

## Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 at 7:30pm** at the **Village Hall, Longdon.**

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

**Attending:** Clerk to the Council, Hazel Robinson.

**1. 170703WAA –Welcome and apologies:** Council received apologies from Cllr N Inchbald.

**2. 170703DOI –Declarations of Interest - None.**

**3. 170703DISP –Dispensation:** None.

**4. 170703CRS – Reports from District and County Councillors**  
None in attendance.

**5. 170703ADP –Adoption of Minutes:**

An amendment was made to agenda item 2. 170619ADP – Adoption of Minutes as the words ‘and grant’ were added after ‘discount’. Members of the Council agreed and adopted the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Public Question time:**

meeting suspended at 19.45, reconvening at 19.50, notes appended to these minutes

**6. 170703RMR – Review of Member Responsibilities**

The current list of member responsibilities had been circulated. After discussion, it was **agreed** to discontinue councillor’s geographical responsibilities as parishioners could approach any councillor about any area in the parish.

**Action:** Clerk to update the list of member responsibilities to publish on the website.

**7. 170703FG – Finance Group**

A model of a Finance working group terms of reference was circulated. This was considered and amendments made. These terms of reference were then **agreed**, as was meeting quarterly. The date for the first meeting will be the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7:30pm.

**8. 170703PLA – Planning Matters**

Concerns had been brought to the Council’s attention about a barn opposite Queenhill Church which seemed to be being used as a residential property. The council agreed that more information was needed to ensure that due process was being followed about the barn’s use.

Hazel Robinson, Clerk to Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council.

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A further concern was reported on the Marlebank as to extension work and potential encroachment onto the footpath.

**Action:** The Clerk and Cllr G.Inchbald would liaise and write a letter to MHDC asking for an update on the barn and the Marlebank's extension and potential issue with footpath.

## **9. 170703 - ADM – Administration**

### **a) Village Green play equipment**

The grass around the play equipment has been strimmed. There is an issue with the pedestrian gate to the village green as it will not close as it grounds at the latch end. Needs adjusting and tightening.

**Action:** The Chairman will look at the gate.

### **b) Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS)**

The VAS has now been moved back to Longdon from Bushley. The Council has received a quote to refurbish the older VAS unit which was:

Renew lights at the top of the L: £92

LED lights: £100

Lights on the Zero: £147.

Labour: £29.50

Carriage: £27.50

Total £396 plus VAT at 20% (£79.20)

Total is £475.20

The Council **agreed** (with one abstention) to the quote to refurbish the VAS unit and for the Chairman to ask Bushley Parish Council for a 40% contribution of the total cost.

### **c) Parish Lengthsman.**

The Chairman had not yet met with the Lengthsman to check the work but would do so in the following week. He had found another company to cover the strimming and mowing work.

### **d) Neighbourhood Development Plan - On hold.**

### **e) Refurbishment of notice boards - Awaiting action.**

### **f) Telephone Box**

Feedback from other parish councils who had bought phone boxes was positive. Cllr N Inchbald had enquired with the Clerk at Castlemorton PC as to why their Council had chosen not to buy the one in their area.

Concerns had been raised in public question time as to why the parish council has not yet rejected the decision to purchase the telephone box. This was because it was agreed at a parish meeting to adopt the telephone box so if it

becomes evident that the situation of purchasing it becomes significantly different then the council would see it as right and proper to review this decision.

Another concern raised by the parishioner was that there was no clear intended purpose for the telephone box. In response to this – there are a number of different functions it could be used for to benefit parishioners and it is also seen as useful landmark. The final concern was that the phone box would be an open ended expense at the rate payer’s cost and a potential liability. The council is currently in negotiations with BT and it is their intention to ensure any liabilities or costs it inherits are manageable.

**g) Broadband rollout.**

There had been no response from Gigaclear or Superfast Worcestershire. It was noted that there were night time road closures in Longdon in the WCC roads and roadworks report and the reason given as a request from BT Openreach for work. Cllr N Inchbald has contacted the County Council Highways team to ask for more information.

**h) Relationship with Village Hall and future car park grant**

No definite plans. Cllr J Beswick would keep the council updated.

**10. 170320FIN – Accounts and Financial Matters**

Payment of accounts presented was **agreed** as follows:

<b>Cheque no.</b>	<b>Payee &amp; description of services rendered</b>	<b>Amount</b>
000705	Clerk salary and expenses	£597.19
000706	Internal Auditor services	£85.00
000707	DCK Beavers – payroll services	103.50
000708	Longdon Village Hall - room hire	£435.00
000709	Worcestershire fencing – grass cutting	£120.00
000710	Parish Lengthsman duties	£252.40

**11. 170320 DFM – Future Meetings:**

**The next meeting date is the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

The meeting closed at 9pm.

**Public Question time – 1 parishioner in attendance**

- Positive comments on the village green looking much neater
- Query as to why the parish council has not yet rejected the decision to purchase the telephone box. Concerns were: no clear intended purpose, open ended expense at the rate payer’s cost and a potential liability.
- Suggestion that the parish council submit a report of their council meetings in the parish magazine to increase awareness of meetings to the public.

Hazel Robinson, Clerk to Longdon, Queenhill & Holdfast Parish Council.

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