

LONGSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
1930 MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Sophie Walters (SW) - chairman
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); two members of the public (for Item 4 only) and, from 2030, County Councillor Andrew Gibson.

1. **Apologies.** Cllrs David Burnfield (DB) and Ivan Gibson (IG).

2. **Minutes of Meeting of 9th July.** Adopted and signed.

3. **Matters Arising:**

a. **Highways.** (1) Councillors were content for the moment with the state of passing places on The Bunny, with tarmac having been laid (by Highways it was assumed) onto the scalplings. (2) The police had been unable to give a date when a speed recorder would be placed on Old Stockbridge (Danebury) Road. (3) Clerk had reported to HCC the knocked 30 limit signs by Test View Cottage and Southside Cottages. (4) Chairman had had agreement from the owners of Long Barn to remove wooden posts in their verge and replace with flat wood 'rounds', which was achieved for a short time but now the posts had reappeared. Clerk would write to the owners putting the request formally on paper. (5) Councillors remembered that the drain outfall by the Bunny bench was going to be dug out, which DB was going to arrange. (6) "20 is Plenty" signs - after clerk's investigation of options, councillors agreed to buy one 12-pack of 'wheelie bin' stickers.

ACTION: Chairman, Cllr Burnfield, Clerk

b. **Lengthsman.** In August he had strimmed round the Bunny bench and cleared vegetation round finger posts on paths 3, 5 and 11. September tasks would include clearing vegetation round roadside warning and speed limit signs to ensure all were visible and again strimming at the Bunny bench. CG said that finger posts needed replacing on paths 3 and 7, which clerk would include in Lengthsman's October's tasks.

ACTION: Clerk

4. **Planning Applications.** **Barn Cottage** (provide tennis court) – PC no objection. **Test Lodge** (form courtyard and two-storey rear extension) – PC support. **Carbery House** (replace roof tiles – listed building application) – PC no objection. **Old Cart Shed** (convert to create separate dwelling). CM declared an interest and, having given the owners' (John Lewis) perspective, left the meeting. The meeting heard from immediate neighbours and noted their objections as well as those e-mailed from other neighbours, but reached no decision. (PMN: Following a site meeting on Thursday 13th September, councillors agreed unanimously to support the application).

5. **Finance.** (a) Councillors agreed the insurance renewal terms due 1st October and the premium of £1007.81, which reflected 4% index linking. Clerk said the Long Term Undertaking had another two years to run. Chairman asked whether benches in the cemetery, all of which had been given in memory of individuals, were covered. Clerk confirmed that insurance of ‘street furniture’ included benches by the war memorial, on The Bunny, Salisbury Hill and in the cemetery. He also said that cemetery regulations made donors responsible for the condition and maintenance of benches. That, and the requirement to gain approval of the parish council to install a bench, needed to be emphasised to donors. (b) Henry Smith grant year had only three weeks to run and councillors needed to identify eligible recipients urgently. The Charity Commission had laid down new diligence requirements that involved a detailed questionnaire on our ‘governance’ and how we distributed Henry Smith grant money, to be coupled with a visit later this year by consultants.

ACTION: All, Clerk

6. **Councillors’ Reports.**

a. Affordable Housing. (DB). NTR.

b. Allotments, Cemetery, Trees. (IG). NTR. The tree growing through the hedge in the SE corner of the cemetery had been removed.

c. Footpaths and Transport. (CG). HCC had cut paths 1, 3, 6 and 12. Their responsibility was the ground, not side vegetation on paths; CG would speak with the landowner of path 6 about cutting back the sides.

ACTION: Cllr Grieve

d. Test Valley School. (RG). Good GCSE results were reported. Re-cladding work on the ROSLA block had finished.

e. Environment. (JM). JM noted that Stockbridge PC was objecting to plans to build on the ‘recycling’ site on the northern approach to the village.

f. Village Hall and Street Lights. (SM). (1) Hall - NTR. (2) Lighting – having established that HALC was not aware of other parish councils not in the HCC maintenance scheme sharing our experiences, SM handed out details including cost of the two types of light, modern and ‘Windsor Strand’, preferred by councillors. It was agreed to engage Utili-Light to install the latter type (four at £1,145 each) in the centre of the village from Rosedale to St Catherine’s Cottage, and a modern replacement of the one outside 3 Roman Road that was showing signs of wear. SM said there was a disconnection charge on each column, but no charge for traffic control during works. Other lights would be replaced over time, with ‘innards’ retained as working spares for as long as any of the current SOX type remained. Sponsorship of lights was suggested as a way to defray costs.

ACTION: Cllr Musters

g. Playground and Website. (SW). The damaged hut on the recreation ground had been removed. The rope barrier, reported missing, had been found in the trees at the rec and needed to be returned to its proper place as soon as possible.

h. Leckford Estate. (CM). CM again referred to ‘excessive’ water consumption, with the period April – August 2018 showing a 75% increase over the same period in 2017. The hosepipe ban remained in force. The harvest was all in by the end of August and was of excellent quality, if slightly reduced yield. On provision of sites for social housing, he said there were signs of encouraging progress.

7. **County Councillor.** Two key points only: HCC was still some £70 million short of its savings target of £140 million; and he named three potential successors to our two Borough Councillors under the new ward structure for Mid-Test Valley.

8. **Newsletter.** Following retirement of the editor, there seemed to be no future in joining the Benefice Magazine, since an annual sub of £8 would cost the parish council £1,600 a year with no obvious way of generating income through advertising. Chairman said that Tim Nedas was willing to keep the pot boiling by producing one issue, but he would be expecting others to pick up the ball after that. The Newsletter’s future would demand close interest from parish councillors.

ACTION: All

9. **Remembrance Sunday.** CG said that The Peat Spade would again offer coffee and cake following the Service, and a curry lunch for limited numbers. It was hoped that Lance Bombardier Daisy Burnfield would once more lay the wreath, that a piper could be engaged to play a lament and that Tim Nedas would provide taped music. Councillors agreed a suggestion to mark the centenary by hanging a poppy arrangement on each lamp-post in the village, each with the name of one of those killed in WW1, to commemorate our 13 men who died.

ACTION: Cllrs Burnfield and Grieve, Clerk

10. **Correspondence.** In addition to regular e-updates from HALC we had heard from: (a) SSE with details of the new street lights maintenance contract from 1st August; (b) HALC re Rural Affordable Housing Conference 6th November – heads up passed to all; (c) Complaint from a visiting rambler about ‘beware of the bull’ sign on path 3 when no bull was present, passed to DB and CG; (d) Hampshire Constabulary District Commissioner for Test Valley re PCSO staffing levels (current 33% shortfall); (e) PCSO with Community Priorities survey, passed to all 30th July for individual completion.

11. **Any Other Business/public comment.** (a) CG complimented Leckford Estate for their work cutting the recreation ground for the fête. (b) Chairman had reminded Stockbridge PC that we did not want ‘village gates’ on this side of the river.

12. **Date of Next Meeting.** Monday 8th October at 1930.

Cheques Signed:

071	Bulpitt Print Ltd	Newsletter printing	£ 172.00
072	IR Gibson	Grass cutting (2 nd qtr)	£ 500.00
073	Came & Co	Annual insurance premium	£ 1007.81

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2135.