

**LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL**  
**1900 MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 IN THE VILAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Sophie Walters - Chairman  
Cllr Angie Filippa (AF)  
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)  
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)  
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)  
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)  
Cllr Alice Foster (AFo)

In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor,  
David Hall (DH) Governor of Test Valley School, and 4 local residents.

1. **Apologies:** Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor, for health reasons; Toni Wilden (TWi) Head Teacher at Test Valley School; and Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate.
2. **Minutes of PC Meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> June.**  
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and were signed by AF who had chaired the meeting.
3. **Matters Arising:**
  - **Highways & Traffic.**
    - **21536802** – Blocked drains opposite LOYO unit. Work completed **ACTION:** Closed
    - **21556657** – HCC claim work completed at 20 Roman Road., but AF advised that still pending and a new pothole has appeared. **ACTION:** MF to submit new report to HCC
    - **21560535** – Road Drainage problems at The Grange. HCC has passed work to relevant dept. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
    - **21562761** – 3 Potholes at Test Valley School bus bays. Work completed. **ACTION:** Closed
    - **21562764** – Road signs and markings at Bottom Road. HCC agree to deal with road markings, but not signage. **ACTION:** MF to advise DD for follow up
    - **21572729** – Pothole at top of Bottom Road – pending. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
    - **HCC Mowing Damage** – MF to provide details to DD for follow up with HCC contractors on Salisbury Hill dual carriageway (possible involvement of Plantlife charity for wildflowers), and local road verges mowing work. **ACTION:** MF/DD
  - **Dog Walkers** – SW to contact TVBC dog warden. **ACTION:** SW
  - **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – Councillors asked DD to intervene at HCC. **ACTION:** MF/DH to provide background info to DD
  - **War Memorial Cleaning** – Ex-PC member John Eastwood (JE) has cleaned one face. Councillors agreed to ask JE to complete the rest of the Memorial. **ACTION:** MF to advise JE
  - **Disused Chalkpit** – Awaiting final revision of agreement re Tamlyn for temporary use during building works. **ACTION:** MF
  - **Village Litter Pick** – To be raised in October for possible involvement of Test Valley School. **ACTION:** MF for Oct agenda

- **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – Still pending with TVBC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
  - **Stockbridge Surgery** – Pending draft letter. **ACTION:** MF/SW
  - **Die-back Ash Tree at Recreation Ground** – Dangerous root on side path access to road. CM has confirmed that tree is healthy, but for child safety reasons it may be appropriate to cut down. **ACTION:** CM/SW to review again
4. **Planning Applications.**
- SSE – 4 replacement telegraph poles. PC No Objection. **ACTION:** MF
  - Sarum, Salisbury Hill – cut down yew tree. PC agreed No Objection, but IG advised that this is a large and very old tree, and TVBC may not approve. **ACTION:** MF
5. **Finance.**
- MF confirmed that the 2020/21 PC Audited Accounts and supporting documents have been published on the website, and the period for the Exercise of Public Rights ran from 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> July as per the regulations.
  - SSE Electricity Supply contracts - MF advised that the current 2-year contract expires on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Prices have risen and future costs will be higher. The 3 options available:
    - 2-year fixed: monthly charges increase from £34 to £48
    - 2-year variable: monthly charges increase from £34 to £47 but may vary
    - No contract: monthly charges increase from £34 to £77
    - PC agreed on 2-year fixed option for greater certainty, and also agreed to set up Direct Debit for a £1pm saving and reduced workload. **ACTION:** MF
  - Newsletter Costings – SM advised that the Sarsen Press printers have reduced staff and will now be outsourcing the printing. Costs are currently in the £298/320 range per issue (£1788/1920pa). MF confirmed that current advertising income is £1550pa, but that finding new advertisers to generate an extra £300+/- pa should be feasible.
    - MF advised that the 2021/22 budget showed a “breakeven” figure of £1700pa for income and expenditure, so the new projections are close to these.
    - After discussion, PC agreed we should continue to distribute the printed version of the newsletter, rather than going totally on-line.
    - DH suggested that CM could provide contacts with local businesses for new advertisers. MF to follow up with CM. **ACTION:** MF/CM
  - PC Laptop – MF advised that the laptop was experiencing technical problems, and would be checked by a local IT expert. MF will advise of costs. **ACTION:** MF
  - Zoom – MF advised that the PC is still subscribing to Zoom Pro at a cost of £14.39pm. AF confirmed that the NHP team are still active users of Zoom. PC agreed to continue with Zoom until the end of the year, and AF will check whether the costs can be allocated to the new NHP grant. **ACTION:** MF/AF
6. **Councillors’ Reports.**
- a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)
- AF reported that the English Rural “Open Event” about the proposed Church Road project had been very well attended, and that we await a detailed report
  - NHP – A new Grant for £4,970 has been requested, and the Community Engagement event will now be re-scheduled for mid-Sept. **ACTION:** AF
    - The new draft of the Visions and Objective will be distributed for comment in September
    - The NHP will now also include a section of Test Valley School.
- b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
- IG advised that the Allotment Association has invited PC members to a BBQ on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September

- Re Cemetery – MF advised:
  - The wording of a new inscription for Mrs McPhee has been reviewed and agreed.
  - The new plaque design for Mrs Savage had been agreed by the PC and the stonemasons advised.
  - The design of the grave stone for Mr Taylor is to be reviewed and approved by the PC. **ACTION: ALL**
  
