

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 15th November 2021 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Sue Douglas (Chair)
Cllr Donna McLeod (Vice Chair)
Cllr Margaret Dye
Cllr Paul O'Brien
Cllr Roddy McLeod
Cllr Clare Mitton
Cllr Dawn Dewar

District Cllr Roger Atterwill
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Eight members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllrs Donna and Roddy McLeod declared an interest in item 6b, the three Bittering Quarry applications.

3. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 20th September 2021 and the extraordinary meeting held on 11th October 2021.

Cllr Douglas proposed that both minutes be accepted as a true record of the meetings, this was seconded by Cllr Donna McLeod and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. Meeting open for public participation.

The Chairman agreed to bring forward item 7c, permissive pathways, as this was why many of the members of public were in attendance.

A local landowner, speaking in respect of the access to permissive footpaths, reported that there was no public right of access over the land at Spring Farm, as suggested in the September minutes, and no access would be granted as it would cause an invasion of privacy. They were disappointed that no contact had been made before the September meeting. Another landowner said that creating a permissive footpath would destroy the work in place to support wildlife in this area.

A member of the public stated that there was no record of any accidents involving pedestrians, in the Longham locality, in the previous 20 years.

Cllr O'Brien stated that the Parish Council had a responsibility to residents and the subject of highway safety for walkers had been raised and opportunities for safe spaces for recreation needed to be considered. The roads were challenging for both cyclists and pedestrians as there were no safe refuges and the many near-misses were not shown in the statistics. However, he did emphasise the need for good relations with landowners.

Cllr Mitton reported there had been no intention to use the track near Spring Farm but to request a permissive walk on the field headland. Lockdown had highlighted the lack of safe walking routes in the village.

Cllr Roddy McLeod said that newcomers to the village should not expect better facilities than were already in place.

The Chairman reported that she had looked at historical maps of the area and no bridleways were shown and acknowledged that the statement in the previous minutes which indicated that a bridleway did exist was incorrect. That being the case, Council agreed not to pursue an application to amend the definitive map at Spring Farm on those grounds. However, Council agreed they should continue to look for suitable opportunities elsewhere.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

5. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that he continues to press for a speed limit on the Litcham Road as there are unsafe junctions, with poor visibility. The funding is available but Breckland are third in line to make their bids. He is waiting for a report from the Highway Engineer in respect of the pull-in on Hoe Road.

D/Cllr Atterwill said it was excellent news that the Parish Council had received a grant of £5,000 from Breckland to assist in the works at the Clay Pits.

In respect of the planning application on Hoe Road, he understood the first application was now recommended for refusal as it was not classed as in-fill. He understood that the Parish Council would welcome some additional housing in the village and advised them to be more forthright in their responses to Breckland.

6. Planning issues.

a) Applications for consideration.

- 3PL/2021/1460/F – Hoe Road Meadow, Hoe Road - change of use of land from Agricultural to residential - the erection of 1No. self-build home and provision of 1No. Self Build Plot with associated car parking and landscaping – Council agreed a 'no comment' response in respect of this application.

b) Decisions to note.

Council noted that decisions were awaited on the following applications.

- 3PL/2021/0894/F – Land adjacent to Southview, Hoe Road - the construction of a 1.5 storey, 3 bedroom timber framed dwelling (self build) - Red line amended and block plan amended - both in line with ecology advice.
- Beeston with Bittering: Bittering Quarry (Plant Site), Reed Lane, Bittering: Use of land for the storage of inert processed secondary aggregate produced at new Spreadoak recycling facility until 31 December 2031 without compliance with conditions 1 (restoration date) and 2 (approved documents) and 3 (source of recycled aggregate) of permission reference FUL/2021/0004: McLeod Aggregates Ltd.
- Beeston with Bittering: Land Adjoining Longham Heath and Spreadoak Plantation, Bittering Quarry, Reed Lane, Bittering: Relocation of inert recycling facility from existing position within the Longham extraction area onto land designed to serve the Spreadoak extraction area: McLeod Aggregates Ltd.
- Beeston with Bittering: Land Adjoining Longham Heath and Spreadoak Plantation, Bittering Quarry, Reed Lane, Bittering: Relocation of inert recycling facility from existing position within the Longham extraction area onto land designed to serve the Spreadoak extraction area: Raymond McLeod (Farms) Ltd.

c) To receive an update regarding Rural Exception Site Housing Scheme.

The Chairman reported that Broadland Housing were interested and a meeting between the Parish Council working party and Broadland Housing was being set up.

