

# LONG COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 by Zoom

**Present:** Councillors Bill Cook (Chair), Lindsay Forbes, Simon Bing, Harry Dodds and Linny King  
County Councillor Jo Barker, District Councillor Sarah Whalley-Hoggins and 4 members of the public.

Councillor Janet Blackwell took the minutes

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:** None declared
3. **To approve the Minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.**  
Councillor Blackwell reminded Councillors of the amendment to the Planning on 21<sup>st</sup> December meeting. Proposed Councillor Forbes, seconded Councillor Dodds. Motion carried.
4. **Public Forum:** Geoff Smith from SAFAG was present and offered to talk about the interventions that have taken place in Long Compton and what they hope to achieve going forward. Funding from now on is likely to be linked to Environmental aims. There had been some concerns about the leaky dams already installed following the floods before Christmas and Geoff Smith sought to allay these. It was also suggested that more needs to be done to curb the flow in the Shawnbrook as this is what causes the most problems in Long Compton. The possibility of a pond in the orchard by the Chronolog was raised but as this land is owned by WCC there could be difficulties here. The last set of work to be carried out is on the land at Ashby Farm. A whole farm survey has been carried out and the proposals will be put forward to the new owner shortly. Councillor Forbes reported continued messages by phone and email to Mark Banning from WCC Flood have got no response at all.

Sally Franklin raised the subject of the new railings, stating that it was making egress from East Street difficult as the height of them was restricting the view.

The Chair stated that Elaine Hobday had been in touch offering to help with access to the emergency box at the Church. It was thought that the access number to this should be widely available for access when needed.

### 5. Reports from County and District Councillors

Councillor Barker reported the good news that the Oxford vaccine is now available in Warwickshire. Lateral flow testing is now available at Stratford on Avon. The subject of Old Hill and the speed of traffic as well as the ongoing problem of quarry lorries using the road and as evidenced by Councillor Bing very early in the morning. Councillor Bing also confirmed the speed of vehicles he has experienced as he regularly uses this road to and from work. Both Michael Rogers and Jeff Morris from County Highways have been contacted on numerous occasions and no response received. Councillor Barker undertook

to take personal responsibility for achieving some material improvement to the speed and volume of traffic on Old Hill.

Councillor Whalley-Hoggins reported that it was likely that a new lock-down was coming. SDC would be supporting businesses as before. Otherwise it was much business as usual. Councillors raised the issue of the difficulty in contacting anyone at Elizabeth House, particularly in planning. Councillor Whalley-Hoggins was sorry to hear of the difficulties, but stressed that the call handlers had worked very hard to deal with an increasing amount of calls and were generally doing very well in the circumstances. Both District and County Councillors agreed to report back concerns to SDC.

## **6. Planning**

### **Current Planning**

**20/03387/FUL** – Councillors were reminded that the comments for this had been amended in light of further information. The applicant was present and told the council that amended plans had now been sent to the District Council and the verge would be re-grassed.

### **New Planning**

20/02770/FUL                      Dropped kerb at 5 Shipston Road. Councillor Bing stated that this only required full planning permission as it exited onto a trunk road. Having ascertained that there were no difficulties with sight lines the Council agreed to make 'No representation'.

## **7. Finance**

### **a. Review of Financial Arrangements**

The Chair outlined the difficulties faced since the departure of the Clerk, however the situation had been resolved and the present position confirmed and agreed with the the Bank Statement.

There was a query on Flood money and this was resolved.

The Chair was concerned that a fairly large sum was still owed on land rentals and Councillor Bing will look into this to ascertain what was agreed by the Council in terms of staged payments by tenants and late payments will be chased.

The contribution to mowing costs from SDC is an automatic payment based on what it would have cost the District Council to mow in Long Compton.

### **b. To approve Budget Tracker and Bank Reconciliation**

Proposed Councillor Bing, seconded Councillor Forbes

### **c. To approve payments as listed**

Proposed Councillor Cook, seconded Councillor King

## **8. Other issues following the departure of the Clerk**

The subject of the Long Compton Charities was raised. At the moment it is believed that it consists of Sally Franklin, The Vicar, Margot Haine and Ann Brown. A member of the Parish council is also required. Apparently, Mrs Gilkes had been Clerking this, but it was thought this could not now continue.

The VAT return will need to be done and Councillor Bing will look into this along with looking at any tax anomalies with HMRC.

## 9. Training

Councillor Blackwell would look to attend the Stratford Area Committee and an item not listed was invitation to attend the Zoom meeting of the South Warwickshire Plan and Councillor Cook will attend that.

## 10. Village Issues

- a. **Flooding** – this has mainly been dealt with. It was noted that Sam Gibson has offered to help where necessary along with Andy Carpenter and Councillor Bing. It was noted that the flood signs we possess require some stands and Councillor Cook offered to contact Geoff Dewhirst who might be able to help with some stands.
- b. **The Villager Project** – the operator has been contacted but to date no response has been received.
- c. **Grass Cutting Contract** – a contractor has been contacted for further information but no response received.
- d. **Allotments** – The registration as a Community Asset has been received, however the Council is concerned as this is already a publicly owned asset.
- e. **2021 Census** – As it is hoped that this will mainly be carried out on line, Councils have been asked to publicise this as much as possible pointing residents in the right direction for help and information.
- f. **Repair of Play Equipment and agreement on next Inspection Company** – the next inspection company does not need to be agreed until the summer. Repairs will need to be looked at to be cost effective, as the current estimates are extremely high.
- g. **Website and Facebook page** – Councillor Dodds has been working on this and has successfully removed a lot of outdated data. Some things are quite easy to do, but others are proving more difficult. However it does seem to be a great deal better and Alison Gregory has been very helpful.

## 11. Urgent Information for Councillors and Items for the next Agenda.

The wall at the Hollows

Hollows – new building  
Responses to Advertisement  
Proposals for new Chair.