- c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
  - Footpaths – CG advised that FP3 needs cutting and mowing. Landowners are responsible for the hedges, but HCC has a statutory obligation to cut back the ground growth on Rights of Way. CG to send info to DD for follow-up. **ACTION: CG/DD**
    - FP6 also needs to be cutback. IG to speak to landowner. **ACTION: IG**
  - Lengthsman – Current work includes cleaning the cemetery gates, clearing the entrance to FP4 on Church Road, and doing a litter-pick
    - Next month: repaint the cemetery gates, and clean noticeboards
  
- d. Test Valley School and Website. (AFo).
  - TVS - AFo confirmed she had done a “walk around” of the school with the Head, and had also attended a Year 10 event to speak about Journalism
    - The school has had excellent support from the local community to collect new books for Year 7, and had already achieved double the original target.
    - The PC’s contribution to the book initiative is still pending, and Councillors suggested alternative ideas such as an additional Prize, or even a Trophy to mark exceptional achievement. AFo will discuss with TWi and advise. **ACTION: AFo**
    - The decision to close the swimming pool has generated a lot of local discussion. The issues include access problems and funding issues.
    - DH provided further input from TVS.
      - The school is very grateful for the support of the PC
      - It has been a challenging but very positive year, showing the benefit of good management and teaching under the new strategic direction
      - The new rural land-based studies GCSE programme will begin in the new academic year
      - Year 7 numbers will be 85, up from 58, and the overall roll will be 500+
  - Website – MF thanked AFo for her excellent work on the website
    - AFo asked whether the PC had considered setting up a Facebook page in order to achieve greater levels of engagement with younger residents
    - Councillors asked about control processes to ensure that undesirable posts could be avoided. AFo confirmed that the “Admin Control” function would cover this.
    - AFo to review the Facebook opportunity and report back. **ACTION: AFo**
  
- e. Environment (DB).
  - DB advised that he attended a TVBC virtual conference on climate change and sustainability. Issues covered included a “carbon calculator” for individual villages, concern about nitrate and phosphate levels in chalk streams including the Test, and TVBC’s “no mow in May” initiative. DB expressed concern that there was no mention of the advantages of grazed grass and mixed farming to store carbon.
  
- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
  - SM advised that the Village Hall is open again and starting to receive regular bookings and some new customers. Social distancing rules are still in place.

- g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
  - SW confirmed that following the RoSPA report a new working party will be needed to undertake the repairs. A notice in the Newsletter to seek volunteers was suggested. **ACTION:** SW
  - Re HS – the charity has once again generously donated new funds. Councillors are asked to advise SW of any deserving cases. DH will remind TWi of this funding source for Longstock residents. **ACTION:** ALL/DH
    - An HS Lunch will be considered for early December as a pre-Xmas event **ACTION:** SW.
- h. Leckford Estate. (CM). - NTR
- i. HCC. (DD)
  - DD had distributed his HCC report in advance.
    - DD advised that he has been a Councillor since 1995, and that he values the input from PCs as his “eyes and ears” in the local community.
- j. TVBC. (TW)
  - TW had distributed his Mid-Test Matters report in advance.

#### 7. **Village Benches**

- CG had distributed in advance a list of the 11 benches in the village. There is no “provenance” information for 2 of the benches.
  - At present all 11 benches are in acceptable and safe condition, and the Lengthsman will include their upkeep in his schedule of work for 2022.
  - SW highlighted the liability risk to the PC of any injuries connected to the benches.
  - It was proposed that the Clerk advise future “donors” of benches of their obligation to ensure the future upkeep. **ACTION:** MF to note

#### 8. **Correspondence**

- TVBC Tree-Planting - MF advised that in the Autumn the PC will receive from TVBC an Oak Tree and a plaque. The decision on the location for planting is still pending, to be reviewed in future meetings. **ACTION:** MF
- MF confirmed no further news on the designation of an ICO Case Officer to review the FOI complaint. **ACTION:** MF to update PC

#### 9. **Any Other Business/public comment.**

- CG advised that the grave of a First World War soldier is in the cemetery, but his name is not included on the War Memorial.
  - Thomas Adams was killed at Thiepval, and he is included in the 1901 Census aged 13. It appears that his parents may have moved away in the interim.
  - CG will investigate PC minutes when the War Memorial was commissioned, circulate any relevant details to the PC, and include a note in the next Newsletter to see if any residents have any information. **ACTION;** CG
  - CG to provide AF with Thomas Adams’ service number. **ACTION:** CG/AF
- SM asked the PC to note that the Fete Committee, including 2 current PC members and the previous PC Clerk, have set the date for Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September on the Recreation Ground. The PC insurers have been advised, to ensure that the event is covered under the PC policy. They already know about it and have agreed to cover it, but only if it is organised on behalf of the PC.
- DH advised that the issue of parking at TVS and Stockbridge High Street is being reviewed with Stockbridge PC

- DH confirmed that parents will not be allowed to use the bus-bays for drop-offs/pick-ups
- AF confirmed that one of the NHP initiatives is to seek solutions to the parking issue
- DB advised that local resident David Taplin has passed away on the day of the meeting.

11. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Cheques Signed:

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|------|--|---------|
| 1180 | SSE (Electricity)                                    | £31.97  |
| 1181 | Sarsen Press (Newsletter)                            | £298.00 |
| 1182 | Nether Wallop PC ( Training session)                 | £114.00 |
| 1183 | SSE (Electricity)                                    | £33.90  |
| 1184 | Playsafety Ltd (invoice balance re RoSPA inspection) | £2.40   |