

**LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL**  
**1900 MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 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 45 minutes at the beginning of the meeting), Tony Ward (TW) TVBC Councillor (from 8.00 pm onwards), Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate, and Jim and Alison Smallwood (JS and AS) Parish residents.

1. **Apologies:** Andrew Gibson for partial absence due to other PC/HCC commitments, and Tony Ward for late arrival due to another PC meeting,

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> December.**  
The minutes were unanimously agreed for adoption and signed.

n.b. At this point SW invited AG to provide his HCC update as he would have to leave the meeting early. The notes of this discussion are included below under Item 6i. Councillors' Reports – HCC.

3. **Matters Arising:**

- **Highways & Traffic.**
  - **LOYO Holes** - At the bottom of the drive to the old dairy now LOYO – CM confirmed that quotes were being obtained **ACTION:** MF/CM
  - **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 diarise follow up
  - **21529469** – Potholes and blocked run-off at bottom of Bottom Road, Chaser sent. **ACTION:** MF
  - **21535598** – Pothole at 20 Roman Road – “work raised” at HCC. **ACTION:** MF to follow up
- **Bottle Bank Location** –Recycling Centre in scheduled to be delivered at the Farm Shop on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. **ACTION:** MF to monitor
- **Traffic Speed on Bunny** – Pending with MF. **ACTION:** MF
- **Barn Cottage Issues** – TVBC queried whether the property is occupied. TW will confirm that the new building is occupied. **ACTION:** TW
- **Police Communications** – MF advised that MP Caroline Nokes has replied in support. Police Sgt Richard Taylor has advised that new recruits will be arriving in the coming months – 1 experienced PC already in Dec, 2 new PCs in Jan, another 2 new PCs in March, and a further 3 new PCSOs by April. **ACTION:** Closed
- **War Memorial Cleaning** – SM advised that the Memorial was last cleaned in 2018, and previously cleaned and lettering re-cut in 2014. JE volunteered to try a chemical cleaner on the back of the Memorial.

- CG advised that the 3 benches were previously painted with Cuprinol preservative. JE will also undertake restoration work. **ACTION:** JE re Memorial and benches
    - SM highlighted the overgrown hedge behind the Memorial. To be cut back during the Spring PC working party on the Cemetery. **ACTION:** All
  - **Drain at Bunny Bench**– DB confirmed this clearance work will be carried out. **ACTION:** DB
4. **Planning Applications.**
- Church Farm – Tree works – MF advised that after the site visit on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, it was decided to register a PC OBJECTION to cutting down the large Ash near the house, but to confirm No Objection to the other works on the Willow trees. **ACTION:** MF to update on TVBC response.
  - Tamlyn – MF advised that the house-owner has agreed to document a formal written agreement to use part of the chalkpit during construction. He has also advised that some prior work to cut down an Ash tree will be done in Feb, and will require access to the edge of the chalkpit. Unanimously agreed that this can proceed in advance of the formal agreement. **ACTION:** MF
5. **Finance.**
- 2021/22 Precept – MF confirmed that the increase from £8k to £8.5k for the 2021/22 Precept has been submitted to TVBC
  - Q3 Bank Reconciliation – MF confirmed that CG has reviewed and signed. The Dec 20 bank balance of £11k includes NHP Grant funds of £6k, which must either be spent or returned by year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 21. Finances are on schedule to match full year budget projections. **ACTION:** MF
6. **Councillors’ Reports.**
- a. Affordable Housing. (DB). – NTR
  - b. Allotments, Cemetery, and Trees. (IG).
    - NTR on the allotments
    - Re Cemetery - MF had circulated in advance the proposed plaque to be placed on Mrs Amey’s forthcoming ashes plot. PC unanimously approved the design. **ACTION:** MF
      - MF also advised that the family of Mrs Nancy Savage had contacted him about a plot for her ashes. Details and date pending. **ACTION:** MF
  - c. Footpaths and Lengthsman. (CG).
    - Footpaths - An official replacement Footpath sign has been erected at the access path from the Bunny leading to the Test Way by the railway bridge.
      - CG will be writing to HCC requesting guidance on enforcing the widening of Restricted Byways 11 and 12 to meet the requirement for carriages to use them. DB and IG were already looking at making Restricted Byway 11 compliant. **ACTION:** CG
      - CG will be writing to CM to discuss the routing of FP 4 at the Northern end. **ACTION:** CG/CM
      - Despite requests, FP 12 has still not been cut back by the landowner. **ACTION:** CG
    - Lengthsman - Last month, the Lengthsman cut back the undergrowth from around the bench on Salisbury Hill.
      - This month, the Lengthsman will be doing a village wide litter pick, including Bottom Road, cleaning all the street furniture and half the Test

