

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 MONDAY 8th MARCH 2021 – VIRTUAL MEETING BY ZOOM

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) - Chairman
Cllr Angie Filippa (AF) – Vice Chairman
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)
Cllr David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr John Eastwood (JE)
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)
In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), Andrew Gibson (AG) HCC Councillor (for 20 minutes at the beginning of the meeting), Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor (from 20.05 onwards), Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate,.

1. **Apologies:** Andrew Gibson for early departure, and Tony Ward for late arrival, both due to commitments with other Parish Councils.

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 9th February.**
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and signed.

n.b. At this point SW invited AG to give his HCC report. The notes of this discussion are included below under Item 6. Councillors' Reports: 6i. HCC.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21536802** – Blocked drains opposite LOYO unit. Registered as “work to contractor” by HCC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21529469** – Potholes and blocked run-off at bottom of Bottom Road. Work with Contractor as per HCC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21538993** – Damage to bridge pillar on Bunny. Work completed. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **HCC Mowing Damage** – to be reviewed in the spring. **ACTION:** MF to follow up
- **Dog Walkers** – to be re-engaged with the TVBC dog warden post-Covid-19 – still pending. **ACTION:** SW
- **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – AG has made introduction to the relevant HCC person. To be followed up. **ACTION:** MF
- **Barn Cottage Issues** –TW has confirmed that the TVBC Enforcement Officer has made contact with the owner’s agent. MF advised that a resident has pointed out that the front hedge was designated as an “important hedgerow” in the 1989 documents that formalised the Longstock Conservation Area. **ACTION:** TW to update PC
- **War Memorial Cleaning** – JE confirmed that the arrival of the warmer weather will allow him to begin the cleaning. **ACTION:** JE
- **Disused Chalkpit** – TVBC has made introduction to English Rural for follow up. SW advised that Leckford Estate are willing to include the adjacent barn plot in any project, and that the owners of Brocks Farm stables which currently rent the barn, would be willing to relocate their hay storage. Future considerations may include development of the site or sale to a suitable developer, **ACTION:** MF to contact English Rural

- **Ash Tree and Fencing at Recreation Ground** – pending. **ACTION:** SW/CM
 - **Village Litter Pick** – to be diarised for post-Covid-19. The PC also thanks the various residents who pick up rubbish during their daily walks. To be noted in the next Newsletter. **ACTION:** MF
 - **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – MF advised that HALC is not making any specific recommendations on this, but TVBC have also been approached for guidance. **ACTION:** MF
4. **Planning Applications.**
- 1 Crossroads Cottages – Weatherproof outside wall. DB declared an interest and did not take part in discussion or vote. Unanimous PC support. **ACTION:** MF
 - Highcroft – Replace external coal store with covered wood store. Unanimous PC support. **ACTION:** MF
5. **Finance.**
- NHP Grant Funds - MF advised that only £690 of the £7.2k Locality grant received have been used in the current financial year so far, and that any unused balance should be returned by 31st March. AF confirmed she will seek guidance from the NHP consultants, will submit the necessary account report to Locality, and will advise MF about the repayment. **ACTION:** AF/MF
 - Financial Year-End Projection - MF confirmed that, subject to the timely receipt of the VAT Refund Claim for £792 submitted in January, the PC would be on target to end the financial year with the budgeted bank balance of £2.4k.
6. **Councillors' Reports.**
- a. Affordable Housing. (DB). – NTR
- b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
- IG confirmed that the allotments are fully occupied
 - Re Cemetery – IG advised that the hedges and grass will be cut soon as the ground is drying
 - MF advised that Wendy McPhee and Colin Taylor have been buried in recent weeks
 - MF also advised that the ashes of Nancy Savage would be buried this week. **ACTION:** MF
 - The PC reviewed a recent decision not to allow the burial of a parent of a village resident on the basis of the current Cemetery Regulations.
 - It was agreed to research the regulations in some neighbouring villages, with a view to revising and updating ours if appropriate. MF to circulate the current regulations, and Councillors to investigate on local PC websites to compare. MF to diarise for PC to review this issue later in the year. **ACTION:** MF and All
- c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
- Footpaths – CG has contacted HCC about the signage on FP9 at Rats Lodge. **ACTION:** CG
 - On FP9 the landowner is intending to improve the conditions by planting hedges, removing fences, and setting up barriers for illegal vehicles while maintaining access for permitted users
 - On FP4, the landowner will change the fencing to improve access. He is also intending to create a “home office” unit to allow him to spend more time in residence locally, and will also welcome the NHP team to film and take

- photos.
- Lengthsman – CG confirmed the 1-year renewal of the work-sharing agreement.
 - Current work includes cutting back the vegetation on Salisbury Hill, and cleaning the notice boards. In April the focus will be on the Bunny and the road signs. **ACTION:** CG

 - d. Test Valley School and Neighbourhood Plan. (AF).
 - AF passed on the thanks of the new Head of TVS for the PC’s enthusiastic engagement with their plans. AF asked DB to contact the Head Teacher Ms Toni Wilden to follow up. **ACTION:** DB
 - Re NHP - AF confirmed that the SG is working on re-starting the local engagement process once Covid-19 regulations allow, to include presentations, interviews, drone footage etc
 - The draft Housing Needs Assessment from AECOM needs major revisions before the SG can agree to accept it. **ACTION:** AF
 - The Housing Needs Survey is also being finalised. **ACTION:** AF
 - The draft Visions & Objectives to be revisited and updated. **ACTION:** AF

