

LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2009

A MEETING OF LONGNEY AND EPNEY PARISH COUNCIL was held on Monday 16 November 2009, at 7.30p.m. at Longney School

PRESENT: Cllrs. Chamberlayne, Dempster, Finzi, Godwin, and Williams; District Cllrs. Littleton and Tomlins; P.C. Mackie; Rosie Woolley from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and three residents

APOLOGIES: County Councillor Blackburn, Mrs. M. Bullock

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA: None

ROSIE WOOLLEY COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST spoke on enhancing biodiversity in Longney and Epney. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has created several of its own wildlife sites in the County, by targeting farmers and landowners to manage their land through stewardship schemes to create priority habitats and wetland schemes. The aim of the current initiative is to work with communities living in the Severn Vale on a "Nature on your doorstep" project, to create a database of what species/habitats exist and to enhance these through a biodiversity action plan which can be included in a Parish Plan. Projects aimed at improving habitats can involve looking at orchards, marking ancient trees, and creating tree preservation orders. Sources of funding are available for community groups and help is available with making an application for funding. The garden group is already considering a project to improve old orchards, by mapping existing orchards and listing what needs doing. Grants for immediate and ongoing costs need to be considered. The possibility of obtaining grants will be investigated by Rosie Woolley who will liaise with the Garden group through Cllr. Finzi. The village design statement will include the preservation of trees/orchards. The Chairman thanked Ms. Woolley for her helpful presentation

POLICE REPORT: P.C. Mackie reported that there had been 70 reported incidents in Quedgeley, 30 in Hardwicke and none in Longney and Epney in the past month. He would appreciate any calls about burned-out cars. Cllr. Godwin suggested that feedback to the Parish would encourage future reporting of incidents. PCSO Anna Wright is now the liaison officer to Longney School. P.C. Mackie apologised for not inviting representatives of Longney and Epney Parish Council to a meeting with Gloucester Athletic Club which was held in 26 October 2009. He will attend future race meetings and will stop runners who disobey rules which are given during the pre-race meeting. In the past the organisers have been unable to monitor the numbers attending some meetings. P.C. Mackie will investigate any law which might prevent races of such high numbers attending from taking place, and check on risk assessment, the probability of risk in health and safety, and inconvenience to residents, and will involve Stroud District Council Community Safety Officer Phil Sullivan. If runners would keep to the promises which the organisers make, there should be no objection to

events being held. Councillors agreed that it is not their responsibility to monitor these events. The Stonehouse P.C. with responsibility for Epney is Kelly Aker. The Chairman thanked P.C. Mackie for the time he has taken on behalf of the Parish Council in dealing with the matter of the road races

THE MINUTES of the Meeting of 27 October 2009 were agreed and signed as a true record of the Meeting

MATTERS ARISING:

TREES IN CASTLE LANE: Cllr. Godwin had been in communication with Leyhill Prison about obtaining help with pruning the trees which will cost £125 and require no additional voluntary help. Using Stroud Valleys Project would cost £100 and require a lot of voluntary help. Councillors agreed that the work should be arranged to be done in January by Leyhill Prisoners. Moreton Valence Parish Meeting should be asked to contribute to the cost

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE: No reply had been received to the letter sent concerning the location of properties in the Parish. Mr. Barnes had suggested that the emergency services need signs visible from the road showing the names of properties

LITTER PICKING: This is being done infrequently by too few people and more volunteers are needed. A request should be made in a newsletter. An organised litter picking event is not thought to be of particular value

CORRESPONDENCE:

SDC - ESTIMATED ELECTION PRECEPT: This is now expected to be in excess of £1000, and needs to be considered in the precept being set

SDC - UPDATE OF REFUSE AND RECYCLING ASSISTED COLLECTION LIST: This was received too late for any action to be taken

GCC - EIGHTH ANNUAL HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SEMINAR: The agenda for a meeting due to take place on 17 November 2009 was brought to the attention of Councillors

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT: Noted that the Parish had been patrolled

FRAMPTON ON SEVERN PC - SEVERN VOICE INVOICE: Councillors agreed to payment of £7.00 for a share of the cost of the meeting held in April 2009

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Councillor Littleton recommended that a close watch should be kept on the matter of entry into the local school, suggesting that children of Longney, Epney and Elmore should have priority of entry into Longney School. With local primary schools being full, additional pressure will be caused by any new (affordable?) housing. A

consultation is taking place under the Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Review on vulnerability from the tide on the land between Weston Super Mare and Haw Bridge. There has been a strengthening of the flood defence since 1999, but no increase in height. There is a possibility of intervention if the flood barrier is breached, but productive land is in need of protection. Cllr. Littleton will lend a large document to the Parish Council for Councillors to read and give their views

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: Cllr. Blackburn was unable to attend the meeting therefore no report was given

AGENDA ITEMS:

PRECEPT 2010/2011: Discussed and agreed that the precept for 2010/2011 should be £3950 - clerk's fee and expenses £2500; Audit £150; Insurance £250; GAPTC Sub. £60; Playing field rent £50; Election £253; Newsletter delivery £80; Computer replacement £200; Wireless connection £215; Miscellaneous £192

VILLAGE PLAN:

- a) **GARDEN SCHEME:** No further information
- b) **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE:** More patching is required, some of which is due to be done before Christmas
- c) **EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM:** No further information
- d) **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT:** The draft will be e-mailed to Parish Councillors for comment
- e) **LISTING OF THE VILLAGE POUND:** Smith's Charities are considering this request
- f) **DONKEY POOL:** SDC have funding available

PLANNING: There had been no new planning applications or permissions or refusals

OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

PUB CLUB: With fewer people attending, it was reported that more might attend if meetings were not held in a pub

GCC INCINERATOR: Notification was given that any response to the consultation should be made by 30 November 2009

GLOUCESTER CITIZEN: A request had been received for agendas/minutes of Parish Council meetings to be e-mailed to the Citizen for possible publication of interesting matters. Councillors suggested that they should be obtained from the Parish Council Website

SDC ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PANEL MEETING: The agenda for a meeting on 18 November 2009 had been received too late for circulation and was brought to the notice of Councillors

PLAYING FIELD: An enquiry had been received about the use of the playing field by organisations from outside the parish. Use of the playing field is only with agreement of and with permission from the Parish Council for individual events

TWINNING OF THE RAIL LINE FROM KEMBLE TO SWINDON: It was recommended that the Parish Council should support the proposal for work on this line as it is used by residents and would therefore benefit the Parish

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION 2010: The Chairman asked Councillors to inform him of their non/intention to stand for election in 2010 within two months

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next Meeting of Longney and Epney Parish Council will take place at 8.00p.m. on Monday 18 January 2010 at Longney School

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.45p.m.