

Longstanton Parish Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council,
held at Longstanton Village Hall on
Monday 4th September 2023 at 19:35.

Present: Cllr. deLaMare-Lyon (Chair) Cllr. Wycherley, Cllr. Chapman, Cllr. Zargar

In attendance: J Sinclair (Clerk). Five members of the public.

23-24/47 Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr. Ferreira, Cllr. Street

23-24/48 Councillors' Declarations of Interest

None

23-24/49 Public Participation (10 minutes in total)

A member of the public spoke on behalf of themselves and other residents regarding concerns surrounding changes to Wilson's Road Bridle Way.

Cllr. Brash-Hall and District Cllr. Bygott arrived at 19:33.

The member of the public elaborated on their worries of how an 'improved' surface to the bridleway would encourage the use of motorcycles and scooters along Wilson's Road, as it provides an easy link to Bar Hill and an escape route from Police. It was also noted that signage prohibiting motor vehicles is insufficient.

Cllr. deLaMare-Lyon proposed that the next item discussed is 23-24/57 a)

23-24/57 a) To receive an update on Wilson's Road Bridleway, from Cllr. Brash Hall following the site meeting of 31st August 2023

Cllr. Brash-Hall and District Cllr. Bygott reported on the meeting held Thursday 31st. It was agreed that the meeting was positive, but there was no further information provided at the meeting on how the choice of surface was agreed upon. The representatives of cycling groups present agreed that their preference would be the provision of a cycleway along the B1050 instead of reconfiguring the bridleway as a cycleway.

It was suggested that Homes England could sponsor an all-terrain wheelchair to be borrowed from the Parish Office to provide increased access to Wilson's Road Bridleway.

Cllr. Chapman reported on her research following July's full council meeting. An environmentalist group has been found who can offer a free survey of Wilson's Road Bridleway, however springtime would be a better time to study birdlife.

District Cllr. Bygott to arrange a further meeting with Homes England, Cambridgeshire County Council and other interested parties.

Two members of the public left the meeting at 19:44.

Cllr. Brash-Hall noted that a similar case has arisen where the new development at Waterbeach is located.

23-24/52 Co-option to fill vacancy

Cllr. de la Mare-Lyon presented an application to the post of Parish Councillor, which has been received by the Clerk.

Councillors reviewed the application and after discussion decided unanimously to Co-opt Cllr. Luisa Smith.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange New Councillor training for Cllr. Zagar and Cllr. Smith.

Cllr. Brash Hall notified the council of her interest in item **23-24/53 d)**

It was agreed that the running order of the Agenda would be rearranged to discuss public attendee's items of interest first .

23-24/57 i) To review a grant application received from Friends of St. Michael's Church.

The treasurer from the Friends of St. Michael's Church, Longstanton, provided the council with background information to their grant request to assist in the purchase of folding chairs. It was noted that hiring or borrowing chairs from the Village Institute was proving problematic.

Cllr. Brash-Hall highlighted the fact that Longstanton Parish Council already takes on certain costs associated with St. Michael's Church.

The treasurer pointed out that the church no longer operates as a church, instead it is historic venue.

Thatching work is also required at the church and the church must buy an amount of equipment in order that the Friends may raise further money for the church's maintenance.

After discussion it was agreed that the council was unsure on its position to financially support a church, which no longer operates as a church.

ACTION: Clerk to research the council's position on providing funding to Friends of St. Michael's Church.

ACTION: Clerk to check grant budget and report at next meeting.

23-24/50 a) Anonymous comments, questions and suggestions.

The clerk reported that no anonymous comments or questions had been received at the Parish Office. It was agreed that this item be removed from the agenda and anonymous questions be added to the agenda as and when they are received.

23-24/51 Approval of Minutes

Minutes approved by Cllr. de la Mare-Lyon and Cllr. Wycherley.

23-24/53 d) Planning. 23/02672/OUT Land Adjacent to 1 Prentice Close, Longstanton. Outline Planning Permission with All Matters Reserved for construction of a detached single storey dwelling.

A resident from Prentice Close presented their objections to the proposed development at 1 Prentice Close. Concerns surrounding parking and traffic safety were brought to the attention of the council, not just at time of construction, but after once the house is occupied. It was reported that Prentice Close already suffers with parking problems during the school drop off and pick up times.