7. Highway issues.

a) To receive updates on matters previously reported.

This item had been dealt with at item 5.

- Speed Limit request – Litcham Road – with County Councillor.

b) To receive an update regarding the pull-in on Hoe Road.

This item had been dealt with at item 5.

c) To receive an update regarding new permissive pathways.

This item had been dealt with at item 4.

d) To consider any new highway issues.

There were no new issues raised.

8. The Playing Field.

a) To receive an update in respect of the football pitch resurfacing.

The resurfacing works had been completed and the Chairman requested that the £3,000 reserve set aside by the Parish Council now be transferred to the Village Hall. There are some minor drainage issues and these will be dealt with in due course.

b) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

9. To receive an update regarding the Clay Pits (a county wildlife site).

Cllr O'Brien reported that a £5,000 grant had been approved by Breckland under their Environmental Grant Scheme and further applications for funding will be submitted to other schemes. This grant will allow for the installation of a board walk around the site and a safety rail on the steps. Two days work by the Conservation Volunteers had been carried out and there is now a circular walk around the site. He did advise Council that £1,000 needed to be included in the budget each year for maintenance.

Cllr Roddy McLeod was concerned the site would not be used but was assured by Cllr O'Brien that there had been a lot of interest from residents and Beetley School were also hoping to have regular visits. The site is a County Wildlife Site and of interest to many people. The opening date will be publicised.

10. To receive an update regarding the Village Hall.

The Chairman reported that new lights had been installed, the ceiling repaired, the bar opened and electrical works carried out, all possible due to the grant received from Breckland during Covid lockdown.

11. Finance and Governance

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2022 (attached).

Cllr O'Brien advised that invoices were awaited from the Conservation team and this would require much of the remaining reserves set out in the report. There were no other matters raised and the report was noted.

b) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2022.

Cllr Douglas proposed that Mr Bergin be appointed as internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2022 at a cost of £25, this was seconded by Cllr Mitton and agreed by Council.

c) To consider the budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2023.

Council agreed to include an additional amount annually in the budget for the Clay Pits maintenance. Cllr O'Brien said that recent improvements in the village, including the defibrillator, ongoing maintenance at the Play Area, planting near the village sign, and access to the Clay Pits, and planned works for 2022/23 including maintenance on the village footpath, benches and bus shelter meant that the current precept was not adequate. He proposed that the amended budget was accepted and a precept of £7,000 for the year ending 31st March 2023, this was seconded by Cllr Douglas and agreed by Council. A Band D payer will make an annual payment of £79.91 for a precept of £7,000.

d) To authorise financial payments as set out below:

Cllr O'Brien proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Mitton and agreed by Council.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Oct/Nov) & HMRC Refund | £280.95 |
| • Village Sign Planting (Mrs S Douglas) | £34.95 |

The Chairman thanked Cllrs O'Brien and Mitton for planting the 2000 bulbs near the Village Sign.

12. Correspondence for circulation

Breckland Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment Survey – Council agreed that the Chairman should respond to the survey on behalf of the Council, following consultation with members.

13. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

14. To note the next meeting of the parish council will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 17th January 2022 in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting then closed at 8.25pm.

Signed:

Date:

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL					
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022					
FINANCIAL REPORT - NOVEMBER 2021					
BUDGET UPDATE	Budget	To	%	Balance at 01.04.2021	11,378.18
	2021/22	date	Spend	Plus Receipts at 31.10.2021	6,597.29
				Less Payments at 31.10.2021	4,553.01
				TOTAL	<u>13,422.46</u>
PAYMENTS*				Bank Balance at 31.10.2021	
Admin	1107	820	74%	Unity Trust Current Account	13,422.46
Salary	1600	1041	65%	Unity Trust Instant Access	0.00
Open Spaces	500	95	19%		<u>13,422.46</u>
Donations	1925	1925	100%	including:	
Defibrillator	0	28		Clay Pits Reserve	3,310.23
TOTAL	5132	3881	76%	Village Hall Reserve	1,700.00
Clay Pit Reserve	4100	790		Football Pitch Resurfacing	3,000.00
				General Reserve	5,412.23
RECEIPTS					
Precept	6000	6000	100%		
Bank Interest	0	0			
HMRC	0	6			
Recycling	200	97	49%		
TOTAL	6200	6103	98%		
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	1068	2223			
<i>*includes payments awaiting approval on this agenda.</i>					