

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 21st September 2020 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Sue Douglas (Chair)
Cllr Phil Collins (Vice Chair)
Cllr Roddy McLeod
Cllr Donna McLeod
Cllr Paul O'Brien

District Cllr Richard Duffield
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
One member of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Cllr Dye and D/Cllr Atterwell.

The Chairman read a letter from Cllr Anne Kerry who unfortunately, due to poor health, had tendered her resignation from the Council. The Chairman thanked Cllr Kerry, who had given many years of service to Longham Council and whose contribution will be much missed.

2. To consider the co-option of a new member to the Council.

Cllr Douglas proposed the co-option of Paul O'Brien onto the Council and this was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council. Cllr O'Brien will sign the acceptance of office and declaration of interests forms. Cllr O'Brien stated that he wished to make a contribution to village life.

This leaves one further vacancy on the Council and anyone with an interest is invited to contact either the Chairman or the Clerk for details.

3. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2020.

Cllr Douglas proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council. The Chairman will sign the minutes at the end of the meeting.

5. Meeting open for public participation.

There were no issues raised by members of the public.

6. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that the Covid-19 levels had returned to low in Norfolk, following the recent outbreak at Banham Poultry which had been efficiently dealt with by the organisations concerned.

The County Council are to request that Government delay the White Paper regarding reforms to local government until the Covid-19 threat is over.

NCC are holding free hazardous waste disposal days during September and October at the recycling centres. The following are the dates and times for the nearest ones. Both centres are open from 9am to 4pm.

- Dereham - 2nd, 3rd, 4th October.
- Hempton - 9th, 10th, 11th October.

A school transport issue had arisen where any places funded by parents had to be on 'crouching' buses but none were available. The Government had set this ruling aside during the Covid-19 crisis.

D/Cllr Duffield reported that the Chief Executive of Breckland was leaving but there were no immediate plans to replace them, with local government reforms pending.

A White Paper in respect of planning and development has been issued by Government and the proposals will mean that the views of local people will not be taken account of in any planning applications.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors for their inputs.

7. To discuss planning issues:

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no applications for consideration.

b) Decisions to note.

There were no decisions to note.

c) To receive an update regarding the following Planning Appeal - The Old Rectory, Honeypot Lane - erection of 2 bed annexe - reference: 3PL/2019/1199/F

Council noted that the planning appeal had been dismissed.

8. To discuss Highway issues.

a) To receive updates on matters previously reported.

- Speed Limit request – Litcham Road – the County Councillor reported that the Highways Team was currently much reduced due to illness etc and it was difficult to take matters forward, however, he will do so at the earliest opportunity.

b) To consider any new highway issues.

The C/Cllr reported that out of a survey of 28 shire counties, Norfolk had come top in respect of the condition of the roads.

Cllr O'Brien reported that the junction of Honeypot Lane and Wendling Road had a poor visibility splay and the C/Cllr will investigate.

9. To discuss any issues relating to the Playing Field.

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

The Chairman reported that the application for grant funding from the Football Association had been turned down as the land was not registered with the Land Registry. However, the Village Hall Committee had agreed to use some of the Covid-19 grant monies towards the project and Cllr Collins proposed that, in addition, the Parish Council donate £3,000 of the reserve funds set aside for the Village Hall house repairs towards the football pitch resurfacing. This was seconded by Cllr Douglas and agreed by Council. The pitch, once resurfaced, would be used by three teams who would pay a fee as approved by the Football Association.

b) To consider approval of the annual play area inspection.

Cllr Douglas proposed approval of the annual play area inspection, this was seconded by Cllr Roddy McLeod and agreed by Council.

c) To consider any new issues.

There were no new issues raised.

10. To discuss issues relating to the Clay Pits.

a) To receive an update regarding the pull-in.

There was no update in respect of the pull-in as many Highway works had been delayed by the Covid-19 crisis.

b) To consider any new issues.

Cllr Roddy McLeod raised the issue of the £12,000 grant made from Tarmac to NCC some years ago, which was to be shared between four parishes, with Longham receiving £3,000. However, it appeared that this money had never been received and the County Councillor was asked to make enquiries.

11. To consider planting a commemorative tree for the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII.

It was agreed to defer this matter until the football pitch resurfacing works had been completed.

12. To discuss any issues regarding the Village Hall.

Cllr Collins reported that a local building company may be interested in a PFI option to refurbish the cottage attached to the Village Hall and this option was being investigated.

13. To receive an update regarding the installation of a defibrillator.

The Chairman reported that the cost of a defibrillator and cabinet would be £1,425, which included a £200 donation from London Hearts. Council had a reserve fund of £500 which left £925 to be found and Cllr Collins proposed that Council fund this amount. This was seconded by Cllr Donna McLeod and agreed by Council. However, the Chairman will investigate the possibility of any funding being available from the Breckland Asset Fund before going ahead with the order.

14. Finance and Governance

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2021.

There were no queries raised and Council noted the report.

b) To consider approval of the recommendations made in the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2020-21.

Cllr Douglas proposed approval of the recommendations in the report which related to pay and annual leave for the Clerk, this was seconded by Cllr Collins and agreed by Council.

c) To authorise financial payments as set out below:

Cllr Douglas proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Donna McLeod and agreed by Council.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| • Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Aug/Sept) | £283.50 |
| • HMRC | £0.20 |

15. Correspondence for circulation

- Request for Planning Application support from local resident – the member of public was in attendance and invited to speak by the Chairman. They informed the Council that they had lived in Longham for many years but left some years ago for personal reasons, a decision they regretted. Their hope was to obtain planning permission on a plot in the village and requested support from the Parish Council.

Cllr Roddy McLeod was concerned that all previous applications for dwellings outside of the settlement boundary had been opposed by the Parish Council but the Chairman reported that parish council policy had been amended when the new Breckland Local Plan had been adopted and, going forward, it had been agreed to consider all new applications on their merit. That being the case, Council agreed in principle to support the application.

However, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that Planning Policy HOU5 would apply in this case and any application was likely to fail, however, there was a pressing need to build more housing and a window of opportunity may open in the future and he offered to advise the member of the public, which was gratefully accepted.

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

There were no new items for the next agenda.

- 17. To note the next meeting of the parish council will be held on Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, subject to any Covid-19 restrictions.**

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting closed at 8.28pm.

Signed:

Date:
