

Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council

DRAFT

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 9th January 2017**
at **7.30pm** in the **Village Hall, Longdon**

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

Attending: District Cllr. Mrs B Behan, County Cllr. T. Wells, Mr M. Taylor and 2 other members of the public.

170109SEC – Secretary: Cllr. J. Beswick was appointed Secretary to the meeting, no votes against.

170109MES – Meeting status: Council affirmed the actions of Cllr. J. Beswick as an unpaid temporary Proper Officer in preparing and circulating the Notice, Summons and Agenda for the meeting.

170109AAD – Apologies for Absence & Declarations of Interest: No apologies or declarations of interest were received.

170109ADP – Adoption of Minutes: Council agreed and adopted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th December 2016.

170109CRS – Reports from District and County Councillors

- a) Councillor Mrs Behan gave a brief report and updated the Council on District Council matters. A grant of £500 was offered to the parish.
- b) County Councillor Tom Wells was welcomed to the meeting following a long absence following a serious injury and gave a brief report on County Council matters. A grant of £1500 towards the purchase of a new VAS device was offered (subject to agreement with Bushley PC). An update on the latest draft of the Mineral Plan would be obtained.

170109PLA – Planning Matters

- a) No planning applications were received in the last month.
- b) A new gateway involving the removal of 20m of hedgerow at Holdfast Post was discussed.

170109ADM – Administration:

- a) The PC interest in acquiring our redundant telephone box has been registered through the MHDC website and by direct contact with BT.
- b) The meeting was stopped briefly to enable Councillors to inspect the brochures on play equipment. On resumption various options such as gym-based play equipment were discussed and the target age range decided. The grant from our District Councillor could be added to the Parish Council contribution. Cllr Thatcher will contact former Village Green representative Mr J Franklin prior to the proposed public meeting on 6th February
- c) Mr M Taylor from Gullers End was unanimously co-opted to fill the current casual vacancy.
- d) There have been 4 responses to the advert for a new Clerk (closing date 6th Jan.) Cllrs Thatcher, Taylor-Hall and Austin will hold a working party to shortlist the candidates to three and interview them.

- e) The Lengthsman has been working on drain clearance prior to starting work on the notice boards. Cllr Thatcher will email a list of jobs the Lengthsman can undertake for Councillors' information.

- f) The VAS unit was discussed. No quote for its repair is possible until it has been inspected. It was agreed to investigate the purchase of a new unit with 60% of the balance of the cost from LHQPC, 40% from Bushley PC and a grant of £1500 from our County Councillor. Cllr Thatcher was given delegated responsibility to liaise with Cllr. Mrs V Fowkes from Bushley, the final decision on whether to repair the old one, buy a new one or both to be decided at the February meeting.

170109FIN – Accounts and Financial Matters:

- a) Payment of accounts presented was agreed as follows:
 - T. Perry, Maintenance & Lengthsman, £392.40
subject to a time sheet from him

 - Cllr J. Unwin: expenses with regard to the tree
acquisition and planting..... £83.35 + VAT (£100.02 total)

 - Cllr R. Thatcher: thankyou gift of port and flowers
to our retired Lengthsman H. Ebrey.....£53.00

- b) Cllr G Inchbald will obtain an invoice, through his contact with CALC, to enable repayment of the Transparency Grant

170109DNM – Next Meeting:

The next meeting was agreed to take place on Monday 6th February 2017, at 8.30pm following the public meeting to discuss Village Green play equipment at 7.30pm, subject to any need for Working Party or Interim Parish Council meetings.

Cllr. Beswick was authorised to act as unpaid Proper Officer in advertising the meeting.