- bridge between Longstock and Stockbridge. Stockbridge PC has been requested to provide the hours for the other half to be cleaned.
- The Lengthsman was driving past Roman Road and saw a wind-blown tree blocking the pavement on Salisbury Hill. Rather than wait for permission, he immediately cleared it away, submitting his invoice subsequently. PCs praised his proactive response which has been reported to the Lengthsman Coordinator.
  - IG agreed to consider cutting back the undergrowth and brambles from the pavements and upright slabs on Salisbury Hill leading to the Roman Road entrance. **ACTION:** IG.
- d. Test Valley School and Neighbourhood Plan. (AF).
- AF advised that she had NFTR but commented that in line with the latest Covid restrictions, secondary schools nationally were closed to pupils with the exception of key worker children.
  - Re NHP - AF confirmed that the SG had completed an initial review of a draft of the Housing Needs Assessment from AECOM. Some key amendments had been made which would need to be incorporated before the review could be finalised by the SG. **ACTION:** AF
    - The Housing Needs Survey has generated 99 responses, equating to a level of 40+%, which is considered very satisfactory. TVBC are currently analysing.
- e. Environment, Website and Phone Box. (JE).
- JE highlighted the flooding risk from rising groundwater explained at a recent Resilience Workshop
    - Although very few Longstock properties have suffered from flooding in the past, groundwater flood maps are available, and it would be good to include information on the PC website, and a note in the Newsletter. **ACTION:** JE
    - TW advised that the Environment Agency plan for Kings Somborne included early warnings systems and arrangement for sandbags etc.
- f. Village Hall and Streetlights. (SM).
- SM advised that only 2 groups are still using the village hall, specifically involving parental/childcare support and vulnerable groups
    - IG expressed concern about Covid-19 risks of the hall remaining active. SW felt the key was to carefully manage the cleaning process, and for groups to respect the rules about masks, sanitisers, social distancing etc.
    - SM confirmed that the Village Hall Committee was handling the cleaning, and would circulate details of the supporting documentation. **ACTION:** SM
  - Re Streetlights – SM explained that the new lights will not need an SSE maintenance contract as before, but that it would be prudent to plan for a regular check-up every 2 or 3 years to identify any work that may be required (cleaning/repairs etc). MF to diarise for 2 years to review. **ACTION:** MF
    - SM confirmed that the new installation certificates will be sent to MF. **ACTION:** MF.
    - SM reminded the PC that 5 years ago SSE had quoted £5k to install lights and a supply to the school bus bay.
- g. Playground and Henry Smith Charity. (SW)
- SW confirmed that the Recreation Ground remains open in line with the current guidelines, with new signage for users.
    - Repairs to some of the equipment are ongoing. **ACTION:** SW
    - SW advised that a ROSPA report will be due in May 21. **ACTION:** SW
    - 6 fence posts at the rear have fallen down. CM to deal with. **ACTION:** CM

- CG mentioned that 2/3rds grants were available for playground work.
- Re Henry Smith – SW advised that several more cheques have been issued to local residents, with many lovely letters of thanks received.
  - Currently some £1.5k funds remain available, to include (hopefully) a return of the HS lunch later in the year. PC were asked to advise SW of any other residents who might need financial help. **ACTION:** All
  - CG proposed a vote of thanks to SW for her work in handling the Henry Smith Charity funds to the benefit of local residents who needed support. This was agreed unanimously.

h. Leckford Estate. (CM).

