

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL
1900 TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 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 25 minutes at the beginning of the meeting), Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor, Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate, Toni Wilden (TWi) Head Teacher of Test Valley School, and David Hall (DH) local resident.

1. **Apologies:** Andrew Gibson for early departure due to other commitments,
2. **Minutes of Meeting of 11th January.**
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and signed.

n.b. At this point SW invited TWi to provide an update on developments at Test Valley School, and AG to give his HCC report. The notes of these discussions are included below under Item 6. Councillors' Reports: 6d. Test Valley School, and 6i. HCC.

3. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Highways & Traffic.**
 - **LOYO Holes** - At the bottom of the drive to the old dairy now LOYO – CM confirmed that scalplings have filled the holes. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **21536802** – Blocked drains opposite LOYO unit. Registered for investigation by HCC. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **Dog Walkers** – to be re-engaged with the TVBC dog warden post-Covid-19 – still pending. **ACTION:** SW
 - **HCC Mowing Damage** – to be reviewed in the spring. **ACTION:** MF to follow up
 - **21529469** – Potholes and blocked run-off at bottom of Bottom Road. Work with Contractor. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **21535598** – Pothole at 20 Roman Road – work completed.. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **21538993** – Damage to bridge pillar on Bunny. Work with Contractor. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
 - **Bottle Bank Location** –Recycling Centre installed at the Farm Shop. **ACTION:** Closed
 - **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – AG to assist MF in approach at HCC. CM emphasised the PC's moral obligation to push this through to avoid future accidents. DH offered support from Chilbolton and Leckford villages. **ACTION:** MF
 - **Barn Cottage Issues** –TW has advised TVBC Enforcement that the new building is occupied. **ACTION:** TW to advise PC

- DB circulated photos of the site from adjacent house, with overgrown hedges and mounds of earth affecting sunlight. Neighbours to be advised to contact owners. **ACTION:** DB
 - **War Memorial Cleaning** – Cleaning in progress with JE. Care to be taken with chemicals on the soft stone, and jet washing not advised. **ACTION:** JE
 - TW advised that Kings Somborne have recently cleaned their Memorial. AF and DB have seen adverts for local masons to clean stone. **ACTION:** AF/DB
 - Overgrown hedge behind the Memorial. To be cut back by PC working party during the Spring. **ACTION:** All
 - **Drain at Bunny Bench**– Work completed by DB. **ACTION:** Closed
4. **Planning Applications.**
- 1 Church Cottages – Replacement windows. Unanimous PC support. TW advised that he has been in discussion with owners and TVBC Conservation Officers about this issue. They are struggling to find a mutually acceptable solution. **ACTION:** MF to advise TVBC of PC SUPPORT.
 - Longstock Mill – Remedial works. MF advised that the PC had previously confirmed PC SUPPORT by email exchange. **ACTION:** MF already advised TVBC
 - Highfield – Tree works. PC had previously confirmed PC SUPPORT by emails. **ACTION:** MF already advised TVBC
5. **Finance.**
- MF confirmed that a VAT Refund request has been submitted for £792.
 - MF advised that Section 137 amount for 2021/22 has been set at £8.41 per elector (£8.32 in 2020/21). This gives a maximum of £3k approx. available for S137 expenditure, whereas the PC has not used more than £1.5k in recent years.
6. **Councillors' Reports.**
- a. Affordable Housing. (DB). – NTR
 - b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
 - NTR on the allotments
 - Re Cemetery – IG advised that the hedges will be cut when the ground is dry enough
 - MF advised that Mrs Cynthia Dance was buried on 27th January
 - MF also advised that the families of Sandy Burnfield, Colin Taylor and Wendy McPhee have been in contact about their burial plans in the coming weeks. **ACTION:** MF
 - Re Trees – see item 8. Re Ash tree at Recreation Ground
 - c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
 - Footpaths – CG advised that a FP sign has been removed and replaced by another inappropriate sign on FP9 near Rats Lodge. CG to follow up. **ACTION:** CG
 - For FP4 behind the LOYO unit, CG will ask CM to check whether the land still belongs to Leckford Estate. **ACTION:** CG/CM
 - FP11 still needs to be cleared by the landowners. **ACTION:** CG
 - FP12 has now been cleared and cutback very well. MF to write to the landowner Daniel Busk to thank him. **ACTION:** MF
 - Lengthsman - this month, his work will be clearing the grips and cleaning the noticeboards

- d. Test Valley School and Neighbourhood Plan. (AF).
- TWi provided an update on developments at TVS, where the focus will be on emphasising its USP as a small rural school.
 - TVS will introduce new technical awards at Key Stage 4 for land-based studies in close cooperation with Sparsholt College, focussing on land use and food production.
 - TVS will develop its animal and agricultural areas, with a view to producing food including eggs etc
 - TVS will seek local engagement with farmers, game keepers, landowners etc
 - SW highlighted the presence of local farm businesses on the PC with DB and CM, who confirmed their positive interest. **ACTION:** DB/CM
 - TW advised that TVS can also contact the conservation and land management teams at TVBC. **ACTION:** TW to make connection
 - SM and SW each suggested the local National Trust Warden and the Young Farmers Group respectively
 - AG advised that HCC owns some 40 farms in Hampshire with assets valued at over £2bn. AG will check on HCC links with agricultural colleges. **ACTION:** AG
 - CG advised that the new owner of Charity Down Farm is planning a major re-wilding project and may also be interested co-operating with TVS. **ACTION:** CG
 - TWi explained that TVS has been in contact with HCC about the school open-air swimming pool, but HCC are mainly concerned about future potential costs.
 - A wide-ranging discussion followed about the TVS pool. TW advised that TVBC wants another pool in its area with public access, but the quality of the facilities would need to be suitable. TWi also highlighted the safeguarding issues for public access. AG/TW/TWi agreed to consult together on possible steps forward. **ACTION:** AG/TW
 - DH said that the pool would be discussed at the next Governors' meeting.
 - In response to a query from CM, DH confirmed that the skillsets of the TVS Governors covered a wide range of commercial, educational and other relevant backgrounds.
 - TWi thanked the PC for the interest and assistance offered.
 - SW thanked TWi for her willingness to engage with the PC
 - Re NHP - AF confirmed that the SG was still working on a draft of the Housing Needs Assessment from AECOM. **ACTION:** AF
 - AF and MF confirmed that the unused element of the £11k NHP grant received should be returned by 31st March, but the Plan-et consultants will advise on any flexibility on the dates. **ACTION:** AF/MF
 - JE asked whether the draft Visions & Objectives have been changed. AF confirmed they are still under review. **ACTION:** AF
- e. Environment, Website and Phone Box. (JE).
- Environment - JE confirmed he submitted a Flooding article to the last Newsletter.
 - Website – JE advised that Google Analytics was available to consult on the PC website activity, and that the site was visited approx. 80 times in the last month.
 - SW asked for information on the location of website “visitors”, and which pages they were looking at.
 - AF volunteered to review the Google Analytics information. JE to send link to AF, **ACTION:** JE/AF
 - JE is also testing TVBC Planning information through the PC website. **ACTION:** JE

- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
 - SM advised that nobody is currently using the Village Hall, although the managing committee is ensuring that the insurance is kept valid via inspections etc.
 - TW reminded SM that a £4k TVBC Covid grant is available. SM will submit the application, and the committee can consider using the funds to improve the insulation to reduce heating bills. **ACTION:** SM
 - IG felt that the VH chairs should be replaced, but SM advised that storage for larger stacking chairs would be a major problem.
 - Re Streetlights – NTR

 - g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
 - SW confirmed that the Recreation Ground remains open with new signage in line with the current guidelines, and is being actively used by local families.
 - Repairs to the basketball and bridge equipment ongoing. **ACTION:** SW/DB
 - DH mentioned an initiative to raise community funds for local facilities
 - CM and SW will review the fence posts at the rear. **ACTION:** CM/SW
 - Re Henry Smith – SW reminded the PC that we have lost 2 residents to Covid in the past few weeks.
 - SW proposed that HS funds should be made available to one of the affected families. Unanimously agreed. **ACTION:** SW
 - SW asked the PC to remain vigilant for any other local families that were undergoing hardship, and to advise SW of any cases. **ACTION:** All
 - SW will “ring-fence” some HS funds for a summer event, if that is possible. **ACTION:** SW

 - h. Leckford Estate. (CM).
 - CM advised that the Golf Course remains closed, but the Nursery and Farm Shop are open, with takeaways available in the Café, although business volumes are low.
 - The John Lewis Partnership is undertaking a major review and transformation process. A major proportion of the JLP business is now on-line, but there should be positive long-term prospects for many of the department stores.

 - i. HCC. (AG)
 - AG had distributed his HCC Highways report in advance of the meeting.
 - AG advised that HCC is concerned about high water levels in the event of more substantial rainfall
 - The HCC financial accounts have finally been signed off by auditors EY
 - The proposed new asylum seeker camp at Barton Stacey/Longparish is still under consideration, but pressure has been increased by a fire at a camp near Folkestone.
 - HCC Council Tax is to be increased by 2.99%.

 - j. TVBC. (TW)
 - TW had distributed his Mid-Test Matters report in advance.
 - TW reminded the PC of the availability of a £1k Councillor grant for qualifying projects.
 - As an example, Kings Somborne Village Hall has implemented a website to include a booking system.
 - AF thanked TVBC for their excellent help in the NHP process.
- 7. Disused Chalkpit on Bottom Road**
- MF advised that TVBC and Hyde Group had looked at the site in 2014 and considered it unsuitable for affordable housing development.
 - As the adjacent hay barn site is owned by Leckford Estate, SW felt that they may be interested in considering a joint approach. CM will review ownership.

ACTION: SW/CM

- TW suggested that a local architect might be interested in considering such a project.
- The PC is still keen to take this initiative forward on the basis of a Community Project, but subject to the appropriate formal steps of valuations, funding, approved project plans etc. MF will follow-up with TVBC about next steps, with the support of SW and AF. **ACTION: MF/SW/AF**

8. Die-Back Ash Tree

- SM advised that this tree on the access path to the Recreation Ground is causing considerable concern to local residents, who have been clearing away fallen debris.
- SW feels that the tree is on Leckford Estate land. SW and CM to meet on site to check. **ACTION: SW/CM**

9. Village Litter-Pick

- To be diarised and deferred until the Covid regulations are eased. **ACTION: MF**

10. Correspondence

- MF advised that a Freedom of Information request was received by the PC on 18th December 2020, and is being dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislation, **ACTION: MF**
- MF advised that a Subject Access Request was received on 22nd January 2021, and is being dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislation, **ACTION: MF**
- MF reminded the PC that the 2021 Census date will be 21st March 2021. MF will forward any information and requests for PC involvement. **ACTION: MF**
- MF advised that Government authorisation for PCs to hold virtual meetings will expire in May 2021. If no further extensions are confirmed the PC may need to make arrangements to meet in person from May onwards. **ACTION: MF to keep PC informed.**
- MF advised that a TVBC Sustainability and Climate Change Survey has been circulated. JE has volunteered to respond for the PC. **ACTION: JE**

11. Any Other Business/public comment.

- DH advised of the setting up of a business in Wherwell/Chilbolton for “digital zero waste shopping”. As a Councillor on Chilbolton PC, DH is making contact with other local PCs.
- DB highlighted the recent deaths to Covid of two longstanding village residents; Sandy Burnfield and Colin Taylor. The PC records these deaths with great sadness.

12. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.00 pm – by Zoom

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Cheques Signed:

1154	Plan-ET (NHP Consultants)	£360.00
1163	Sarsen Press (Newsletter Printing)	£300.87
1164	SSE	£31.97
1165	Plan-ET (NHP Consultants)	£108.00