

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1930 WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 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 Selina Musters (SM)

Clerk John Musters,

1. **Apologies.** Cllr John Milne (JM), County Councillor Andrew Gibson (AG), and Borough Councillor Peter Boulton (PB).

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 9th December.** Agreed for adoption and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:**

a. **Highways.** (1) **Potholes and drains** – the pothole opposite Hazelwood/ Wychwood had been filled; those by Garage Cottages and at the top end of Bottom Road remained to be done. DB drew attention to a new hole by Windover Farm. Leckford Estate had still not managed to speak with Highways about the Church Road culverts, and the drain in the verge opposite Hazeldown Farm had been reported. Clerk would also refer the drain outside Ivy Cottage to HCC. (2) **Roman Road ramp** – HCC’s highways engineer would take measurements, but said on initial inspection he felt it was not an easy task to install a ramp given the space constraints and potentially high costs for diversion of utilities. It could put the scheme beyond routine ‘maintenance’ work, in which case it would require funding approval.

ACTION: Clerk

b. **Lengthsman.** He had filled no fewer than four bin bags when picking litter along verges in January, which merited a note in the Newsletter in hopes that it would encourage all to take their litter home. (PMN: according to the coordinator, the scheme will probably continue for a further year from May, before which Longstock had £743 balance remaining. Villages that do not make full use of the scheme could be removed since there were other villages on a waiting list).

ACTION: Clerk

c. **Henry Smith annual lunch.** Councillors agreed Thursday 17th March for this year’s lunch; SM would include a note in the Newsletter. DB would contact last year’s caterer so that a price comparison could be made, whether to continue with her or to engage another. See also item 10 below.

ACTION: Cllrs Burnfield, Musters

d. **Dog Warden.** Test Valley’s Dog Warden had been out on several occasions to help with the continuing problem of dog mess in Church Road, especially by the cemetery. Each mess was marked with a flag to highlight the problem; he then comes back three weeks later, removes flags and marks any mess deposited since his previous visit. This apparently is always less, which suggests the

system works. Chairman said she was trying to get us placed on a rota so the warden visits every four/six months without us having to call him.

4. **Correspondence.** In addition to regular e-updates from HALC (that under HALC's new system could now be accessed by all councillors direct onto Dashboard) we had heard from: (a) TVBC, forwarding for comment the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for gypsies and travelers, which clerk had passed to JM; (b) HCC's list of new Area Teams and Rights of Way priority vegetation cutting list for 2016, passed to CG for action; (c) TVBC, forwarding HARAHA's latest newsletter, passed to all councillors; (d) TVBC's progress report on the Revised Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy, passed to all councillors; and (e) TVBC's Council Tax base for 2016/17.

ACTION: Cllrs Grieve and Milne

5. **HM The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations.** Councillors were unanimous in wishing to mark this milestone this summer with some form of party, maybe on the Windover field (DB would talk to the landowner) and maybe during the second weekend in June. It was agreed to combine with Stockbridge if they were willing. (PMN: At their meeting on 21st January, Stockbridge PC agreed to a combined event with Longstock). For further discussion in March.

ACTION: All

6. **Finance.** Clerk took councillors through the finance statement recording 3rd Quarter progress against budget, and was able to report finances on track; RG signed the bank reconciliation statement where the balance stood at £6,958.97.

ACTION: Clerk

7. **Councillors' Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing. (DB). NTR.

b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG). **Allotments** – (1) councillors considered a suggestion from a resident that the allotments be registered as a Community Asset, whereby if the owner decided to sell within five years of registering, the parish council would have 6 months to make a bid. Councillors were not in favour, given the likely purchase cost, and the fact that only about half of the glebe field was under allotments. (2) Gus Penfound was abroad, and would be approached about the required hedge/tree work at the allotments on his return. **Cemetery** – IG said it was still too wet to grub out the dead cherry trees.

ACTION: Cllr Gibson

c. Footpaths and Transport. (CG). NTR.

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

e. Environment. (JM). JM had spoken to the Lengthsman about the continuing problems of surface water by the 'Willows' hedge on The Bunny. Councillors felt that a plastic conduit was not the answer, and would prefer a wider ditch being dug. Chairman and DB would meet on site and agree a way forward.

ACTION: Chairman, Cllr Burnfield

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

g. Playground and Website. (SW). She despaired that the weekly playground checks file had again disappeared. Repairs to the zipwire had still to be done and she would chase the installers again.

ACTION: Chairman

8. **Planning Applications.** **Peat Spade Inn** (internal works to kitchen and dining areas) – TVBC permission. **Field House** (variation of condition placed on application to convert garage roof space for storage, now required for carer’s accommodation) – withdrawn. **Lillie Cottage** (demolish summerhouse; erect garden room) – TVBC permission. **Church Cottages** (demolish entire garden wall and rebuild) – TVBC permission. **20 Roman Road** (convert one house into two) – PC no objection.

Hunter’s Lodge, Stockbridge (demolish existing building, rebuild as garages and erect new house beyond). This item was discussed since Stockbridge PC had made no objection, but several residents in Longstock, as well as the Houghton Club and Longstock parish council had lodged objections. (PMN: Chairman, Cllr Musters and clerk attended Stockbridge PC meeting on 21st, when Stockbridge PC agreed to look again at the application).

9. **Any Other Business/public comment.** (1) RG returned to the issue of access to the field behind Roman Road, which seemed to have been resolved. Now she reported shooting there while dogs were being walked; worse, shooting had been taking place close to the houses and shot was heard ‘spattering’ on the roof of one resident’s shed, while his wife in their garden had also had some shot land on her head (and on a Sunday!). Councillors agreed to send a letter to the landowner to make him aware and to ask him to confirm the status of the field. (2) DB gave notice of a ‘dance/party for all’ in the village hall on 20th February. (3) IG asked about progress in tackling Japanese knotweed; Chairman said the Estate was destroying it on a 5-year programme.

10. **Date of Next Meeting.** Wednesday 16th March. Councillors would meet at 7pm to set up in the hall for the next day’s Henry Smith lunch; PC meeting would start at 7.30 as usual.

Cheques Signed:

975	SSE Contracting	3 rd qtr lights maintenance	£ 121.15
976	Post Office Ltd (for SSE)	3 rd qtr electricity supply	£ 77.05

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2110.