

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1930 WEDNESDAY 16th MARCH 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) – chairman.
Cllrs David Burnfield (DB)
Cllr Ivan Gibson (IG)
Cllr Charles Grieve (CG)
Cllr Rebecca Griffiths (RG)
Cllr John Milne (JM)
Cllr Selina Musters (SM)

Clerk John Musters, and Mr Colin McIntyre (CM) of Leckford Estate.

Chairman warmly welcomed Colin McIntyre, representing Leckford Estate, and hoped his would be a regular attendance.

1. **Apologies**, County Councillor Andrew Gibson, and Borough Councillors Peter Boulton and Daniel Busk.

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 20th January**. Agreed for adoption and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:**

a. **Highways.** (1) **Potholes and drains** – clerk said that HCC’s on-line ‘Tracker’ system continued to confuse, since reported problems were frequently listed as ‘resolved’ when clearly they were not. He would take this up with our county councillor. Meanwhile we had heard that, under Op Resilience, all the roads through the village were due to be resurfaced (‘given a surface treatment’ in the words of the Highways engineers’ office) later this spring. Whether the improvement would last and do anything to improve pothole problems remained to be seen. CM would follow up the issue of the Church Road culverts with Highways. (2) **Roman Road ramp** – remained to be resolved, although it was questioned whether one was still needed now that the main beneficiary had moved to Stockbridge. Councillors felt it worth persisting as it could benefit others in future. (3) **The Bunny** – attempts to alleviate surface water flooding on the Bunny by digging a trench through the verge had met resistance from owners of ‘The Willows’, who had complained to HCC. The 30 limit sign on the same corner had been knocked and needed to be righted. The main river bridge could perhaps do with a coat of paint, and CM agreed that the Estate could ‘play a part’ once councillors had agreed what they wanted to do. (4) **Car parking** on Estate land opposite Charity Farm House had become an issue with the householder, who felt planning permission should have been sought to put down hardcore. It had been explained that it was a long-standing parking place for vehicles that would otherwise be left on the roads, and all the hardcore did was to make the area less of a muddy waste. No further action was planned.

ACTION: Clerk, Leckford Estate

b. **Lengthsman.** April tasks would include cleaning and oiling benches in the village. Councillors asked for the main bridge on the A30 to be cleaned again (a task shared with Stockbridge). Clerk would speak with their coordinator.

ACTION: Clerk

c. **Roman Road field.** Chairman had had a letter from the landowner of the field about walkers on his property, and subsequently she and DB had met the gamekeeper. Whether or not a right to roam had been established, some compromise was believed possible. The gamekeeper would talk further with the owner.

d. **Dog Warden.** With the problems of dog mess continuing on Church Road, chairman would speak with the warden about bag dispensers.

ACTION: Chairman

4. **Correspondence.** In addition to regular e-updates from HALC we had heard from: (a) HALC, with more info on smaller authorities audit appointments; (b) Hampshire Conservation Volunteers, booklet passed to JM and CG; (c) TVBC, Revised Local Plan DPD 2011-2029, now adopted – passed to councillors; (d) TVBC re a Neighbourhood Planning Workshop on 21st March; (e) TVBC ‘Be a Recycling Star’ publicity – passed to councillors; and (f) TVAPTC minutes of February meeting and slides of ‘Governance’ presentation – passed to councillors.

5. **HM The Queen’s 90th Birthday Celebrations.** It was agreed not to mark HM’s actual birthday on 21st April with a beacon. Chairman had sent councillors an advance ‘to-do’ list to run a celebration on 12th June which was discussed at length. Chairman would lead for Longstock, CM for Leckford, and chairman was in touch with a Stockbridge PC councillor whom she hoped would represent them. Clerk would check insurance implications with our brokers.

ACTION: All

6. **War Memorial cleaning.** Clerk had had quotations from two firms to clean the memorial again (last done in 2008) and had spoken to the War Memorial Trust (WMT) who advised against cleaning it too often, and not to use an algicide because of possible damage to the stone. Clerk would send pictures for the WMT to assess its state and consider a grant. Councillors agreed to delay cleaning and any necessary repairs until the centenary of the Armistice in 2018.

ACTION: Clerk

7. **Finance.** With final bills for the year to come in, clerk expected a carry-forward balance of about £3,800, which would mean that income and expenditure this year were in near parity. Patrick Coates would again be our Internal Auditor.

ACTION: Clerk

8. **Contract renewals.** (a) Having been re-awarded the contract for cemetery maintenance (Minutes of 9th December 2015, Item 5c), Ivan Gibson signed the contract effective 1st April 2016. (b) The clerk was willing to continue in post, a decision unanimously accepted by the council. His contract of employment and duties were reissued, also effective 1st April.

9. **Councillors’ Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing. (DB). NTR.

b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG). **Allotments** –IG reported problems with rabbits in the allotments. The lease with the Diocese was being renewed for 3

years from 24th March, at a rent of £470. **Cemetery** – The dead cherry trees would be grubbed out as soon as conditions allowed.

ACTION: Cllr Gibson

c. Footpaths and Transport. (CG). CG reported on HCC's 'walking strategy' document. The steel 'limited access' arch at the west end of Church Road had been knocked; CG would ensure TVBC were aware.

ACTION: Cllr Grieve

d. Test Valley School. (RG). NTR.

e. Environment. (JM). JM would speak with TVBC about the 'recycling' site on the Leckford road, which clearly had not reverted to prior use, a condition imposed a year ago.

ACTION: Cllr Milne

f. Newsletter and Village Hall. (SM). NTR.

g. Playground and Website. (SW). The zipwire had been tightened and all equipment was in good condition. SW was grateful to the Estate for cutting the grass at the recreation ground and for filling the pothole in the entrance.

10. **Planning Applications. 20 Roman Road** (convert one house into two) – with TVBC for decision. **Hunter's Lodge, Stockbridge** (demolish existing building, rebuild as garages and erect new house beyond) – application withdrawn. **Poplars Farm** (erect farm manager's house) – invalid application. **Church Farm** (rethatch, heighten chimney, rebuild chimney breast) – PC no objection. **St David's Cottage** (erect summerhouse, fell trees) – PC no objection.

11. **Any Other Business/public comment.** (1) The police would be holding a public 'neighbourhood policing' event in Stockbridge town hall in the evening of Tuesday 12th April. (2) CG would replace the light bulb in the kiosk/book exchange. (3) JM had attended the launch of the HIOW air ambulance night service.

ACTION: Cllr Grieve

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** Wednesday 13th April, at 7pm for Annual Parish Assembly, followed by monthly meeting.

Cheques Signed:

977	Sarsen Press	Newsletter printing	£ 132.29
978	IR Gibson	Cemetery maintenance (4 th quarter)	£ 325.00
979	Longstock village hall	Hire for meetings 2015/16	£ 100.50
980	JBA Musters	Clerk's fee 2015/16	£ 930.00
981	JBA Musters	Stationery etc expenses 2015/16	£ 64.95
982	Post Office Ltd (HMRC)	Tax on employee's PAYE	£ 620.00

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2125.