

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1930 MONDAY 18th DECEMBER 2017 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, Mr Colin McIntyre (CM) (Leckford Estate),
County Councillor A Gibson and one member of the public.

1. **Apologies.** Borough Councillors P Boulton and D Busk.
2. **Minutes of Meeting of 20th November.** Agreed for adoption and signed.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. **Highways and Lengthsman.** (1) DB had re-fixed the playground sign opposite Verlynch Cottages. (2) Church Road culverts had been jettied and cleared and the road swept of debris and leaves. There was still a potential problem with overload on the drain line below, where it crossed The Broad and continued down The Bunny; clerk had spoken to the highways engineer who would put the contractors onto it. (3) DB had told the highways engineer which salt/grit bins needed attention. He accepted that most were useable, once the top crust had been broken. (4) The Lengthsman had continued erecting footpath signs; fixed the cemetery notice board posts in place and pressure washed the A30 river bridge.

ACTION: Clerk
 - b. **Street lights replacement.** SM briefed the meeting on some of the options available, both the standard Kirium Pro type and also more traditional designs. Councillors were unanimous in thinking the former were too ‘urban’ and preferred a traditional design, even if more expensive. They also agreed that they would decide on behalf of the village, and saw no need to canvass opinion. If the cost of total replacement of all 14 lights over a period of years should prove too great, JM suggested individuals ‘sponsoring’ a light, a suggestion that met with unanimous approval. Meanwhile SM would continue efforts to get a cost of a range of traditional lights, and would get a quote from Darren Howard to make fixing brackets.

ACTION: Cllr Musters
 - c. **Bus shelter.** John Standfield had accepted the terms of the contract to maintain and use the bus shelter curtilage for parking and paid the annual fee of £1.
 - d. **Community Governance Review.** A copy of a letter signed by the chairman had been delivered to every house in Longstock, giving residents the opportunity to contribute to the review, especially on the issue of parish boundaries. Chairman would talk to her opposite number in Stockbridge. AG was sceptical about how much weight would be given to residents’ views.

ACTION: Chairman

4. **Planning Applications.** **Upper Manor Farm** (change of use of barn/garage into art gallery and office) – TVBC permission; a Listed Building application had been put in for the same work. **Carbery House** (reconstruct two chimneys) – TVBC permission. **Meon Hill Farmhouse** (replace conservatory with extended kitchen) – TVBC permission. **Jack’s Plot** (fell rhamnus tree) – TVBC no objection. **Recreation Ground car park** (extend by six spaces) – TVBC permission. However the work could not start until certain conditions had been met which clerk would pursue. **Test Lodge** (erect extension; various internal works) – PC objection. With the householder present, CG said that he had asked TVBC about the criteria applied to ‘conservation’ aspects, but had got nowhere. Clerk would write to our Borough Councillors for guidance.

ACTION: Clerk

5. **Finance.** (a) The annual Henry Smith grant of £2,000 had been received, for the year from 1st October. (b) **2018/19 budget and Precept.** In presenting the draft budget for next year, clerk said the Forecast of Outturn for this year suggested a starting figure in April 2018 of some £4,800. This would be sufficient to start street lights replacement with up to two lights, but clerk saw the need to provide a cushion to continue the programme in later years. He therefore proposed increasing the Precept to £7,000 this year. JM proposed, CG seconded accepting the budget; all agreed. IG proposed, SM seconded an increase in Precept to £7,000. All agreed.

ACTION: Clerk

6. **County Councillor.** AG’s round-up covered the new development in Jewry Street, Winchester; non-closure of recycling centres; continuation of community transport subsidy; and that Lengthsmen would need to do more footpath work since HCC’s grass-cutting budget allowed for only one cut per year. With adult services costing so much, the search for savings continued, including removal of duplication where possible. AG said that he had a £500K fund to draw on to make matching contributions to parish projects.

7. **Councillors’ Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing. (DB). NTR.

b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG). (1) Allotments – the deer fence was in place and the wildlife ‘garden’ had begun. (2) Cemetery – the notice board would be installed this week.

c. Footpaths and Transport. (CG). CG got agreement to ask for the same coverage as this year on HCC’s grass cutting priority list.

ACTION: Cllr Grieve

d. Test Valley School. (RG). The Presentation Evening had gone well. As an aside, AG referred to an approach he had had from the school about making the sports hall more accessible to the public; he would look at the proposals.

e. Environment. (JM). JM praised the team efforts of Highways and the Estate for recent work on Church Road. He asked that the Lengthsman do some work on The Bunny, cutting back vegetation on the western approach to the river bridge and scouring the drainage grip by the Willows hedge. Clerk would add it to the January task list and meet the chairman on site later this week to view the problem.

ACTION: Clerk

f. Village Hall. (SM). The annual fire safety check had been completed.

g. Playground and Website. (SW). NTR.

h. Leckford Estate. The Estate had planted a large quantity of spring bulbs in St Mary's churchyard. Christmas sales were going well at the farm shop. Asked about the future of the Combine Club, CM said that club as such was closing, but the Leckford Estate Social Club was very much alive and would take over running events in Leckford village hall. JM proposed a vote of thanks to the Estate for its good works in support of Longstock; all agreed.

8. **Correspondence.** In addition to regular e-updates from HALC we had heard from: (a) Test Valley School, thanking the parish council for its continuing sponsorship of an annual prize; (b) Esso, with their proposed route for a replacement fuel pipeline from Fawley to Heathrow – east of Winchester, so no impact here; (c) Blackwell and Moody masons, confirming they would clean the war memorial as quoted after the frosts next late-spring (CM reminded the meeting that we could defray the cost by bidding for a donation from the Waitrose green tokens scheme); (d) CAB briefing on use of rural post offices, passed to all; (e) House of Lords research briefing into agriculture, fisheries and the rural economy, passed to all.

ACTION: Clerk

9. **Any Other Business/public comment.** (a) DB was concerned about the encroachment of garden hedges over the road, generally throughout the village. (b) JM wondered if a meeting every month was necessary, especially with January's meeting only 3 weeks ahead. That was explained by the move of meetings to the second Monday of each month; the general feeling was to continue monthly meetings.

ACTION: Clerk

10. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 8th January at 7.30 pm.

Cheques Signed:

045	Bulpitt Print Ltd	Printing Newsletter 233	£ 196.10
046	SJ Musters	Reimburse cemetery notice board	£ 472.68
047	I R Gibson	Grass cutting (3 rd quarter)	£ 500.00

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2125.