

Longstanton Parish Council



Minutes of the Meeting of the Council, held at Longstanton Village Hall on Monday 8th January 2024 at 19:30.

Present: Cllr. delaMare-Lyon (Chair) Cllr. Wycherley, Cllr. Street, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Brash-Hall

In attendance: Two members of the public, J Sinclair (Clerk). District Cllr. Bygott (from 20:16), District Cllr. Warren-Green (from (20:21)

23-24/88 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ferreira

23-24/89 Councillors' Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

23-24/90 Public Participation (10 minutes in total)

The Organisers of the Pensioner's Christmas Party explained they had been unable to hold the event last year (December 2023) due to a lack of suitable venue in the village. They therefore did not apply for any funding towards the event. Cllr. delaMare-Lyon noted that over the COVID period a delivery had been made instead of a get-together. The organisers commented that while it was appreciated it didn't have the same success as an in person event and continued to enquire over the future of the Pavilion. Cllr. delaMare-Lyon explained that progress with a new community facility is restricted by funding and availability of land. Cllr. Brash-Hall noted issues surrounding planning, which have also had an impact.

Cllr. Smith suggested bringing in an outsider caterer and hosting the meal in another location such as the Village Hall. Cllr. Street highlighted that the Dale has a community room and questioned if there are kitchen facilities there. Cllr. Brash-Hall suggested cooking the meal at the Dale and serving it at the Village Hall.

It was noted that the last meal held was in the Black Bull, who do not wish to participate again.

Cllr. delaMare-Lyon highlighted that there are another eleven months to draw up plans, so invited the organisers to return to a future meeting after further research on venues and catering options has been conducted.

The two members of the public left the meeting at 19:47.

23-24/91 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of December 4th were approved as an accurate record by Cllr. Wycherley and Cllr. Street. Signed by Cllr. delaMare-Lyon.

23-24/92 Co-option to fill vacancy

No applications made, Clerk to recommence advertising of co-option.

23-24/93 Planning

- a) [23/04629/CLUED](#)
Cllrs. noted that this application is for retrospective permission. After discussion regarding concerns that approval may set a precedent, it was agreed that the Council would not made a comment.
- b) [23/04617/FUL](#)
After discussion, Cllrs. were supportive of the application.

23-24/94 Regular Reports – to receive an update on:

- a) Longstanton Groundwater issues.

Cllr. Wycherley noted that the balancing ponds appear to be working as intended after recent heavy rain.

Cllr. Brash-Hall noted a recent case of subsidence in the village.

Cllr. Wycherley reported that there had been no further meetings of Longstanton Environment and Groundwater Group (LEGG), following the announcement that South Cambridgeshire District Council that funding was no longer available to continue the groundwater research.

ACTION: Cllr. Brash-Hall to contact LEGG to call a meeting.

- b) Hatton Road Ponds & B1050 Cycle Route.

It was noted that the ponds on the B1050 are full, following heavy rainfall.

District Cllr. Tom Bygott arrived at 20.16

An update was received regarding the cycle route, Cllr. Wycherley reported that a planning request had been sent to L&Q. It was noted that Cambridgeshire County Council would need to decide what funding is left for further works. Cllr. delaMare-Lyon

- c) Northstowe Open Spaces Report.

It was noted that Elite Sports are now in place at the Northstowe Pavilion, preparing to open soon.

d) Homes England updates.

No update provided.

e) Heritage Building update.

District Cllr. Bygott reported on his meeting with Homes England and Anthony Brown MP.

20:21 District Cllr. Natalie Warren-Green arrived.

The outcome of last year's freedom of information act request was queried.

ACTION: Clerk to chase up response from FOI request

District Cllr. Bygott insisted that Homes England is still liable to provide a space for the Heritage Building and noted that it has subsequently been suggested that artifacts could be displayed in the new Civic Building in Northstowe. A number of Councillors noted that the original plan was to also provide climate controlled storage for archives, not just display space.

f) Central Open Space Working Group.

No update provided.

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

No update received from Hatton Park Primary School.

h) Highways matters.

The clerk noted that a quarterly highways meeting is scheduled for 26th of January and requested any queries are sent prior to the meeting.

Cllr. delaMare-Lyon promised to circulate his letter regarding the ramps at the Bar Hill intersection.

Cllr. Smith highlighted the poor state of repair to Rampton Road, noting the road often doesn't thaw during low temperatures. Cllr. Smith stressed concerns over safety for young people cycling to school in Northstowe. Cllr. Smith had previously reported concerns to Cllr. Thompson who had suggested the installation of grit bins.

As Rampton Road is no longer part of Longstanton, it was suggested that the matter was forwarded to Northstowe Town Council and raised at the forthcoming Highways Meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to forward concern to Northstowe Town Council.

