

Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council

DRAFT

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 19th December 2016** at **7.30pm** in the **Village Hall, Longdon**

Present: Chairman Cllr. R. Thatcher, Cllrs. W. Austin, G. Inchbald, C. Taylor-Hall, N. Inchbald, J. Unwin.

Attending: Two members of the public attended.

161219SEC – Secretary: Cllr. G. Inchbald was appointed Secretary to the meeting, no votes against.

161219MES – Meeting status: Council affirmed the actions of Cllr. G. Inchbald as an unpaid temporary Proper Officer in preparing and circulating the Notice, Summons and Agenda for the meeting.

161219AAD – Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest: Apology was received from Cllr. J. Beswick. No declarations of interest were received.

161219ADP – Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 7th November 2016, subject to insertion of the sums paid out under Accounts and Financial Matters.

161219MISC – Purchase of Telephone Box:

- a) The meeting was adjourned and comments on the proposed purchase were invited from the floor. Concern was voiced over the uncertain and open-ended nature of financial commitments in maintaining a BT type telephone box.
- b) The meeting reconvened and Council was updated on progress to date. Resolution 3016(h) of 20 June 2016 required public consultation via the intended Neighbourhood Planning preliminary flier, followed by consideration of the outcome by a working party. BT pre-empted this process with a new deadline at short notice. Public consultation therefore took the form of a public meeting in Longdon Village Hall on Wednesday 14 December, kindly organised by the Village Hall committee. The public vote was 7 in favour of purchase and 1 against. The planned working party was subsumed into the present Parish Council meeting.
- c) The balance between value to the community and financial risk was discussed. BT had not given enough warning to allow a proper assessment to be carried out. However, if purchase were to prove unwise the box has a substantial value in its own right and could be resold.
- d) Cllr. Taylor-Hall moved that “this Council purchase the Bear Lane telephone box for the sum of £1”. Cllr. Unwin seconded. Setting aside Councillors who had voted at the public meeting, the motion was passed with 3 votes in favour and none against.
- e) Cllr. G. Inchbald agreed to progress the intent to purchase and any immediate matters arising, such as insurance.

161219ADM – Administration: The Council received an update on administrative matters. Several enquiries had been received for the vacant position of Clerk to the Council.

161219FIN – Accounts and Financial Matters: No payments were made.

161219DNM – Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Monday 9th January 2017, subject to any need for Working Party or Interim Parish Council meetings.