

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast Parish Council Held on Monday 7 February 2022 at Longdon Parish Hall.

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

District Councillor: Bronwen Behan

In Attendance: K Swindells (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence. The Chair informed the Council that Cllr Thatcher had resigned and that there are now four vacancies for councillors.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** A declaration of interest was made the by Chair Cllr Austin relating to Agenda item 11 (a) Planning Matters.
3. **Public Session:** No members of the public were present.
4. **Minutes:** To consider for adoption the minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 January 2022. It was agreed unanimously to accept the draft minutes as a correct record.
5. **Progress Reports:**
 - a) Worcestershire County Council has notified the Parish Council about their request for a new footway. Cllrs were informed the land in question between Corner House and Bear Lane is not highway owned therefore they cannot build on this land. District Councillor Behan acknowledged this issue had been explored previously with the same outcome.
 - b) **Lengthsman Scheme:** The Parish Council is still waiting for written confirmation from WCC for the amount of yearly allowance it will receive under the Lengthsman Scheme.
 - c) **Playground interim inspections:** It was agreed to consider this item together with item 9 on the agenda.
6. **District/County Councillor Reports:** District Councillor Behan drew attention to the Boundary Commission review of Ward boundaries for the purpose of electing a local Councillor and representing the electors of that Ward on Malvern Hills District Council. The current proposal would result in a reduction of District Councillors from 38 to 31 plus changes in the current Ward boundaries. Under the current proposals Queenhill and Holdfast Parish Councils would be moved from Longdon Ward into Ripple Ward while Longdon Ward would include Castlemorton and Birtsmorton. These arrangements would make no difference to the present Parish Council structure for the District Councillor. Councillor Behan highlighted possible problems relating to both Longdon and Ripple being notified of planning applications affecting properties covered by



both Wards in addition to parishioners being confused over who to contact when they have an issue concerning the District Council.

Councillors fully appreciated the difficulties and confusion which would be caused by the proposed alterations and agreed to consider the situation and make the Parish Council's views known to the Boundary Commission.

Residents may submit their views until 21 March 2022. The Boundary changes will be published on 5 July 2022. More information can be found on www.malvern hills.gov.uk/ under public notices and consultations.

7. Finance:

- a) The Council received and approved a report on the financial position 31 January 2022.
- b) To consider payment of fees and invoices presented. Agreed unanimously.
- c) The Parish Council is obtaining more information before appointing an auditor for the 2021/22 accounts.
- d) District Councillor Behan reported there will be a Council Tax rebate for a householder's primary residence in Council tax bands A to D as a one-off payment of £150.00.
- e) Cllr Mullins and Cllr Gray were nominated as bank signatories. Agreed unanimously.

8. Finance Additional item: The Council was advised that since January this year there had been a significant increase in the charge for electricity in respect of two streetlights provided by the Council. The increase was entirely due to the introduction of a daily Standing Charge which had not been levied on the Parish Council before January 2022. Further enquiries are being made and an explanation sought from SSE.

9. Playground Safety Inspections: The Council considered the advisability of instituting inspections of the play equipment on the Village Green. Councillor Unwin agreed to undertake the responsibility for routine inspections every three months and to undertake the appropriate training. This was approved unanimously.

10. Playground Equipment: Currently there is no play equipment on the Village Green specifically for children under 5 years of age. Cllrs have obtained information and are looking into the options available for equipment suitable for this age group. The Council noted that there is no budget provision for play equipment in the current year nor in the approved budget for next year.



11. Planning Matters: The Chair declared a disclosable interest and withdrew from the meeting for this agenda item. The Vice Chair chaired the item.

- a) **Planning Application 21/02127/HP 6 Orchard Ridge, Longdon, GL20 6AY**
The Parish Council noted the concerns of neighbouring properties regarding loss of privacy with excessive overlooking, particularly due to the elevated nature and size of the proposed balcony. The Parish Council also noted that, due to the higher elevation of properties on Orchard Ridge compared to Marsh Lane, the proposed balcony would also result in a loss of privacy for properties on the lower extent of Marsh Lane (Field End Cottage, The Laurels and Gander Leys).

After consideration of Item 11 a) the Chair returned and conducted the rest of the meeting.

- b) **Submission of Further Information in respect of the Environmental Statement relating to the following planning application (Regulation 25) - Proposed Quarry at Bow Farm**
Application Ref: 19/000048/CM **Grid Ref:** (E) 387437, (N) 236795.

The Parish Council had previously objected to the original planning application in January 2020. The Parish Council made no further comment.

- 12. Future meeting schedule:** The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as:
7 March 2022.
Upcoming Meetings:
4 April 2022.
9 May 2022 AGM. (Annual Council Meeting)

13. The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed:
Chairman, Longdon, Queenhill and Holdfast Parish Council

Date: