

# **Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council**

**DRAFT** Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm at the Village Hall Longdon.**

**Present:** Chairman R Thatcher, Cllrs N Inchbald, G Inchbald, B Austin, J Beswick, C Taylor-Hall, B Mansbridge

**Attending:** 1 member of the public.

**8816AAD – Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest:** Council received apologies from Cllr J Unwin. No new declarations of interests.

**8816ADP – Adoption of Minutes:** Council agreed and adopted the minutes of the Closed Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and also the last Parish Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**8816MAM – Matters arising from the minutes of previous meeting:**

- a) The Clerk Mr B Jenkins and the Chairman agreed the terms for his retirement and Mr Jenkins has signed a letter of acceptance. Council members voted unanimously in favour of the agreement. The Chairman will deliver the settlement cheque to Mr Jenkins directly and arrangements will be made to collect any outstanding Parish Council property. The Chairman suggested a memorial for Mr Jenkins long service to the Parish Council and Mr Jenkins has indicated that a tree planted on the Village Green in his name would be fitting. This will be arranged in the autumn and Cllr J Unwin will select a suitable tree.

**8816CRS – Council Reports: A brief report to bring Council fully up to date.**

- a) Buckbury: Cllr C Taylor-Hall reported that there had been no response from Broadband Worcestershire to his enquiry with regards to the current broadband speed in the three Parishes. This had been promised to be a minimum 2 Mb for the whole of Worcestershire by the end of July 2016 and this had not been achieved. There is an event at the The Hunters Inn over the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 and there is considerable concern amongst the local residents with regards to the noise level. The relevant local authorities have been advised and involved
- b) Holdfast and Queenhill: Notice Board has fallen down and is in need of repair. Further information is being sought with regards to the proposed conversion of a barn at Church End Court, Queenhill – 15/01093/PDU. There is also another application for a PDU exemption from the need to obtain planning consent for a barn conversion to residential use at Green Farm, Queenhill – 16/01016/PDU.
- c) District Councillor not present
- d) Chairmans Report

Concerns and complaints had been raised by local residents with regard to the Livestock Festival relating to the level of noise plus the fact that it continued until the early hours of the morning. Also access and exit routes used and the fact that an air ambulance was called to the site due to an accident on one of the access/exit routes involving a member of the public and a motor vehicle. A request will be made to Malvern Hills Council for a copy of the original licence granted for the festival so that the terms under which this was granted can be clarified before considering action on any concerns and complaints.

### **8816PLA – Planning Matters**

- a) 16/090606/FUL – St Nicholas Church, Queenhill. The council discussed and recommended approval of this application on the basis that consideration is given to: a) any archaeological evidence there may be in the vicinity of the planned excavations and, b) to the listed status of the church itself.
- b) Chairman left the meeting as he had declared an interest in the Hillworth Lodge planning application. A concern has been raised by the member of the public to this development with regard to a potential flooding risk to adjoining property and land. This planning application was previously approved with no objections by the Parish Council and this response had been sent to Malvern Hills District Council. It was suggested that as the member of the public raised this after the Council had agreed the proposal with no objection it was suggested that the member of the public lodged their objection directly with Malvern Hills District Council

The Chairman re-joined the meeting

### **8816PQC – Opportunity for Public Questions or Comments**

- a) Small wooden climbing frame at Upon Primary School had been sited on grass and it was suggested that a similar piece of equipment may be suitable for Longdon Village Green.
- b) Access for the general public to use any of the Notice Boards for private/group/club notices to be continued however either once the date of the event posted had passed – or the notice had been in place for an agreed time it should be removed.

Chairman advised that both of these comments would be addressed later in the meeting.

### **8816ADM – Administration**

- a) **Numbering of minutes.**  
The Clerk advised that a new numbering system be adopted for the minutes that would clearly identify the date and the section for each entry. Proposed by Cllr Austin and seconded by Cllr Mansbridge.
- b) **Parish notice boards.**  
Of the 4 Notice Boards – 3 are in need of urgent maintenance, Rampings, Hillend and Queenhill. These notice boards also offer no protection from the elements for notices posted on them. The Lengthsman can repair each notice board at a cost of approx. £25.00 per notice board which will then last approx. 20 years. It was proposed by Cllr Austin to repair and retain all 4 notice boards and seconded by Cllr Mansbridge. It was however suggested that the notice board at Hillend might need to be re-sited on Health and Safety grounds as its current position means that to read notices a person would need to be in the vehicle carriageway. It was decided to repair this notice board in its current position but also to examine whether it might need resiting.
- c) **Parish Website.**  
Deferred to the following Closed Meeting
- d) **Broadband.**  
Report from Cllr G Inchbald and Cllr C Taylor Hall. It has been clear that BT will not upgrade our Broadband speed for many years to come – if at all. Worcestershire was promised a

minimum 2 Mb speed by the end of July 2016 – this has failed and enquiries to BT have been ignored. There are alternative schemes that could be investigated but financial commitment would be needed from at least 8 local businesses to make this viable – and possibly some financial input from the Parish Council. The Chairman suggested to Cllr Inchbald that he might wish to compile a full presentation of the options for a future Council meeting so that the options could be properly understood and considered. It was also noted that there are no current funds in the budget to allow for any further expenditure so this would need to come from capital.

e) **Play Equipment for London Village Green.**

An amount of money had been independently raised specifically for purchasing of play equipment and this has still to be spent. It was discussed that the equipment selected must be robust, low maintenance and suitable for a wide age range. The Chairman had acquired brochures and price lists from suppliers of public space play equipment for councillors to look through. It was noted that the equipment was costly and that any donation from the Parish Council would come from capital and not the budget. Maintenance and insurance costs would also need to be taken into consideration. It was proposed by Cllr Austin that the Parish Council would donate £2000.00 to the money already raised by the general public. This was seconded by Cllr G Inchbald in principal however there must be an opportunity for the public to see the proposed equipment prior to purchase. It was agreed that once options had been selected they would be presented at a future Council meeting for public viewing.

f) **Neighbourhood Plan.**

The current draft of the Neighbourhood Plan Flyer has been sent to Malvern Hill District Council for their comments. It was felt that this draft needed to be simplified as it was too long. Cllr N Inchbald will submit a revised copy to all Cllrs for approval by 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016. It is planned to go to print in early September.

g) **Bank Signatories.**

Alterations to Bank Signatories – All paperwork completed and the Clerk to post to the bank.

Chairman advised that a new Clerk had been appointed and would also be RFO. An employment contract was in place Cllr G Inchbald proposed a welcome to the new Clerk and Cllr C Taylor-Hall seconded this

**8816FIN – Accounts and Financial Matters**

- a) The following payments were presented and agreed:-  
Cheque for £90.00 to Mr L Perryman for IT services  
Cheque for £2230.62 to Mr R Jenkins – former Clerk to the Parish Council.
- b) Purchase of equipment for Clerk. The Council has a grant for IT that must be used before mid-September. The Council agreed that some of these funds could be used for a laptop, Dictaphone for use in meetings, projector and software up to a total of £1800.00. This was put to a show of hands and carried unanimously.

Meeting Closed to the members of the public at 9.05pm

**8816DNM - Date of the Next Ordinary Meeting**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm, Longdon Village Hall.