 - e. Environment, Website and Phone Box. (JE).
 - Environment - JE confirmed he has responded to the TVBC Survey for the PC
 - Although there are no specific local “Green” initiatives, the village does have operating Biodigesters
 - Website – JE advised that Google Analytics shows 78 visits in the past month, of which 69 were new visitors.
 - CG asked whether the recent Newsletter articles by Geoff Merritt could be published together on the website.
 - IG pointed out that Mr Merritt also has some important collections of local historical photos and other information.
 - SW commented that Mr Merritt was hoping to publish in book form for sale, but she would ask him. **ACTION:** SW
 - Phone Box – JE confirmed his intention to re-paint the phone box in the summer. **ACTION:** JE

 - f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
 - SM advised that the Village Hall will open again under Covid-19 rules in the coming weeks. Two support groups have already confirmed their intention to return.
 - The VH has received 4 grants under the Covid-19 support arrangements.
 - The VH Committee is considering cavity wall insulation, but is concerned by potential associated problems
 - Re Streetlights – SM advised that the Heritage lights had remained on during one day. It may have been a “one-off” related to the photocells, but will need to be monitored. **ACTION:** SM

 - g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
 - SW confirmed that a working party had fixed items of equipment, and thanked Richard Filippa and DB for their involvement.
 - CM and SW will review the fence posts and the silt in the parking area. **ACTION:** CM/SW
 - The Recreation Ground remains actively used by local families.
 - Re Henry Smith – SW confirmed that more payments have been made to grateful residents, but the PC should still be alert for other deserving cases. **ACTION:** All
 - On the basis that some HS funds will be “ring-fenced” for a summer event, there remains a balance of some £1k for further payments to families that are struggling. **ACTION:** SW

h. Leckford Estate. (CM).

- CM advised that the Abbots Manor dairy unit is to close, and the activity switched to beef production, potentially affecting up to 10 staff.
 - The Golf Course will be reopening on 29th March, with outdoor service in the Café from 12th April.
 - The Farm Shop has been open, but the Café is the key business driver
 - Leckford Estate has been donating surplus food products to local charities

i. HCC. (AG)

- AG had distributed his HCC Highways report in advance of the meeting.
- HCC is increasing Council Tax by 5% including 2.99% to cover increased Social Care costs.
- The CEO of HCC has announced his resignation after 8 years in post.
- The HCC Highways financial budget is going to be under severe stress.
- JE pointed out that HCC has reported £30m+ spending on “Green” projects and specific HMG eco-initiatives.
- On the proposed new asylum seeker camp at Barton Stacey/Longparish – AG explained that the Government has repeatedly cancelled review meetings, and the issue is still pending.
- AG commented that the Longstock Allotments had made an HCC grant request after the closure of the funding, but that he would prompt his replacement to support it in the next financial year.

j. TVBC. (TW)

- TW had distributed his Mid-Test Matters report in advance.
- TW also commented that the Allotments TVBC grant application would be considered in the next financial year
- TW has recommended to Test Valley School that they arrange to be present at local fetes in the summer to highlight the new developments at the school

7. **Contract Renewals – 1st April**

- MF advised that the following contracts are due for renewal as from 1st April – a) Cemetery, Recreation Ground and Grass Verge Mowing, and b) the Clerk
 - MF confirmed that Councillor IG has indicated his willingness to continue the mowing contract for a further year in the amount of £2k pa. MF confirmed that this contract remains good value for the PC. IG excluded himself from the discussions, and the remaining Councillors agreed unanimously to renew on this basis. MF to prepare contract for signing. **ACTION:** MF
 - MF confirmed his willingness to continue in the role of Clerk at the existing salary of £2k pa. Councillors agreed unanimously to renew on this basis. MF to prepare contract for signing. **ACTION:** MF

8. **Correspondence**

- MF advised that the Stockbridge Primary School had submitted a request for support for a £10k project to increase the outside equipment for the children. Councillors unanimously agreed a £250 donation. **ACTION:** MF
- MF advised that a Subject Access Request was received on 22nd January 2021, and following the receipt of satisfactory ID on 20th February 2021, this is being dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislation and timeframes. **ACTION:** MF
- MF advised that the PC has received notice from the Information Commissioner’s Office that a complaint has been made about the PC’s handling of a Freedom of Information Request received in December 2020. Once an ICO Case Officer has been

allocated, the PC will be asked to justify its position. MF will keep the PC updated.
ACTION: MF

- MF advised that Government authorisation for PCs to hold virtual meetings will expire on 7th May 2021. Guidance is being sought from HALC on recommended actions. **ACTION:** MF to keep PC informed.
- The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) has requested information on the PC's actions and plans for Litter Picking. **ACTION:** MF to reply
- SSE has advised that it intends to carry out work on trees alongside the road at the Allotments. MF has requested details and will advise the Allotment Association **ACTION:** MF
- The next TVAPTC meeting will be on 18th March. If possible, IG, DB and MF will try to attend on behalf of the PC. **ACTION:** DB/IG/MF

11. **Any Other Business/public comment.**

- CG pointed out that the War Memorial benches need to be maintained. PC unanimously agreed that the untreated benches should be re-oiled, and the treated/painted benches should have new coat of their current covering. **ACTION:** CG
- SW advised that the hedges at the bottom of Bottom Road are very overgrown, causing vehicle damage to the grass triangle. The PC unanimously agreed that the property owner should be asked to cut back the growth. DB also suggested that posts should be set up on the triangle to deter vehicles. **ACTION:** SW/DB
- SM pointed out that the 30mph sign in the hedge at Windover Farm is now overgrown and not visible. SW will contact the property owner. **ACTION:** SW

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.00 pm – by Zoom

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Cheques Signed:

1166	IG re Mowing	£500.00
1167	SSE	£31.97
1168	Friends of Stockbridge School (PTA)	£250.00
1169	HMRC (Clerk's PAYE Tax)	£800.00
1170	MF (Clerk's annual salary + expenses)	£1,378.67