ACTION: Clerk to raise concern at Highways Meeting

- i) Anti-Social Behaviour – Response and Prevention.

Cllr. Wycherley recapped his update from the last Police community meeting, noting that the Police are happy to get involved with the Prentice Close kissing gate matter.

ACTION: Cllr. Brash-Hall to provide further details of Prentice Close issues for Clerk to forward to Neighbourhood Policing Team.

- j) Community Upkeep.

The Clerk reported on the poor state of the bookswaps – as posted to facebook by the community volunteer. It was noted that an online poll had been written to help gather information about the usage of the bookswaps.

23-24/95 County and District Council Matters

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

The county councillor was not present, but their report was noted. District Cllr. Warren-Green reported that the majority of issues being dealt with by County Cllr. Thompson were, at the moment, flooding related.

Cllr. Warren-Green also reminded the council of South Cambridgeshire District Council's 'How are we doing' survey shared online and requested it is shared further within the community.

At this point it was agreed to discuss item **23-24/97a** while the District Cllrs. were still present.

23-24/97 Parish Council Matters

- a) To receive an update on Wilsons Road bridleway

District Cllr. Bygott reported that he is still awaiting a meeting with Stephen Kelly, Cllr. delaMare-Lyon requested an update as soon as possible,

District Councillors Bygott and Warren-Green left the meeting at 21:13

- b) To approve the date for the 2024 Christmas Light Switch on.

It was agreed that the 2024 Christmas Light Switch on should be held on 7th December 2024.

- c) To consider adopting the Longstanton Second Hand Sale into the Events programme.

After discussion it was agreed that the Second Hand Sale would be advertised as any other event at the Village Hall.

- d) To consider planting new tree in place of removed Beech on the village green and installation of additional bollard.

The gap which would be left when the Beech tree is removed was noted by the Council. After discussion of options, it was agreed that quotes should be sought for replacing the tree with and other options including remodelling of the hedge and or installation of bollards.

It was agreed that a quote should be sought for installation of an additional bollard on the far side of the green to restrict vehicular access.

ACTION: Clerk to research options and seek quotes.

- e) To consider replacement of bollard on Stevensons Road.

After discussion it was agreed that the existing, vandalised bollard should be replaced with something more substantial. It was noted that neighbouring residents should be advised of any plans.

ACTION: Clerk to research options for replacement bollard and seek quotes.

- f) To consider quotes received for website/email replacement.

The Clerk presented examples of the websites produced by 'Aubergine', in addition to this the set up and running costs of the website for the first and subsequent years were explained. The samples and prices were well received by the Council. The Clerk noted that the quote for email provision was not yet complete. It was agreed that the email provision quote should be reviewed at the next meeting prior to making a decision.

ACTION: Clerk to chase email provision quote.

- g) To receive an update from the Community Speedwatch.

No update provided.

- h) To receive an update on bin collection arrangements.

It was noted that proforma invoices had been received from the Bin Collector.

- i) To receive an update on the progress of the ParkPlay scheme.

The Clerk recapped the recent developments with the ParkPlay scheme for Councillors who had not been in attendance at the last meeting.

At this point it was agreed to discuss item **23-24/96**.

23-24/96 Finance

- a) To approve budget and precept for 2024 – 2025.

Cllr. Wycherley provided an update on the Budget. It was noted that a budget is not required to be submitted along with the Precept Request. Options were presented for setting next year's precept,

including figures relating to potential increases. Cllr. Wycherley remarked that reserve funds would drop when works begin on the Home Farm Central Open Space and that it would be prudent to maintain a sensible reserve as the Parish Council has responsibility for two aging buildings.

Cllr. delaMare-Lyon said any increase should be in line with rising costs. It was also observed that neighbouring councils have made large increases in precept for next year.

Cllr. delaMare-Lyon proposed that the Council progresses with a 7.5% increase on precept next financial year. After discussion this was unanimously approved.

- b) To receive an update on the grass cutting contract.

The Clerk presented the updated Grass Cutting Tender document. It was noted that the maps are still in the process of being updated. It was confirmed that the Council wish to contact the three respondents from the last Grass Cutting Tender process, plus the next geographically closest applicant.

ACTION: Clerk to complete Grass Cutting Tender maps and send to selected ground care companies.

- c) To approve the payments and to note the associated finance reports.

Finance reports were reviewed and payments approved. Clerk's milage claim was approved by Cllr. Wycherley and Cllr. delaMare-Lyon.

In a motion to exclude public and press, the meeting was closed to the public and press at 22:30 to discuss other matters relevant to this Council meeting.

The meeting reopened at 22:47

The meeting closed at 22:48

Signed (Chair)

Date