



Minutes are draft until approved at
the following meeting

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast Parish Council held on Monday 3 October 2022 at Longdon Village Hall

Present: Chair Cllr Mullins, Vice-Chair Cllr Gray, Cllr Cook, Cllr Davey

County Councillor: Cllr Wells

District Councillor: Cllr Behan (agenda item 7)

In Attendance: Bill Austin, Dave Mullins

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Faram.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of interest were made.
3. **Consideration of any dispensation requests:** There were no dispensation requests.
4. **Public Session:** The members of the public did not wish to make any representation.
5. **Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 5 September 2022 were considered and unanimously approved as a correct record.
6. **Progress Reports:**
 - a) **Bear Lane Play Equipment Safety Inspection:** The update would be considered at the next meeting. Cllr Unwin was booked to attend RoSPA safety training on 20 October;
 - b) **Lengthsman Scheme:** Cllr Mullins to discuss with Cllr Unwin;
 - c) **Clerk Vacancy:** Modifications to the job specification and advert had been incorporated and they were ready to be circulated. Cllr Wells offered to publicise this opportunity to local Parish Council Clerks. The Chair expressed the Council's appreciation for this;
 - d) **Community Website:** Discussions had been held with a potentially interested web designer. If this was not pursued by the designer, the opportunity to be circulated via the local WhatsApp Groups and Parish Magazine. The latter was to cease at the end of 2022. The Chair would initiate informal discussions with Castlemorton Parish Council and St Gregory's Church (Castlemorton) as these had been discussing alternative publications;



- e) **Upton Shuttle Community Bus:** This had been relaunched, but the route selected did not come through the Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast parishes. The Chair would keep in touch with the organisers;
- f) **Worcestershire Highways Winter Scheme:** If winter grit supplies were required, these needed to be ordered by 14 October. The requirement would be checked with Cllr Unwin. Any requirement to purchase additional grit bins would be considered as part of Precept discussions;
- g) **Worcestershire County Council Lighting Assets:** An audit of 'lighting assets' was being conducted by Worcestershire County Council (WCC). The Vice-Chair agreed to liaise with WCC on this;
- h) **Traffic:** New solar panels had been purchased (from within the present budget provision) to power the existing Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). The Highways Liaison Officer would be invited to visit Longdon to view the roadway layout and it was agreed that, in the absence of a Clerk, Cllr Davy and Cllr Cook would liaise with Worcestershire Highways on this.

7. Report from District and County Councillors: Cllr Behan reported:

- a) The Boundary Review of Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) wards had been completed. A consultation on MHDC polling stations was open until 25 October;
- b) The South Worcestershire Development Plan had been formulated by the three councils and was open for consultation. It introduced new strategies for sites including climate change, sustainable construction and areas for informal recreation. Strategic sites for the period until 2041 were identified;
- c) Active travel was being considered to link up with energy saving. In planning considerations, a Habitat Regulations Assessment regarding native woodland and hedgerow and a Health Assessment Impact assessing open space provision were being introduced.

Cllr Wells reported:

- d) Next year's budget for WCC was likely to be challenging, given the significant increases in costs and the scale of provision of 'demand led' services;
- e) Cost increases could also affect the budgets for Parish Councils.

8. Planning Applications: Two applications had been received; comments would be sought from Councillors by e-mail.



9. Finance:

- a) **Updates from NALC and CALC:** Due to time constraints, no updates were given;
- b) **Financial Position on 30 September 2022:** The second instalment of the precept for the 2021/22 year had been received from MHDC. All invoices approved at previous meetings had now been paid (some had awaited bank account details). Electricity costs for the single streetlight in the Badhams had increased to ~£1200 p.a. against a projected budget of £220 and would be investigated further during the Precept discussions. Council noted the quarterly reconciliation for the second quarter of 2022. Council unanimously approved the report on the financial position on 30 September 2022;
- c) **Payment of Fees and Invoices Presented:** Subject to the discussion flagged in agenda item 6b), the Council unanimously approved the payment of fees and invoices as presented;
- d) **Preparation of 2023/24 Precept:** This would be developed through a Council Working Party in December.

10. Future Meeting Schedule: Councillors were invited to propose items for the next or subsequent meetings. Items suggested included the Upton Safer Neighbourhood Team, pathways/footways, initial precept discussions and VAS units. The date of the next ordinary meeting of Council was confirmed as Monday, 7 November 2022. The dates of upcoming meetings were:

No Meeting in December 2022
9 January 2023

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed:
Chairman, Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast Parish Council

Date: