

LONG MAN PARISH COUNCIL

www.longmanpc.org

Minutes of the Long Man Parish Council Meeting Monday 13 March 2023

1. Chair's welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new clerk.

2. Attendance & apologies for absence

Present: Councillors Pam Merritt (Chair), Claire Church, Jeremy Christey, Helen Baulcombe, Lizzie Chisholm, and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk).

Apologies: Tyler Butterworth

Absent: Michael Bridges

Other attendees: District Councillor Michael Lunn, County Councillor Stephen Shing, Alison Cotton (Tree Warden). Two members of public

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Public Discussion (15 minutes maximum)

Concerns had been communicated to the council about maintenance of Tom Treacle Pond, and uncertainty as to what the council's processes are to involve residents in any decision making.

Information had since been shared to answer these points. Wealden District Council (WDC) own the pond, and any suggestion of works would be initiated by them. It is understood there are no current plans. The council's role is to share information with residents through its official communication channels: website, notice boards, meeting & minutes. The village Whatsapp group has nothing to do with the council.

Attending residents asked if they could be made aware in future if and when any pond maintenance was discussed. They agreed for their details to be shared by the clerk with the Tree Warden Alison Cotton (AC).

An interest was expressed about the possibility of planting a hedging screen at the junction fencing to shield from the A27 traffic. WDC own all the land at the junction so have the final say. The idea had been suggested to them before but there was a question of cost and maintenance, and response had been negative.

Everyone supported the idea of making another attempt, simply to apply to WDC for permission in principle. Specific proposal details and involvement can be developed from that. Planting in any event wouldn't take place until Autumn.

Cllr Lunn said he would be able to support the suggestion in his role within the district council.

ACTION: It was agreed to take this idea forward and approach WDC. AC would draft the content of a letter/email on behalf of LMPC with the aim of opening the discussion. This will be circulated to council for comment. The clerk will provide AC with contact details for Cllr Lunn.

5. Minutes of the meeting dated 9 January 2023 to be agreed and signed as a true record

The Minutes were approved and signed as a correct record.

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2023 not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- a. Members asked that their best wishes and thanks to the previous clerk for her time with LMPC be recorded as they had not been included in the 9 January minutes.
- b. It was noted that the rubbish bin which had previously been inside the bus shelter has been moved by person/s unknown.
- c. The notice for placement in the parish magazine about the councillor vacancy at Wilmington did not make publication. Members were asked to direct any local interest in the role to the clerk.

7. Reports from other bodies

7.1 County Councillor Stephen Shing

- a. **Roads:** There have been complaints about the condition of road surfaces and pot holes. Bad examples in need of repair can be reported on the East Sussex Highways website.
- b. **Exceat Bridge:** There has been trouble with vandalism of the traffic lights meaning that at times they have not been operational. ESCC are working on the details for the new bridge and planning the tender process. This process could take a few years to complete.
- c. **Council Tax:** Residents have now received council tax details for the year and these include a 4.9% increase, the maximum allowed.
- d. **Definitive map modification:** An application for a definitive map modification order has been received relating to Folkington. Cllr Shing will email a copy to the clerk for circulation.
- e. **Bus services:** East Sussex has received 40 million funding to improve its bus services, one of the highest awards in the country.

7.2 District Councillor Michael Lunn

- a. **Wealden Local Plan:** The plan was rejected by the Secretary of State so the process had to begin again last year. It is mostly completed but the specific housing numbers required will be inserted once the Housing and Levelling Up Department has completed their consultation and published the results later this year. Due to the earlier government U-turn, housing numbers will now be decided based on the local need but it will still be to a formula. The main viable area for housing development is in the Low Weald. Fortunately, the 9,000 houses already approved in the District will contribute to the five year land supply quota.
SDNP is currently reviewing its own Local Plan. Its housing requirement across the whole park area is under 1,000 a year. Brown field site owners can register for development but the land must already have had buildings on site.
- b. **Water management:** There remain significant problems with five sluices at Alfriston still not working due to build up of silt. The licensing needed to go ahead with work and resolve the issues cannot be agreed between the agencies involved.

Cllr Lunn announced that this was his last meeting as District Councillor. He officially steps down on 3 May 2023.

The chair thanked Cllr Lunn for the support and help he had offered LMPC during his term.

7.3 MP Maria Caulfield

A report had been received and circulated to the council

7.4 Tree Warden Alison Cotton

- a. **Trees at Ades Field:** The responsibility of the dangerous trees was still disputed. Clarion Housing who own some of the properties has come forward and stepped in to pay to get the matter resolved. The trees have now been reduced in size.
- b. **Milton Street plot:** A large amount of tree felling was reported to have occurred in the grounds of a house in Milton Street earlier this year. On discussion with the owner, it was confirmed that there were no TPOs in place and most specimens removed are conifers or diseased. New large trees are being planted in replacement. Another issue is that water is now running down the road and waterlogging the footpath at Milton Street end. Possible cause being that the pond on the land has been filled in.
- c. **Tree Planting:** On 22 February a group of volunteers planted 25 or more trees on Wilmington Green

8. Reports from the Parish Councillors

8.1 Folkington

- a. Traffic volume has increased and there is a problem with speeding vehicles. More cyclists are now also accessing the village route from the new path at the A27.
- b. There have been complaints about the large number of wild horses grazing behind the village, but it is understood they may shortly be moved.
- c. It was agreed that the replacement or repair of the broken finger post sign at the north side of the A27 be put on hold. The post was continually being damaged by large vehicles.

8.2 Milton Street

- a. Fly tipping has been a problem. Residents have been using the online reporting facility to get it removed quickly.
- b. There have been some concerns raised about the continuing development works at Arlington Meadow as also discussed in item 7.4b.

ACTION: The clerk was asked to contact SDNPA about Arlington Meadow to clarify the following points:

1. Is the new access route for use during works only and to be closed following completion.
2. Does the plan include contingency for the owners to repair and reinstate the verges
3. Was an environmental survey carried out – it appears the garden pond has been filled in and water is now springing from the land and draining onto the road and across to waterlog the public footpath

8.3 Wilmington

- a. Tree planting on the green will be finished by the end of March.
- b. The landlord of the Long Man Inn has agreed that the village defibrillator can be re-sited from the village hall to the pub
- c. The concrete fire hydrant sign has collapsed on the verge outside The Priory in The Street.
- d. The BT red phone box is looking really tired and requires a repaint. The council discussed its maintenance and possibility of purchase.

ACTION: The clerk was asked to inform the Fire Service in case they wish to repair or replace it and also to contact BT to check whether the phone box is still owned by them and, if so, whether it could be maintained and painted. The Parish Council has never been contacted by BT as to the possibility of purchasing the phone box.

9. Traffic & Highways

An update had been received from Maria Caulfield that the previously suggested dualling of the A27 between Lewes and Polegate has been put on hold. The clerk will circulate the report.

10. Council Elections – 4 May 2023

The clerk gave out nomination packs to interested members.

The chair reminded everyone that the previous meeting's minutes detailed the timetable for the election process and for nominations.

11. Finance

11.1 To receive and note the clerk's Finance Report

The report had been circulated which confirmed the closing current account bank balance at the end of January 2023 to be £13,277.78

Current bank account balance and reconciliation

Latest Statement date: 31 January 2023

(no movement on the account during February 2023)

Breakdown of funds in budget year 2022/2023:

Contingency funds ring fenced for emergency

Grants & donations 22/23 designated funds

Milton Street phone box designated funds

General funds

Total

£

13,277.78

5,000

1770

250

6,257.78

13,277.78

11.2 To approve and authorise the accounts payable as detailed on the payment list

The payment list had been circulated to council. The clerk reported that two additional invoices had since been received for payment and asked for them to be included.

Payments list for 13 March 2023

Information Commissioners Office subscription	40.00
AFH Payroll Solutions payroll services November 2022	36.00
Daniel Larkin Tree Surgery to fell Ash tree in Milton Street	180.00
ESALC Limited for recruitment services	180.00
Clerk Wages: February 2023	415.10
March 2023	414.90
HMRC PAYE	207.40
Clerk Expenses:	
Annual Subscription for Website	502.12
Fee for non-sterling transaction (GBS to US\$)	15.01
Mobile phone charges February	13.49
Mileage as detailed on claim sheet	30.60 <u>561.22</u>
Total	2,034.62

Update with invoices received since 6 March 2023

AFH Payroll Solutions payroll services January & March 2023	72.00
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Updated Total 2,106.62

It was resolved:

Authorisation to make the payments was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Chisholm, and unanimously agreed by council.

11.3 LMPC mobile phone contract

The council agreed for the clerk to go ahead with the best strategy to separate the council's mobile phone use from the previous contract

11.4 LMPC computer

The council considered the proposal for a new council laptop and it was agreed that this was a necessary requirement to comply with data regulations.

It was resolved:

Authorisation to purchase a new lap top for the council was proposed by Cllr Merritt and seconded by Cllr Baulcombe, and unanimously agreed by council. The clerk was asked to go ahead and make the appropriate arrangements.

12. Clerk's general update

12.1 Correspondence

An email had been received from residents concerned by what they understood to be proposed works at the Tom Treacle Pond, and the lack of clarity in council process at discussing such village works. This item had been discussed and resolved during public discussion at the beginning of the meeting.

12.2 Maintenance

- i. The Folkington fingerpost had already been discussed during village updates and no further action was required.
- ii. Only one quote had been received for installing a bench at the bus shelter. It was agreed to go ahead.

ACTION: The clerk was asked to instruct the contractor to go ahead with the bench and to ask that the wood used be treated to make it more weatherproof.

13.Compliance

13.1 The council noted that current local council guidelines and practice allows the publication of draft minutes across all council communication outlets. Previously LMPC draft minutes had been edited down for inclusion in the parish magazine.

As full draft minutes are already shown on the council’s website it was agreed that a consistency of approach would benefit residents and give everyone access to the same information. In future, the clerk would submit the draft minutes, in full, direct to the magazine editor.

The council wished to make a special note of thanks to Carole Vine, who has for many years helped the council with editing. The clerk was asked to communicate with Mrs Vine to inform her of the change.

13.2 Information Commissioner’s Office

The council noted the requirement for registration to the Information Commissioners Office, and approval for payment had been given during item 11.2

13.3 LMPC Policies & Statements

The council acknowledged receipt of the draft papers already circulated. There were no questions. Suggested highlighted number entries in Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were agreed as marked.

It was resolved:

The council unanimously approved the draft policies and statements items i. to xii. and authorised the clerk to publish them onto the council’s website.

14. Planning

The planning report update had been circulated.

It was noted that application SDNP/22/05718/FUL had now been withdrawn and the report has now been updated and attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

No new applications had been received since the publication of the agenda and there were no responses due outstanding.

15. Feedback from external meetings

15.1 SDNPA East Sussex Parish Meeting – Cllr Church attended this meeting and reported that it specifically focussed on SDNP reviewing its own local plan. They want to find out what parishes want to do locally and are looking for a timed input if parishes want to get involved.

16. Date of next meeting

Monday 15 May 2023 at Wilmington Village Hall. The Annual Assembly will start at 7pm followed at 7.30pm by the Annual Meeting of the Council

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15pm.

These Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed:

Position:

Date: