in the VH, with face-to-face presentations, but it may be necessary to manage numbers via invitations and time slots.
ACTION: AF
- e. Environment, Website and Phone Box. (JE).
- Environment issues for the PC with now be dealt with by DB. **ACTION:** DB
 - The Website will now be handled by AFo. **ACTION:** AFo
 - Phone Box – PC responsibility to be reviewed in due course. **ACTION:** MF
- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
- SM advised that the Village Hall is currently open again on a limited basis within the current Covid rules,
 - Re Streetlights – everything is working well.
- g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
- SW had submitted the following comments:
 - Re Playground - ROSPA has carried out their inspection and a working party is needed to repair some damaged items. Please note that the inspector chose the wettest day of the year to come and after a very wet winter keeps commenting that the surface needs repairing!! **ACTION:** SW
 - Re HS - Several grants have been paid out and HS has now sent our next year allowance plus Covid emergency extra funds.

- h. Leckford Estate. (CM).
 - CM confirmed that Longstock Park is once again open.
 - There has been some re-structuring that will involve the departure of some staff.
 - The Landscaping/Garden Design team at Longstock Nursery have won a Gold Award at the recent BBC Gardeners' World Fair at Beaulieu.
 - The process of moving from Dairy to Meat production on Leckford Estate is proceeding, with the dairy herd being sold to other producers. It is intended that the dairy parlour be converted to an education centre in due course.
 - Leckford are in discussions with TVBC about increasing the capacity of the car park at the golf course.
- i. HCC. (AG)
 - Our new recently elected HCC Councillor is David Drew. TW will provide MF with DD's contact email. **ACTION:** TW/MF
- j. TVBC. (TW)
 - TW advised that TVBC are having problems finding appropriate venues for meetings following the Government's decision not to approve remote meetings beyond 7th May.

7. **Affordable Housing on Church Road – Update**

- AF advised that a survey has been undertaken throughout the whole village asking for opinions on the proposed affordable housing. English Rural have agreed to extend the consultation period until 30th June, and that they will attend the Neighbourhood Plan Community Engagement event on 24th June, together with representatives from Leckford Estate and the NHP external consultants.
 - In December 2020, in conjunction with TVBC, a Housing Needs Survey was carried out which showed support from respondents for new Affordable Housing in the village.
 - Various local residents expressed their views both for and against the proposed project on Church Road.
 - Views included:
 - the scale is too large; too far from local amenities; highways access problems next to Church; water supply; traffic volumes and speeds through the village; alternative sites available including near TVS; change to the village character by non-linear development; risk of further development on adjacent sites.
 - clear local need for affordable housing for both young people and families; established process for ensuring local connections of applicants; PC has already received many expressions of interest from long-term Longstock residents, including people born and brought up here.
 - although the recent Housing Needs Survey demonstrated a need for affordable housing, some doubts were expressed about how representative this was of local views; concerns were also raised about the questionnaire to residents, although it was explained that this was simply a “straw poll” to try to gauge residents' views.
 - CM confirmed that Leckford Estate will not benefit significantly from the project, and will only seek to proceed if there is a clear majority of residents who support it.
 - AF and CG pointed out that the PC has so far simply supported the principle of approving the Rural Exception Site, and that no formal planning application has yet been submitted.

- TW confirmed that a similar project was undertaken in Kings Somborne a few years ago, and that the houses continue to be occupied only by local people, which has allowed the rural community environment to be protected.
8. **PC Vacancy**
- MF confirmed that a flyer was dropped into every letterbox in the village asking for candidates to join the PC, the vacancy was also published on the PC website, on all the notice boards and in the Newsletter. A Zoom meeting was held to interview the candidates who express a desire to join the PC. One candidate, AFo, was duly co-opted.
9. **Correspondence**
- MF advised that Caroline Nokes's office has forwarded a message from HMG following objections about the decision not to extend Councils' ability to hold remote meetings. The public consultation period on this ends on 17th June, but in the meantime Councils are responsible for managing face-to-face meetings appropriately.
 - The PC has received correspondence about the Church Road project, both for and against, and has forwarded it to English Rural where appropriate.
 - The SSE electricity supply contract is due for renewal on 31st July. MF will review the options and report back. **ACTION:** MF
 - The PC still awaits the designation of an ICO Case Officer to review the FOI complaint. **ACTION:** MF to update PC
 - The PC has received a further expression of dissatisfaction about the recent Subject Access Request. The PC has once again reviewed its response, and a further reply will be sent to confirm the position. **ACTION:** MF
10. **Any Other Business/public comment.**
- DB asked MF to report to HCC a new pothole at the top of Bottom Road. **ACTION:** MF
 - CG asked whether TVBC had returned to work in their offices.
 - TW explained that some staff have returned but in low numbers. The suitability of the Beech Hurst site is now being reviewed, and whether a move to Andover town centre might be more appropriate in due course
 - IG expressed concern at the parking situation in Stockbridge and across the bridge, and the problems this was causing for people living and working in Longstock.
 - TW advised that Stockbridge Parish Council and HCC are working on a plan to deal with this.
 - AFo suggested that road markings for pedestrians through the village would improve safety.
 - AF advised that pedestrian safety, and a future footpath to Stockbridge, are among the key elements of the NHP
 - TW advised that the Kings Somborne and Broughton village halls have been able to use recent grants to invest in audiovisual equipment.
 - SM advised that Longstock VH is studying the possibility of upgrading its insulation, and pointed out that everything is run by a team of volunteers.
 - A local resident thanked the PC for their efforts in working for the village, and highlighted the environmental benefits of leaving grass verges un-mown.
 - CG noted that this first face-to-face PC meeting since March 2020 was scheduled for 7.00 pm, rather than the previous 7.30 timing. It was unanimously agreed to stay with the 7.00 start time. **ACTION:** MF
11. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 19th July at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

Cheques Signed: *Pending confirmation*