



Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners for the parishes of Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast held on Friday, 29 April 2022 at Longdon Village Hall

Present: Chair Cllr Austin, Vice -Chair Cllr Mullins, Cllr Cook, Cllr Gray, Cllr Unwin

In Attendance: Mark Ball, Neil Faram (co-opted PC members); ~25 parishioners

- 1. Report from the Chairman of the Council:** Cllr Austin outlined that this was the first social annual meeting of parishioners that had been held. If successful, the Parish Council (PC) will continue to hold them. All Councillors introduced themselves.

Cllr Austin then outlined the background to the creation of Parish Councils and their role. All Cllrs are volunteers. The PC is currently without a Clerk, who is the only paid official, and has a number of vacancies. All meetings are open to the public. Items considered by the PC since the last Annual Meeting have included:

- Defibrillator – had been installed at the Village Hall. Volunteers would be sought to assist the ambulance service in the event of an emergency. Training in defibrillator use and CPR¹ was currently being sourced (jointly with Castlemorton PC) and would be advertised via the WhatsApp groups once finalised;
- Residents' issues – had been discussed, including the provision of additional play equipment on the Village Green and the provision of additional grit bins during winter;
- Footpath Warden - Debbie Gray had volunteered as Footpath Warden and parishioners should contact her with any issues that require resolution (by WCC). It was planned to invite her to a future PC meeting to give an overview of her role and how the PC might help her;
- Flooding issues in Buckbury - had been notified to WCC and were believed to have been alleviated;
- PC website – a plan to establish a community site was currently suspended due to lack of resource. Any parishioners who had expertise or who would be interested in getting involved should contact the PC;
- Mobile phone - had been purchased by the PC as the main contact point for PC matters and enquiries. Due to the Clerk vacancy, this was not yet active;
- Phone box - had been purchased and repurposed as a book exchange. While the PC had provided funds and resources to renovate it, parishioners were encouraged to take responsibility for keeping it tidy;
- Vehicle Speeds in Longdon – following residents' concerns, the PC had purchased two VAS² to survey traffic through Longdon and Buckbury over a six month period. The final report using data obtained from the VAS was available from the [WCC website](#). The survey showed that traffic passing through Longdon was found to fall within the standard required for

¹ Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

² Vehicle Activated Signs



compliance with the speed limit (the standard applied by the police to determine whether to bring a prosecution). Nonetheless, the PC would consider measures to slow the traffic through Longdon village centre. Further investigation of traffic speeds (using VAS) in Buckbury and Yardbridge would be conducted;

- i. Platinum Jubilee – the PC was to provide financial assistance to parishioners organising a picnic even on the Village Green on 5 June;
 - j. Planning Applications – the PC is notified of all planning applications within the parishes of Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast;
 - k. Community engagement – the PC publicises its agendas and minutes plus major reports on the WCC website and circulates them via the Longdon and Queenhill/Holdfast WhatsApp groups;
 - l. Working Parties – the PC sets up Working Parties where appropriate to report on specific issues and welcomes involvement from interested parishioners;
 - m. Village Hall and Green – the PC acts as the Sole Trustee for the VH and village green but is not responsible for the day-to-day running of the hall. Volunteers are urgently required to assist in the running of the village hall on a day-to-day basis.
- 2. Report from the District Councillor:** Apologies were received from the District Councillor, Cllr Behan, and an update was read out on her behalf. Cllr Behan thanked both PCs and individuals who had generously helped friends and neighbours through the Covid pandemic. There was to be a Parish and Town Councillor conference on 17 May to discuss ‘Asset Based Community Development’ (what is strong and not what is wrong in our communities). Changes to the planning application process were outlined. The timetable for the publication of the revised SWDP³ had been further delayed to allow more time to finalise the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The PC would receive further updates on this, once available.
- 3. Open Session:** This time was open for any parishioners to raise any matters of interest or concern. A number of issues were raised:
- a. Boundary Commission – the PC had submitted a formal response to the Boundary Commission’s proposals for changes to the boundaries of the Longdon Ward of the MHDC⁴. This had been circulated via the WhatsApp groups;
 - b. Footways – a number of suggestions were made to improve footways within Longdon village. These included investigating whether certain routes were public rights of way and how telegraph poles current blocking potential routes might be moved. Other issues included exploring permissive access to land on the southern approach to Longdon where there was currently no footpath;

³ South Worcestershire Development Plan

⁴ Malvern Hills District Council



c. Traffic issues:

- i. it would be difficult to narrow the B4211 to reduce traffic speed due to the number of agricultural vehicles using the road and the fact that, although a “B road”, it was an arterial route to/from Gloucester;
- ii. the introduction of chicanes would be prohibited due to the lack of sufficient sight lines and street lighting;
- iii. community groups could be trained to use ‘speed guns’ but this took time and was not a quick solution;
- iv. the Upton Safer Neighbourhood Team (police) would be invited to a future PC meeting. Parishioners were welcome to attend to hear from the Team;
- v. the siting of gates to designate speed limits had been demonstrated to have a mitigating effect on slowing traffic, as had ‘rumble strips’. The PC would explore the installation of these;
- vi. the PC would explore the siting for a mirror opposite the Corner House to help pedestrians and explore whether the area covered by the speed limits on the approach to Longdon (both 30 mph and 40 mph) could be extended;
- vii. many of the issues discussed were the responsibility of Worcestershire Highways. The PC would continue to work with them to seek improvements;
- viii. the PC was very keen to improve the safety of all road users (vehicles and pedestrians); it was important to note that all improvements would be budget dependent.

Light refreshments were served. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed:
Chairman, Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast Parish Council

Date: