

Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 in the Village Hall, Bear Lane, Longdon at 7.30pm.

Members of the public were cordially **invited** to attend.

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

Attending: three members of the public and District Councillor B. Behan.

1. 90517APM Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. 90517APM Apologies for Absence/Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared. Apologies were received from Cllr. B. Mansbridge, County Cllr T Wells and the local Police Officer.

3. 90517APM - To approve minutes of meeting held on 9.05.2016

The minutes of the 2016 annual parish meeting were not agreed and therefore will be held over for agreement until the next annual parish meeting.

4. 90517APM- Matters arising from the minutes

Deferred.

5. 90517APM - Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He was pleased to announce that the new Vehicle Activated Sign was now in place in the parish and that a new clerk has been appointed to the council.

6. 90517APM - County and District Councillor's reports

County Cllr Wells was not in attendance. District Cllr Behan gave her report – she was pleased to inform the meeting that it had been a busy year for Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) with a focus on joint working and prudent management of funds.

The Planning Portal underwent a full refit earlier this year and it is now possible to review past applications and forthcoming ones. MHDC has several upcoming major applications which will be stretching for department resources but she hopes that with forward planning and joint working that these will be coped with adequately.

MHDC's 5-year plan had recently been updated with 7 new actions. The 3 priorities remain – building stronger and healthier communities, driving economic prosperity and growth and making the most of the environment.

The Community Safety Partnership has received some funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner and will be working with partners and communities to tackle community safety. New and enhanced powers have

recently been adopted to tackle dog fouling and irresponsible dog ownership.

Last year was spent looking at outsourcing the waste and recycling collection – initially with joint procurement with Worcester City and Wychavon District Council. The work continued with Wychavon District Council but the cost savings were found to be unobtainable. MHDC has agreed to move to an alternate weekly collection of both waste and recycling from April 2018.

MHDC also entered the Campaign of the Year Category for 2017 LGC Awards and had a play entitled ‘Selfie – where’s the harm?’ acted out by local young people highlighting self-harming. This was shortlisted. It is intended to do further projects with young people on health and wellbeing.

Cllr Bronwen closed by saying that she looked forward to further close working with the parish council and thanked everyone for their hard work.

7. 90517APM - Police report

Recent statistics from the start of 2017 were circulated at the meeting. There had been a few break ins to garages and gardens in Longdon. In Queenhill there had been the theft of some lambs and criminal damage and theft to a driveway and roof (to pillars and roof tiles).

8. 90517APM - Superfast Broadband – Cllr Taylor Hall.

Cllr Taylor-Hall had attended a meeting at County hall about mobile phone coverage. Although not focused on the topic of Superfast Broadband, it meant he could make contact with representatives from Superfast Worcestershire. He found that there was to be an additional pot of money for outlying areas of Worcestershire that fall into white zones.

9. 90517APM Village Hall Committee

A representative from the committee gave an update on the hall. The update on the financial side of running the hall was that they were just about covering costs but that there was little extra to spend on repairs as much of the money was focused on heating, lighting and maintenance. There were regular bookings from various groups and for the parish council and use for elections. There was to be a working party to do some cleaning/painting and gardening to give the hall a face lift. Quotes had been gained for this work but they had proved too expensive.

Questions posed to the Village Hall Committee:

Q. Will the Vicar come back to the hall?

A. No, we think not.

Q. Any news on the car park?

A. There have been quotes for different options. Due to lack of income, we are looking at landfill and trust grants.

Action: Cllr Behan will look at grants and report back to committee. She also mentioned that there were grants available for solar panels.

Q. There seems to be a lot of cars on the car park and this is proving an issue to park for hall users. Could there be a review of this? Perhaps a permit system is possible?

A. This is something to consider.

10.90517APM - Matters raised by parishioners

- a) An issue was raised about a bridlepath from Roberts End to Downs End being blocked.

Response/Action: Cllr Unwin will look at the issue.

- b) Issue with grass cutting on Bear Lane affecting visibility and overgrown areas around play equipment.

Response/Action: The Council is having issues with getting the work covered. It is currently being done on an ad hoc basis. The Clerk will look into this by contacting Worcestershire County Council to see where we stand on the Lengthsman contract as this is something the current lengthsman will not do as part of his duties.

- c) Issue with purchase of phone box and concerns it will be an open-ended expense.

Response/Action: The decision to buy the phonebox was on the assumption the council could sell it on if it wasn't working for the parish as an asset. However, there have been issues around contract with BT and who it can be sold to – therefore it is as yet unpurchased. The Council have approached BT with an alternative contract and is awaiting a response. Cllr G Inchbald can provide any interested parishioners with copies of correspondence.

- d) There is a speed camera on Longdon Road – cannot see the value in installing a speed camera as a survey a few years ago indicated that there was not a problem with speeding in the village.

Response/Action: this vehicle activated sign was purchased with a grant and the remaining expense shared with Bushley Parish Council. There are mixed views on this but some members of the parish are very supportive of its presence as speeding is a big issue for them.

Meeting closed: 8:05pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date: