

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1930 MONDAY 4th APRIL 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL
(AFTER THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY)

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

In attendance: Clerk Mark Flewitt (MF), Ian Jeffrey (IJ) TVBC Councillor, Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate, and 7 local residents

1. **Apologies:** David Drew (DD) HCC Councillor, for health reasons; Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor, for health reasons; and David Hall (DH) Test Valley School Governor, due to commitment at another local PC meeting.
2. **Minutes of PC Meeting of 7th March**
Unanimously agreed for adoption and signed by SW.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **21560535** – Road Drainage problems at The Grange. With HCC. No further news. **ACTION:** AFo to monitor
 - **21562764** – Road signs and markings at Bottom Road. Road markings done. HCC advise low priority and will review subject to resources in 2022/23. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **24214172 - Dual Carriageway Mowing** – TVBC are keen to assist, and DB will ask for DD’s help with HCC. **ACTION:** DB
 - **21590244 - Damaged bridge on Bunny** – Work with contractor, but further damage on bridge advised to HCC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21604497 - Road speed signs at Heron Cottage** – following storm damage road signs demolished by fallen tree. HCC investigating. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21606025** – Potholes at Verlynch Cottages – reported to HCC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **Road edge erosion at Suicide Corner** - MF to report to HCC. **ACTION:** MF
 - **20’s Plenty** – MF has spoken to local villages about speed displays, which only have a temporary effect on driver behaviour.
 - Re white lines for pedestrians - AFo awaiting information **ACTION:** AFo to follow up
 - **New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors** – Still awaiting guidance from TVBC Legal Services. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **Bottom Road Verges** – chalk passing places to be created now the winter has passed. **ACTION:** DB in hand
 - **Recording of Births, Deaths, Arrivals and Departures** – in hand with CG. **ACTION:** CG

- **PC Refresher Training** – significantly more expensive alternative quote received from HALC, so PC will use Plan-et. Awaiting dates and times to arrange session. **ACTION:** MF
 - **Cemetery Fees** – comparisons with local cemeteries in hand with MF. **ACTION:** MF

- 4. **Planning Applications.**
 - Highcroft – Tree works to fell 2 Leylandii. Unanimous agreement for PC SUPPORT. **ACTION:** MF

- 5. **Finance.**
 - VAT Refund – MF confirmed a £740 VAT refund claim was received.
 - HCC Jubilee Grant – MF advised that a £200 grant has been received
 - TVBC Jubilee Grant – MF advised that the £1k application was submitted, but only minimal funds remained available in the pot. The original grant request was withdrawn and a new request will be submitted in the new financial year. IJ advised that the amount of £300 would be available. **ACTION:** MF
 - Unused NHP Grant Funds – MF advised any NHP Grant not used in the 2021/22 financial year must be repaid. Subject to checking and confirmation with AF, the unused amount is approximately £1.7k from the £4.97k received, **ACTION:** MF/AF
 - Year-end Audit Timetable – MF advised that the annual audit process instructions have been received as below. **ACTION:** MF
 - MF will prepare the accounts and submit them to the internal auditor in the next few weeks.
 - As PC Income and Expenditure are both less than £25k pa the PC is once again able to submit a Certificate of Exemption from the limited assurance review process.
 - MF intends to submit the annual accounts, the internal audit report and the annual Governance Statement to the May PC meeting.
 - The period for the exercise of public rights can start on 13th June, and must be started by 1st July.

- 6. **Councillors' Reports.**
 - a. Affordable Housing and NHP. (AF)
 - Affordable Housing – NTR
 - Re NHP – Following the survey of residents' views the NHP Visions and Objectives will be updated and published, and the Policies will be formalised. **ACTION:** AF

 - b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
 - Allotments – MF advised that the invoice from the Diocese of Winchester for the annual rent has been received by the PC and paid by the Allotment Association
 - Cemetery – MF advised that the burial of Margaret Thacker (previously Jones) will be held on 6th April.
 - Trees – IG reminded the PC about the dangerous state of the tall Poplars next to the Village Hall which were further damaged in the recent storms. The trees are on Leckford Estate land, and CM will arrange for them to be inspected and consider seeking permission from TVBC to fell them for safety reasons. **ACTION:** CM

 - c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
 - Lengthsman - April tasks are to dig out the grips on the Eastern side of the road between the Bunny and Southside and to tidy up round the Bunny bench
 - May tasks will include cutting back foliage around road signs; cleaning road signs and flexible reflective road edge markers, a litter pick and work on the benches

- The Lengthsman Scheme has been extended for a further year, and the contract with the lead parish to be signed off. **ACTION:** CG
 - Footpaths – Recent dry weather has firmed up the ground on the footpaths.
 - CG reminded IG to speak with the landowner for access to FP 6 (Church Road to South). **ACTION:** IG
 - d. Test Valley School and Website. (AFo).
 - TVS – AFo advised that the School Governors have reacted positively to the plans for a new pool
 - Website – All up to date
 - e. Environment. (DB)
 - DB highlighted the environmental consequences of the war in Ukraine, including contamination risks connected with nuclear power stations and heavy industries.
 - The agricultural consequences will also be important, with rising costs in input costs (eg fertilisers) and price increases in food products.
 - Farmers are highlighting the importance of moving from land stewardship to food production to improve food self-sufficiency
 - f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
 - VH - SM advised that the recent investment in improved insulation appears to have significantly reduced electricity consumption.
 - The VH AGM will be on May 26th
 - Streetlights – NTR
 - g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
 - Playground - SW advised that the new team of volunteers is working well
 - CM advised that Leckford Estate will no longer be able to mow the sports area following the recent law changes on agricultural diesel
 - The PC will consider whether this work can be included in IG's mowing contract. **ACTION:** SW/IG/MF
 - HSC – SW has replied to the charity's annual request for information, and we will be asking for additional funds for the next period in view of the increase in the cost of living which will disproportionately affect the less well off. **ACTION:** SW
 - h. Leckford Estate. (CM).
 - CM advised that the John Lewis Partnership has reinstated a annual bonus for staff (partners), but that the recent sharp rise in inflation will have a significant impact on the group's business.
 - The Estate will begin work on a new Biomethane plant
 - The Water Gardens will re-open in April
 - Articulated lorries still pass through the village while making deliveries to the Estate or the Farm Shop/Nursery. They have warned suppliers to use alternative routes, but want to know if anyone does not follow instructions.
 - SW will meet with CM to discuss possible “designated open spaces” which could be included in the NHP. **ACTION:** SW/CM
7. **Platinum Jubilee Events**
- SW updated the PC on plans:
 - An initial planning meeting was attended by 20 volunteers with very positive feedback
 - Terstan has been agreed as the venue, and discussions are ongoing with Houghton Fishing Club and Natural England about possible water sports activities in the river

- Local residents Giles and Cecilia Burnfield will act as coordinators of the event organisation.
- SM will organize lanterns, and SW is dealing with uplighting at the Church at an expected cost of £90 which the PC unanimously supported.
- SW has been in discussions with Longstock Nursery about the supply of Kanzan Cherry trees, to be planted in the Autumn along the road or in gardens. Costs would range from £20/60 depending on size, and residents will be invited to buy/sponsor. AFo will investigate the cost of plaques for the trees. **ACTION:** AFo
- DD will be asked to check with HCC Highways about planting commemorative Cherry trees on the wide road verges. **ACTION:** DD
- SW noted that the residents of Roman Road are also planning a Jubilee event.

8. **Correspondence**

- MF will circulate details of the NALC Civility and Respect Project for Councillors to consider contributing. **ACTION:** MF
- TVBC have launched a Platinum Jubilee Card Competition for 4-11 year-olds. MF will forward details to Stockbridge Primary School, and to AFo to be circulated to local families. **ACTION:** MF/AFo
- Dementia Support have set up a local survey. MF will forward to AFo for onward circulation. **ACTION:** MF/AFo

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

- SW highlighted that HGVs continue to use the Bunny. A larger “Not Suitable For HGVs” sign is needed at the Test Way. DB to investigate. **ACTION:** DB
- Local resident Mr John Musters (VH Chairman) reinforced the concern about the dangerous Poplar trees next to the VH. He also thanked the PC for their service to the village over the past year.
- CG advised that a number of visitors had made complimentary comments about the condition of the Churchyard.
- CG also proposed a vote of thanks to SW for her efforts over the past year – unanimously supported.

10. **Date of Next Meeting..**

- Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.00 pm – in the Village Hall (Annual General Meeting).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Cheques and Payments:

1208	Sarsen Press re Newsletter	£346.00
DD	SSE re Electricity (x2 months)	£91.49