

LONG COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 1st February 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 3 members of the public.

Councillor Janet Blackwell took the minutes

- 1. Apologies:** None. The Council would, however, like to apologise to Councillor Bing for having to disturb him to do the zoom in the middle of his calving and to Helen Bing for keeping her husband from home for such a long time.
- 2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:** None declared
- 3. To approve the Minutes of 4th and 18th January 2021**
Proposed by Councillor Bing, seconded by Councillor Forbes and carried.
- 4. Public Forum**

Councillor Bing reported on an e-mail circulated from a company looking to reduce speeding. This is a subscription service, but a free on-line presentation is taking place 16th March – Councillor King volunteered to attend. It was also suggested that the Council contact Karen Stanley to confirm that everything they are offering we are legally able to do. Councillor Dodds raised an issue from other members of the public about inappropriate parking by people walking and exercising their dogs. This will be discussed fully at the March meeting.

Councillor Cook raised an issue from a resident about the defibrillators. Each has a number which now appears to be all but illegible. This was confirmed by Councillor Blackwell. Councillor Cook will take this up with the West Midlands Ambulance Service.
- 5. Reports from County and District Councillors**

Councillor Whalley-Hoggins had submitted a full report. One issue raised was the charge for green waste effective from 1st April this year. There is some concern that not enough people are aware of this much less the offer of a reduction of £5 for early payment. It was suggested that stickers on bins now would be a good idea to remind people.

The first public consultation regarding the South Warwickshire Plan took place and Councillor Cook attended and reported he was very disappointed with it in general. Two of the people giving the presentation were very junior and did not appear to be very well informed and the gentleman from Warwick had very little knowledge of the AONB – a vital tool in our box for planning. Nevertheless, it does look as if Neighbourhood Plans could well need serious revision or be considered out of date leaving us open to the will of developers. The question being how to time the revision so we comply with the new plan, but don't pre-empt it and its contents. Likewise is there likely to be any financial help for Councils to carry out this work. Councillor Blackwell reported that she and two other Councillors had already carried out an extensive review of the Village Design Statement and made a start on the Neighbourhood Plan. It was thought that the VDS could be amended with no more

than examination, but the NP was a different matter. Councillor Cook agreed to send a copy of his notes to both Councillor Whallery-Hoggins and Councillor Barker. Councillor Barker was again asked about reducing the traffic on Old Hill. Once again the lid of a sewer at the corner of the Hollows Lane has been dislodged. Councillor Barker will pass this on. One suggestion was to make Old Hill a 'No Through Road'. Councillor Barker reported that her budget was spent for the current financial year, but expected to have similar funds in the coming year. However the information has been fed into the system and gave the Council a contact – Scott Tomkins from County Highways to try and get some help. It also appears what could be a sink hole has appeared in the verge between the last property on the right going up hill and the allotments. Councillor Forbes reported this is quite deep.

The Fire Brigade did quite a bit of work during the last flooding and the Main Road remained clear this time. However, it still regularly overtops at Stepstones and Vicarage Lane has seen no improvement at all. Councillor Barker requested a sketch of where the problems lie and results of the drain survey that was carried out. This will also be sent to Scott Tomkins.

6. Planning

21/00010/TREE – The Old Cottage, College Lane – Yew Crown
Refer to Arboriculturist

7. Finance

- a. To approve the Budget Tracker and Bank Reconciliation

Councillor Cook went through the figures, the main concerns being the difference between the likely VAT reclaimable and the budgeted figure and the outstanding rents on the Parish Land.

Proposed by Councillor Bing, seconded by Councillor King and carried.

- b. To approve the payments as listed.

Proposed by Councillor Forbes, seconded by Councillor King and carried.

8. Employment

Two applications have been received and it was suggested and agreed that Councillors will hold a short informal meeting to decide on the format of the interviews and agree a date, after which both applicant will be invited to attend for interview.

9. To propose a new Chair to take post in March

Councillor Forbes proposed Councillor Bing, seconded by Councillor Dodds and all agreed. Councillor Bing accepted the proposal and proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Cook for his service over the last almost 6 years. Councillor Cook will also defer updating the Standing Orders and Finance Regulations until a new Clerk is in post.

10. To propose a Councillor to take the Villager Project Forward

Councillor Cook offered to take this on.

11. To consider a response to the Warwickshire Local Transport Consultation#

Councillor Blackwell offered to look at this.

12. Village Issues

- a. To consider grass cutting contract
Councillor Cook reported that one contractor had withdrawn. Councillor Forbes offered to contact another one and a formal decision will be made in March. Councillor Bing agreed to contact the remaining contractors and advise them of the revised timetable.
- b. To consider The Hollows building
Councillor Forbes reported that a very kind offer to erect the building has been received and this was welcomed. The colour decided must be submitted to SDC – Councillor Forbes and Councillor Blackwell will look at one already erected to judge which should be submitted. Councillor Bing will update the spreadsheet. If necessary and an Extraordinary meeting will be called to settle the matter.
- c. To consider the damaged wall at The Hollows
As this would appear to be on Highways land it was agreed to write to Mark Ryder of Warwickshire County Highways and ask them to attend to this. It was thought the pillar was not really in keeping, but if this is not to be re-erected it must be removed.
- d. To consider the 2021 census
Councillor Blackwell attend the Stratford Area Committee which had a presentation on this. There is plenty of publicity material available on Census.gov.uk. Concerns were raised about those residents without access to the internet and making sure they were catered for. Councillor Blackwell suggested perhaps widely publicising this on social media and Next Door would be beneficial in identifying those who may need help. Councillor Cook will raise this at the next Village Hall meeting and Councillor Dodds will put it on the website.
- e. To consider releasing some funds for the website
Several improvements have been suggested and it was suggested Councillor Dpdds be given leave to spend up to £350 from the Transparency grant without further reference to the Council. Proposed by Councillor Bing, seconded by Councillor Forbes and all agreed.

Urgent Information for Councillors and Items for the next Agenda

The issue of Taylor's allotments was raised and the proposal by the Long Compton Allotment Group to register this as a Community Asset. This will be discussed fully on the next Agenda with a response to SDC and a letter to the Chair of the group. Councillor Dodds will provide a draft to SDC and Councillor Blackwell a draft to the Chair of the group.

Delegated Powers to the Clerk for uncontentious tree applications.

Dark skies