- CM advised that the Golf Course is closed, but the Nursery and Farm Shop are open, with takeaways in the Café.
  - Business volumes in the Farm Shop are very quiet in the current lockdown, and the PC is asked to pass the word that it is open.
  - The local delivery service will be starting again, and it would be useful to publicise this in the Newsletter. **ACTION:** CM

i. HCC. (AG)

- AG had distributed his HCC report to Councillors in advance of the meeting.
- AG updated the PC on the proposed new asylum seeker camp at Barton Stacey/Longparish.
  - This project is causing considerable concern for local residents and HCC/TVBC
  - It has been temporarily delayed by concerns related to the Solent Nitrate Neutrality issues that have restricted planning approvals recently. AG will keep the PC updated. **ACTION:** AG.
- AG advised that recycling centres remained open in the current lockdown
- MF asked AG to clarify a comment in the Minutes of the PC October meeting about parking on Stockbridge High Street.
  - AG did not recall commenting about Stockbridge PC complaining about cars parking on the pavements near the bridge. MF acknowledged this quote appears to have been wrongly attributed to AG.
- AF advised that the signage for dog walkers at Danebury Ring has improved considerably following the earlier problems with the Wardens. AF thanked AG for his involvement in dealing with this issue.

j. TVBC. (TW)

- TW had distributed his Mid-Test Matters report in advance
  - TW advised that local Covid-19 infection numbers were rising quickly, and that everyone should be exercising extreme care

**7. Disused Chalkpit on Bottom Road**

- SW advised that this plot of land is an asset of the PC, and would be suitable for a community-based project, for example to build some small rental homes to generate recurring income for the PC.
  - General in principle support was expressed, but Councillors highlighted the need to ensure that all necessary and appropriate steps were taken, including formal valuations, professional surveys, costings, funding etc.
  - SW emphasized the potential of harnessing the support and enthusiasm of the local community, and particularly the young people (Young Farmers etc)
  - It was agreed to take this forward to the next meeting with a view to setting up a working group. **ACTION:** MF
  - TW agreed to provide a contact person in the TVBC Housing area.

**ACTION: TW**

8. **Correspondence**

- MF reminded the PC that the 2021 Census will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. MF will submit a brief note on the Census for the next Newsletter. **ACTION: MF**
- MF advised that a Freedom of Information request was received by the PC on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. The matter is being dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislation, and the PC's response will be submitted within the formal 20 working days' timeframe. **ACTION: MF**
- MF advised that a resident of a neighbouring parish has requested a copy of the PC's Code of Conduct. MF has provided the copy, and this is now available on the PC website.
- In December 2020 the Local Government Association published a new Model Code of Conduct for Councillors. MAF will investigate with HALC etc. on the proposed/recommended timetable for the Code to be reviewed and adopted by Parish Councils. **ACTION: MF to report back to PC**
- MF advised that grants are available from the Rural Community Energy Fund for renewable energy projects.
  - SM advised that the Village Hall committee has looked at the possibility of solar roof panels, but were advised that the adjacent trees would block out too much of the sunlight
  - JE suggested that Test Valley School might be able to benefit from this initiative. MF will investigate. **ACTION: MF**
- MF advised that a TVBC TPO has been placed on a Yew tree at the Vicarage, adjacent to Old School House.

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

- SW proposed that a Litter Pick through the village be set up once the Lengthsman has completed his next workload. To be included in the PC February agenda. **ACTION: MF**
- Councillors mentioned that various parish residents currently have Covid-19, with some in a serious health condition.

10. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.00 pm – by Zoom

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Cheques Signed:

1162                      SSE

£37.94