It was noted by the council that permission had already been granted by the planning authority on 01/09/2023. After inspection it was also noted that the application had been submitted on the day of the last Parish Council Meeting and a decision was made before this Meeting could discuss the application.

Cllr. Brash-Hall suggested that residents could petition for double yellow lines to be painted in the affected areas.

Cllr. Brash-Hall also stated that Planning should consider the impact of decisions made when consultee councils are on holiday.

ACTION: Clerk to notify planning on the lack of opportunity for the Parish Council to comment given the Council's summer break.

ACTION: Clerk to write in opposition of proposed construction.

The Prentice Close resident in attendance also offered to supply photographic evidence of the parking issues faced in Prentice Close.

Cllr. Wycherley added that District Councillors could lend expertise to the situation.

20.45 A member of the public joined the meeting.

23-24/53 c) 6 Garwood Drive, Longstanton. Loft conversion with roof widows.

Councillors voted unanimously to support this application, with no comment made.

23-24/53 b) 23/02884/HFUL Green End Farm, Over Rd, Longstanton. Detached cartlodge with first floor attic space.

Councillors voted unanimously to support this application, with no comment made.

23-24/53 a) 20/02970/CONDA Green End Farm, Over Rd, Longstanton. Submission of details required by condition 4 (Surface water drainage), 5 (Landscape scheme), 6 (Landscape maintenance plan), 7 (Boundary treatment) and 10 (scheme of biodiversity enhancement) of planning permission 20/02970/FUL

Councillors voted unanimously to support this application, with no comment made.

23-24/55 County and District Council Matters

a) To receive the reports from both the County and District Councillors

Apologies were received from County Cllr. Firouz Thompson and District Cllr. Natalie Warren-Green.

Cllr. Tom Bygott provided his report on district matters, including the District Council's current search for locations of historic significance in order to place blue plaques. Some locations were discussed, finally Cllr. Bygott was referred to Longstanton and District Heritage Society for their input.

Cllr Bygott also noted the progress surrounding the naming of the new Southern Access Road. Cllr Bygott had opposed generic sounding names which had originally been proposed, instead suggesting naming the road "King Charles III Avenue"

Councillors were supportive of the proposal.

ACTION: Clerk to write in support of Cllr. Bygott's proposal.

Cllr. Bygott left the meeting at 20.47

b) To receive a presentation from Starship Technologies regarding delivery robots in Longstanton

Deferred, as Starship are unable to attend.

Cllr. Wycherley raised concerns over Starship Technologies' request to queue up robots on Nelson Crescent and pointed out that parking and charging stations would also need to be considered.

23-24/54 Regular reports – to receive an update on

a) Longstanton Groundwater Issues

Cllrs. Wycherley and Brash-Hall provided an update on groundwater matters. Cllr. Brash-Hall spoke about investigations made by County, District and Parish Councils over land, footpath and water way between Prentice Close and Northstowe. Cllr. Wycherley agreed to take matters regarding the water way to the next Northstowe Open Spaces meeting.

b) Hatton Road Ponds & B1050 Cycle Route

No updates provided

c) Northstowe Open Spaces Report

Cllr. Brash-Hall reported that fences to restrict access by motor vehicles on the Airfield Road do not allow sufficient clearance for a horse and cart to pass through. One side is wide enough, but not the other. As a result, Father Christmas would not be able to attend Longstanton later in the year.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Homes England to arrange for fencing to be realigned.

d) Homes England Update

No update provided

e) Heritage Building Update

Cllr. Brash-Hall reported that plans for the Heritage Building are on hold, following the collapse of the developer. Longstanton and District Heritage Society have questioned if Homes England are responsible to ensure a facility is built.

ACTION: Cllr. Wycherley to take this question to Homes England

f) Central open Space Working Group

No update provided. It was noted that the funding for the central open space needs to be moved to the CCLA account.

Cllr. Wycherley requested that the CCLA statement is included in the Finance Report going forward.

Cllr. Brash-Hall suggested seeking out independent advice and review on current savings option by the Council

g) Hatton Park Primary School – Projects, parking issues, pupil transport and highway safety.

The Clerk provided an update on the new term and the school's appointment of a new Assistant Headteacher.

ACTION: Clerk to invite headteacher to next meeting

23-24/57 a) To receive an update on Wilson's Road Bridleway, from Cllr. Brash Hall following the site meeting of 31st August 2023 – Discussion continued

Cllr. Brash-Hall reported that the meeting at Wilson's Road was positive.

- b) To review draft letter to Liz Watts re: Wilsons Road Bridleway

ACTION: Clerk to recirculate Cllr. delaMare-Lyon's draft letter prior to sending.

- c) To receive an update on bookings for Christmas Event.

The Clerk provided a report on arrangements so far, and noted that for the market to operate in the during the shorter days, additional lighting would be required. Cllr. delaMare-Lyon suggested making enquiries with 'Powerbee'

- d) To receive an update on arrangements for Remembrance Day 2023

The clerk reported on arrangements discussed with Phoenix Events and their quote for managing a temporary road closure for the Remembrance Parade. The quote was received well, and approved to go ahead.

- e) To receive an update on the application to reduce the village speed limit to 20mph.

Cllr. delaMare-Lyon updated the council on the application. It is now believed that Longstanton's funding, if successful, will come from next year's budget.

- f) To receive an update on the meeting following the Nelson Crescent traffic incident.

Cllr. Brash-Hall reported on the last meeting with Co-Op management, St Andrew's Bureau, District and County Council. Co-Op's regional managers at to ensure changes will be made, in addition to the rescheduling of deliveries.

- g) To review quotes received for proposed "Kissing Gates"

The Clerk reported on two quotes received for the standalone cost of purchasing a mobility friendly Kissing Gate. After discussion, it was suggested that input from Tam at Cambridgeshire County Council would be helpful.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Tam at Cambridgeshire County Council.

- h) To consider queries sent by residents regarding 'Rufest' music festival.

The clerk reported on complaints received to the Parish Council regarding the music festival in August. It was noted that complaints had been made about last year's event and that South Cambs District Council assured the complainants that the breach of their license would impact on the granting of any future licences.

After discussion it was agreed to take up the complaint on behalf of the residents and the inappropriate granting of an event license in a residential area.

ACTION: Clerk to contact South Cambridgeshire District Council.

- j) To receive an update from Cllr. Ferreira on Local Businesses' Community Care.

This item was deferred due to Cllr. Ferreira's absence.

- k) To consider action required regarding overgrown bushes and trees on High Street between Ladywalk and Hatton's House.

Cllr. delaMare-Lyon provided the council an update action taken so far by Cambridgeshire County Council and St. Andrew's Bureau. It was suggested that the clerk posts a seasonal update before and after bird nesting season to remind residents to check on and cut any plants or trees over hanging footways.

ACTION: Clerk to post update re: cutting back summer growth via social media and website

ACTION: Clerk to prepare a standardised letter to residents notifying them of their duty to cut back any plants obstructing footways.

ACTION: Clerk to contact residential maintenance companies to request their plants are well cut back.

- l) To consider professional refurbishment of Book Swap phone box on High Street.

The clerk reported on the continued abuse and vandalism of the High Street Book Swap phone box. Following discussion it was agreed that something needed to be done to keep the much loved village amenity safe. The Clerk provided quotes for professional refurbishment from 'Remember When', the same company who had refurbished the 'Spice Museum' phone box.

It was noted that the project is expensive and has a long lead time due to the complexity of work and workload of 'Remember When'.

ACTION: Clerk to enquire if Remember When can provide a swap-out phone box

- m) To receive an update on the progress of the Park Play scheme.

The Clerk reported on developments with the Park Play. At request of Northstowe Town Council's clerk, the council was consulted on the wording of the Park Play event to appear on promotional materials. It was proposed by Park Play that the event is known as Northstowe – Longstanton Park Play. Councillors suggested that Northstowe & Longstanton Park Play or Longstanton & Northstowe Park Play sounds better.

- n) To consider correspondence from Few's Lane Consortium received since the last meeting.

No further correspondence received. It was agreed to drop this item from the agenda and re-add it if correspondence is received.

23-24/56 b) To consider replacement Parish Council Mobile Phone options.

The Clerk provided prices found for a range of handsets from different manufacturers and retailers. It was agreed that a budget of £500 was set to find a replacement Handset.

ACTION: Clerk to notify Council upon finding a replacement within the budget.

The meeting closed at 22:04.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

DRAFT