

**LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1930 WEDNESDAY 14th DECEMBER 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) – chairman.
Cllr 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 (from Item 7) County Councillor Andrew Gibson (AG).

1. **Apologies.** Mr Colin McIntyre (Leckford Estate) (CM).
2. **Minutes of Meeting of 16th November.** Agreed for adoption and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. **Highways.** (1) The degraded road by Hazeldown had been partially repaired, but (as AG had seen for himself and reported) the part round the grass ‘triangle’ was still bad. IG commented on potholes outside Windover Farm, that clerk would report. (2) In his absence, CM had sent an update on the laying of Broadband fibre cable through the village. He would keep councillors informed as to timing of final installation and said that an option for residents might be to contact BT direct to get onto the fibre. (3) A Church Road resident had reported the culverts there and the drains leading into The Bunny which needed jetting again. Clerk had informed HCC. (4) The problem with the culvert by Ivy Cottage remained unresolved; clerk to pursue again with the landowner.

ACTION: Clerk
 - b. **Henry Smith lunch.** Because of the need to re-seal the village hall floor, which would take it out of action for up to a week, there were implications for bookings. One way to relieve the pressure would be to move the lunch to earlier in the week. Councillors agreed to hold it on Tuesday 14th February and the parish council meeting that month would be the evening before, Monday 13th.

ACTION: All
4. **Correspondence.** In addition to regular e-updates from HALC we had heard from: (a) Mayor of Test Valley, with notice of her charity appeal quiz night; (b) HCC, calling for footpath priority cutting bids for summer 2017, passed to CG; (c) HALC, calling for volunteers to serve on the County Executive, passed to all; (d) HCC, with the November ‘News for Councils’, passed to all; (e) Test Valley School, with thanks for our sponsorship and attendance at the annual presentation evening.
5. **Finance.** (a) **Newsletter advertising rates.** Following a recent increase in printing charges, councillors agreed a rise in advertising rates, the first in five years. Clerk would have the new rates printed in the next edition. DB also suggested the Editor canvas the village to see who would like the publication by email instead.

(b) **Grasscutting contract.** There being no competing bids, councillors approved to re-let the contract for cemetery maintenance and grass cutting to Ivan Gibson for a further year. An increase to £2,000 per year was agreed, with the task expanded to include cutting as often as necessary round play equipment on the recreation ground.

(c) **Budget 2017/18 and Precept.** Clerk took councillors through the forecast of outturn for this year and likely income and expenditure for the coming year, and discussed the level of Precept. Ring-fenced money from the old First Friday scheme used for playground inspections and repairs had all been spent, and the budget would now need to allow for all such future expenditure. RG proposed, CG seconded, all agreed, to increase the Precept to £6,500 and approve the draft budget for 2017/18.

ACTION: Clerk

6. Councillors' Reports.

a. Affordable Housing. (DB). Having received the preliminary findings from the Rural Housing Enabler following her attendance at the November parish council, clerk had passed them to chairman and DB. However they were 'on hold' for the moment, and it was likely that RHE and councillors would jointly walk round potential sites before any proposals were made to landowners.

ACTION: Cllr Burnfield

b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG). (1) Action to see whether the cemetery fence where badgers could have been getting in was Leckford's responsibility remained with CM. (2) A cherry tree by 33 Roman Road was partially blocking the path; clerk to input for the Lengthsman.

ACTION: Mr McIntyre, Clerk

c. Footpaths and Transport. (CG). Councillors agreed to bid for the same footpaths as last year to be cut by HCC under the priority cutting scheme.

ACTION: Cllr Grieve

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

e. Environment. (JM). Clerk would get a progress report from TVBC on the eviction order from the site by the north Stockbridge roundabout. JM reported breakdown trucks there and large bonfires, with no evidence of the occupiers leaving.

ACTION: Clerk

f. Village Hall. (SM). Having parted company with the floor maintenance contractor, the hall committee had made arrangements with another firm to re-seal the main floor, which was long overdue. This would be done in February. (PMN: firm booked for 7th February, and the hall would be closed for the rest of that week).

g. Playground and Website. (SW). Clerk confirmed that we had accepted the repair quote from Playsafe Playgrounds, to include replacing the button seat on the aerial runway, at a total cost for all works of £510 + VAT. DB's suggestion for 'self help' repairs on the slide mound and ball wall/netball post were agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Burnfield, Clerk

h. Leckford Estate. (CM). NTR in his absence.

7. **County Councillor.** AG joined the meeting at this juncture. He referred to four current issues: a presentation to be given by Ray Alborough, Senior Transport Engineer TVBC, at Lockerley on 10th January; a rise in council tax next year to provide more for social care for the elderly; the continuing review into libraries in the county, one option being to integrate them with MPs' offices; and a successful appeal against a large local landowner's attempt to overturn the Test Valley Local Plan.

8. **Planning Applications. Sindle Cottage** (retrospective internal works) – TVBC consent. Land at **Little Manor** (change of use of existing building from agricultural to residential) – TVBC permission. **Windover Dairy** (notification re siting and appearance of aerobic digester) – PC no comment (DB declared an interest and took no part in discussing this application).

9. **Any Other Business/public comment.** (1) DB congratulated the chairman on her leading role in organizing the successful Stockbridge Christmas Lights event on 2nd December; all agreed. (2) IG pressed again for a one-way system to be installed through New Street/Trafalgar Way Stockbridge. (3) Chairman raised the issue of a white picket fence proposed by Stockbridge PC to be installed on Salisbury Hill as a speed deterrent on the downhill approach into Stockbridge. Councillors were unanimous in their vehement opposition to any such installation in this parish; chairman would convey that message to Stockbridge PC.

ACTION: Chairman

10. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 13th February 2017.

Cheques Signed:

010	Bulpitt Print Ltd	Newsletter printing	£ 198.00
011	IR Gibson	Cemetery maintenance	£ 325.00

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2110.