

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held On Tuesday 23rd May 2022 at 7.00pm at Longstanton Village Hall

Those present: Chairman Cllr delaMare-Lyon, Locum Clerk Ben Stoehr
9 Parishioners (including Councillors) plus District Cllr B Smith, S Kelly (Greater Cambridge Planning),
District Cllr S Cheung-Johnson, County Councillor F Thompson

The Parish Meeting may, by law discuss all parish affairs and pass resolutions about them. If parishioners were on the electoral role for Longstanton, they were invited to take part.

1. Introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited anyone interested in joining the Parish Council to put their name forward for co-option to fill the vacancies.

2. Apologies for Absence Received

Cllr A Brash-Hall, Cllr T Brash Hall and H Stroude (LHDS)

3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 4th May 2021

It was **proposed** by Cllr Ferreira and seconded by Cllr McPhater that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th May 2021 were approved and signed.

4. Annual Report from Longstanton Parish Council

Cllr Burns reported on the precept increase and the history of the precept rate. The precept had been lower over the past couple of years as the Parish Council had managed its reserves. There had been a significant reduction in the number of properties since the Community Governance Review which had to be made up again.

Cllr delaMare-Lyon presented on the Charities and provided an update on the sale of the Gravel Pit land to fund the new village facility. An anticipated timeline for the project was outlined and the expected future for the charities merging was reported. Residents will be invited to take part once the project has reached a suitable stage. A question about the ownership of the Rec was asked and the Chairman explained the history of the Recreation Ground Charity.

Cllr Burns reported on the Pavilion. It was hoped that the land transfer for the Rec extension should be completed within 6 months.

Cllr Ferreira reported on the Home Farm roads, sewers and lights. The Central Open Space has been formally transferred to the Parish Council, other open spaces within Home farm are in progress and the issues with the road, sewer and lighting adoption were explained.

A resident reported that Royal Mail have agreed to install a post box in Stevenson Road once it has been adopted.

A report on the Spice Museum was given. It was reported that it would be used as a defibrillator station.

A resident asked about the digital signage. It was reported that we are currently waiting delivery.

Cllr Wycherley reported on Hydrology. It was reported that SCDC are monitoring the HR Wallingford report and LPC and NTC have formed a joint working Group to take the issues forward. Cllr A Brash-Hall's interview with Radio Cambridge was noted. A potential root cause in H9 has been identified and is awaiting a survey.

District Cllr B Smith introduced herself as the Leader of SCDC. And introduced Stephen Kelly as Director of Planning for the Greater Cambridge Planning Service. They reported on the SCDC position and the actions that they have taken and are planning to take in the coming

weeks and months. It was reported that SCDC are pressuring L&Q to investigate the issues raised and they are being co-operative. Mr Kelly hopes to be able to provide a timeline on the investigations.

A resident stated that it is unacceptable for L&Q to do the investigation themselves and it should be independent.

Cllr B Smith stated it was appropriate that L&Q start the investigations and that SCDC will take over if not acceptable and that SCDC need to be mindful of the public expenditure.

Mr Kelly stated that SCDC would ensure independent review if they do not receive an acceptable response.

Cllr Wycherley reported on the Hatton Road Ponds and cycle path. It was noted that the land is in private ownership and there is no current right of way over it from Wilson's Road. The Village have expressed a desire to secure formal access. It was reported that phase 2 of the lakes has not been built correctly and is the cause of much of the hold up. The Parish Council are agreeable to taking on phase 3 but not the other phases.

A resident reported that the lakes were originally constructed as flood attenuation but do not appear to have capacity and that the brook does not have adequate flow due to the lakes retaining water.

Mr Kelly reported that SCDC have also asked for information from L&Q as they have concerns that the ponds have not been built to plan.

Cllr McPhater reported on the Heritage Building which is planned to hold a significant number of archaeological finds from the A14 works. The funding for the building is coming from Homes England and the A14 project. It is hoped to be operational by September.

Cllr Baker reported on the Parish Council's No Mow May project. The goal is to encourage bio-diversity in both public and private areas. The Parish Council are participating for the first time by not mowing specific areas where it is safe and practical to do so. Future years will be influenced by feedback received. The Parish Council is hoping to mark the Queen's Jubilee by planting a significant number of trees under the Queen's Green Canopy scheme. It is hoped planting would start in Autumn but would be subject to tree availability.

Cllr Chapman reported on the Central Open Space. It was reported that after many years of effort the land has finally been transferred to the Council. The Parish Council is looking at various options for the land including a play area and bio-diversity and ecological improvements.

Cllr delaMare-Lyon reported on the Clerk recruitment. The Parish Council is still looking to recruit a permanent clerk.

Cllr delaMare-Lyon reported on the Village Events. It was noted that the village wanted more events but that these take lots of time which the Council and Councillors simply do not have. The Parish Council have agreed to set up a village events group which would need volunteers to take forward.

Options for commercial events were discussed and a resident agreed to get some contacts.

Cllr Wycherley reported on the Hatton Road Closures and Parking issues. The issues of anti-social parking were discussed and it was noted that there is lots of concern about accidents with the current situation. The Parish Council have suggested alternative parking locations to the School at the Rec and Black Bull.

County Cllr Thompson reported that the road closure was implemented during COVID when vehicle movements were significantly reduced which masked many of the issues that are currently being experienced but solutions would likely require LHI funding.

The Parish Council is disappointed that the County Council, having caused a problem, is asking the Parish to fund the remedy.

A resident stated that the cycleways in the village need improvement to make them safer.

5. Parish Council Accounts

2020/21 – Audited

The accounts were noted.

6. Reports from various village organisations and groups

Annual Report from County Councillor Thompson

The County Council are actively investigating the bumps on the roundabout over the A14. The cones around the B1050 roundabout on the SAR have been reinstated after accidental removal.

Concerns about vehicle speed once they have been removed, and once the SAR is opened, were discussed and would be monitored.

7 Reports from Various Village Organisations and Groups

Friends of All Saints Church have started to raise funds for repairing the Church Roof They thanked the village for their support over the years with fundraising. It was reported that a coffee morning and afternoon tea were being held for the Jubilee.

Football Club – B O’Sullivan summarised his report. They are the 2nd largest organisation in the village and sport is often secondary to social and wellbeing. The Club is one of the largest in the area and there has been lots of investment by the club in the Rec and in the club. The Club feels it is being punished for its success with the fees being imposed by the VH & Rec Charity and that Longstanton needs more support from LPC and SCDC. The Club are holding an event for the jubilee which is open for all.

It was reported that the defibrillator pads are still urgently needed. The Clerk reported that they had been on order for a significant period of time and that no suppliers appear to have stock available.

Cricket Club – The club is self sufficient with a strong membership. The Club feels the increased fees being asked for are unfair as they do not need any of the additional maintenance that it is expected to fund. They spend more on Longstanton Rec than any other club in Cambs and doesn’t get any subsidies.

Cllr delaMare-Lyon stated the licence needs review as there is a difference between what the clubs want and what the charity can afford.

9. Close of Business

The Chairman thanked all the parishioners for attending and participating.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed:
Date: 31/1/22