

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2011

A MEETING OF LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL was held on Monday 21 February 2011, at 8p.m. at Longney School

PRESENT: Cllrs. Chamberlayne, Dempster, Finzi, Godwin, and Williams; County Cllr. Blackburn, District Cllr. Littleton, and two residents

APOLOGIES: P.C. Mackie

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA: None

POLICE REPORT: A report received by e-mail from PC Mackie was circulated. It included a review of crime in the Parish in 2010, showing one reported crime, a non-dwelling burglary. It had been concluded that no action was necessary with the parking problem which had been taken up with the Police. It was stated there were no reported incidents with the Gloucester Marathon in 2011. It was also stated that Police Information Points had been held in Longney once a month in 2010, on Saturday mornings between 10am. and 12 noon, but that no-one had attended, the reason for which was that no-one knew this was taking place. Councillors discussed policing in general and suggested that as Longney and Epney is very undemanding due to the low crime rate, there is probably a policy to give the Parish low priority. This and recent events leave them with no confidence in policing of the Parish. Cllr. Godwin will make an appointment to speak with Inspector Neil Smith at Quedgeley Police Station. An e-mail request will be sent to residents on the information register, and a request will be made in the next newsletter for responses regarding the marathon held through the Parish on 23 January 2011. If there are no complaints, no further action will be taken, but Councillors agreed that it is a pity that many residents are driven out of the Parish for a day when marathons take place so that they are neither abused or inconvenienced. It was noted that PC Mackie had been personally inconvenienced by having to police the event

THE MINUTES of the Meeting of Monday 15 November 2010 were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting

MATTERS ARISING:

NOTICE BOARD IN EPNEY: A notice board is in the process of being made

HIGHWAYS WINTER MAINTENANCE: A supply of salt to be stored in the Parish for use on the roads in bad weather was requested but none was available at the time. It was suggested that an early request should be made for next winter

PLANNING: New planning applications had been circulated for: change of use of orchard to domestic garden, including the erection of a carport, and change of use of part of the land to equestrian including the erection of two stables and a tack room at Castle End Farm, Longney; and for a new dwelling on land adjacent to Bellamy House, Longney. Planning permission had been granted for construction of a new swimming pool and terracing plus a single storey changing block at Waterend House, Longney; and for a proposed dwelling on land adjacent to Bellamy House, Longney. It was reported that it had not been expedient for SDC to carry out enforcement on the new driveway on land opposite Highgate House, Epney, but was suggested that a close watch should be made on any further development. An e-mail had been received from a resident with regard to lack of enforcement with the new driveway to the Grain Store, Epney, suggesting a loss of credibility of the Parish Council and Stroud District Council for not taking action. Cllr. Dempster will reply on behalf of the Parish Council, as the original communication was sent to him

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Councillor Blackburn reported on proposed restructuring at Gloucestershire County Council in order to achieve saving of £115M over the next four years. There will be a reduction in staff, and the number of County Councillors will be reduced to 53. There will be restrictions on highway repairs but priority will be given to repairing potholes. Having received Cllr. Blackburn's report, two areas within the Parish in need of attention to the road surface were highlighted: Waterend Lane, Longney, and in Epney the road from Epney Cross to the Anchor

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Littleton reported that there had been no complaints about the new scheme of delegation, which appeared to be working well. SDC received one of the lowest rates of Government funding. Staff reductions will be made through non-replacement of leavers. A further reduction of 45 staff is needed. £50,000 is still allocated to capital schemes, but there will be cuts in regeneration. Energy efficiency schemes are still in existence. Further reductions in spending are likely to be made next year

CORRESPONDENCE:

SDC - PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION and DELEGATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED BY DCC: Both of these meetings were held in the afternoon, making it unlikely that many could attend

GLOUCESTERSHIRE DRAMA ASSOCIATION - ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL 2011: Agreed that this should be recorded on the list of requests for funding received by the Parish Council

SDC - PLANNING PRESENTATION: This was out of date, too little notice having been given

GAPTC - LOCALISM BILL: Councillors questioned whether this is relevant to a small Parish

GCC - YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES CHANGE: Councillors questioned what they could possibly do about this

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY - FLOOD WARNINGS DIRECT: All residents should be made aware that this service is available

MARATHON ROAD RACE: Dealt with under Police report

GAPTC - BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY NOMINATIONS: Proposed that Cllr. Godwin, as Chairman, should be nominated

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY - MANAGING FLOOD RISK IN THE SEVERN ESTUARY: Questionnaires need completion. A meeting organised by the NFU will be held on Monday 21 March at Tewkesbury

FRIENDS OF LONGNEY SCHOOL - REQUESTS TO USE THE MAZE: Councillors agreed to the Maze being used for a Pet Show on 20 May, a School Fête on 18 June, an Annual Firework and Bonfire Party on 5 November, and for a retirement/leaving party for Headmistress, Barbara Taylor on 17 July

CALICO UK - WEBSITE INVOICE: Councillors agreed to a cheque value £57.60 being written

PENNY FERNANDO, STROUD RAMBLERS - FOOTPATH PROBLEMS: Parish Council Footpath Officers will speak to the landowners involved to make the footpaths accessible

FREQUENCY OF FUTURE MEETINGS: Discussed and agreed that future meetings should if possible be held bi-monthly, in January, March, May (annual), July, September and November

VILLAGE PLAN:

a) **GARDEN GROUP:** £20 had been handed to the Clerk for banking for recent use of the garden equipment. Only one resident took up the offer to have Christmas trees shredded, and at the time it was then found that the blades of the shredder needed maintenance, which would best be done professionally due to the difficulty of access to the blades. The cost of having this work done needs to be considered in relation to hiring charges

b) **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:** Dealt with under County Councillor's report

c) **EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM:** No further information

d) **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT:** This should have been circulated, but had not been received by all Councillors. If considered suitable for circulation to residents, this will be actioned by e-mail where possible. A leaflet will be distributed from 28 February to inform residents

that this is available for their consideration

e) WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER UPDATES: No further information

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

SEVERN VOICE MEETING: A meeting, hosted by Longney and Epney Parish Council, will take place on Tuesday 22 February at which the main item on the agenda will be the Environment Agency proposals for the Lower Severn Estuary

ROYAL WEDDING: A party to be held at Yew Tree Farm Barn is being organised by church members to celebrate the Royal wedding on 29 April

FLOODING: Mrs. Bullock reported that the Hardwicke road is subject to frequent flooding near Hooper's Cottage due to the ditch overflowing, and this has caused ice to form on the road at times. Cllr. Godwin will investigate

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: The Clerk asked how long planning applications should be kept, as he has all the applications since he became Clerk in 1995, and would like advice as to whether any may be disposed of

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8p.m. on Monday 14 March 2011 at Longney School.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.45p.m.