

LONG MAN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Long Man Parish Council Meeting Monday 11 September 2023

1. Chairman's welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Attendance & apologies for absence

Present: Councillors; Tyler Butterworth (TB) (Chair), Claire Church (CC) (Vice-Chair), Michael Bridges (MB), Helen Baulcombe (HB), Ann Osborne (AO), and Jeanne Peterson (Clerk).

Apologies: Lizzie Chisholm (LC) and Jeremy Christey (JC)

Other attendees: County Councillor Stephen Shing and District Councillor David Greaves

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Public Discussion (15 minutes maximum).

No members of the public were present

5. Reports from other bodies

5.1 County Councillor Stephen Shing:

- Extra funding has been approved for pot hole repairs throughout the county. The new contractors Balfour Beatty are working to catch up with the required works, but working 24 hrs is causing local issues.
- Compulsory land purchase agreements are in discussion to accommodate the necessary space to develop the new bridge crossing at Exceat.
- A further government grant has been approved for 1.89m for the household support fund. It will continue to support families already receiving help and will also consider new applications.
- There has been discussion with SE Water to work toward a resolution to the district water problems.
- ESCC will be considering next year's budget.

5.2 District Councillor David Greaves:

- There has been a failure by SE Water to keep outages in control and there is work in hand to make sure that parishes don't continue to suffer due to this.
- A survey is taking place between 6th September – 25th October to garner opinion and evaluate Wealden District Council performance.
- The district council has replaced its fuel use from diesel (for vehicle waste collections) to hydrogenated vegetable oil. The cost is increased, but a 98% emissions reduction is reported.
- There have been two successful fly tipping prosecutions within the district.
- WDC Local Plan is now again underway but the planning department is currently understaffed. The district population has more than doubled but the infrastructure to support the increase is inadequate.

5.3 MP Maria Caulfield (MC): A written report had been circulated.

5.4 Alison Cotton Tree Warden: There was no update to be made this month.

6. Minutes of the Long Man Parish Council Meeting held on 10 July 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of both meetings held on 15 May 2023 not covered elsewhere on the agenda

The clerk provided an update on item 9.5 that the bank mandate changes were in hand for completion.

8. Reports from Parish Councillors

8.1 Folkington: A written update was provided to note that residents are concerned about the new cycle path and lack of control at the junction regarding cyclists stopping v motorists turning.

8.2 Milton Street: It was noted that fly tipping issues had been dealt with promptly.

8.3 Wilmington:

- It was agreed that the clerk will contact Wealden District Council (WDC) for an update on the court hearing re Milton Gate Stables. **Action: Clerk**
- Continual building works opposite Pond Cottage have been ongoing for six years and the council agreed to contact the owner for an update. **Action: CC**
- The road surface on The Street is deteriorating and surface debris sticking to vehicle tyres and the clerk was asked to contact Highways to report this. **Action: Clerk**
- Cyclists are speeding through the village causing a dangerous hazard. It was agreed that MB contact Highways. **Action: MB**

9. A27 Ongoing Junction Issues

9.1 A virtual meeting had been held between LMPC councillors TB, CC, HB, and MP Maria Caulfield to discuss concerns around the new Cycle Path and village junctions. It was noted that issues have also been raised by the parishes Alciston and Selmeston.

Maria Caulfield aims to collate, assess and provide feedback within 12 months, to review the new road set up. In the meantime, another meeting will be arranged between National Highways, MC and LMPC and dates will be circulated by the MP's office for agreement.

Action: Clerk, TB & CC

9.2 It was agreed that reports of incidents at any of the Long Man Parish village junctions should be sent and/or directed to the clerk who will collate the information.

Action: Clerk

10. Finance

10.1 The financial reports as circulated by the clerk were acknowledged:

i. The Bank Reconciliation & Reserves update to the end of August 2023 was agreed & approved.

ii The Budget v Actual Quarterly Report to end of June 2023 was received and noted.

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

The payment list had been circulated to council.

Payments list for 11 September 2023

	£
Clerk wages:	
August 2023	414.90
September 2023	414.90
HMRC PAYE	311.20
Clerk expenses	77.31
Wealden Citizens Advice donation	300.00
ESALC Limited councillor training	196.88
ESALC Limited publication	4.88
NetwiseUK new website one-off set up & first year support	1,114.80
AFH Payroll Solutions Ltd payroll services June & July 2023	37.80
Total	<u>2,872.67</u>

It was resolved that: Authorisation to make the payments was unanimously agreed by council.

10.3 Grant Requests

- i. **Cuckmere Community Buses** - The council agreed to make a donation of £250 to the service. This was approved to be paid as part of November's payments.
- ii. **Parish Magazine** – The council agreed to make a donation of £500. This was approved to be paid as part of November's payments.

10.4 Draft Budget 2024-2025 - The clerk informed the council that the draft budget will be presented at the November council meeting, with any changes agreed for final approval at the January meeting. Members can submit any budget suggestions to the clerk to be considered.

10.5 LMPC Mobile Contract – the clerk hopes that this will now soon be resolved.

10.6 CiL Funds – It was unanimously agreed that these funds could be put to very good use and benefit the majority of parishioners by contributing to the cost of fitting external safety lighting at the village hall & its pathway. CC will raise this at the next Village Committee meeting.

Action: CC

11. Clerk's general update

11.1 Correspondence

i. **A27 Path Lack of waste bins** – further correspondence has been received from WDC that they are now in communication with National Highways. It was agreed to await the outcome of those discussions before considering any actions.

ii. **Thornhill Road ditches** – grass cutting waste from the green had been discarded into the ditches and ragwort left growing. Confirmation has been received from the Countryside Officer that these issues will be dealt with but no action has been seen as yet and the council asked the clerk to find out when this would be done.

Action: Clerk

iii. **Milton Street encroaching hedgerows** – this is causing a hazard to pedestrians who are, in places, unable to walk on the verges so have to be in the road. While some residents do cut back their hedges, it is not consistent so problems persist. It was agreed to map out particular areas of concern with a view to the council exploring possible options.

Action: TB & HB

iv. **Parking in Wilmington** – while the council acknowledged that a bottle neck can occur in the area of the Priory, members confirmed that Highways will not apply isolated restrictions.

v. **Milton Street emergency access during flooding** – TB will be attending a site meeting on 12th September along with members of Cuckmere Valley PC, Wealden DC, water authorities and will report back on any action planned to mend fractures on the Levies, de-shingling, sluice checks.

11.2 Maintenance

i. **BT Phone Box** - confirmation has been received from BT that the phone box in Wilmington is not available for adoption. They now keep public facilities operational within a given area where the mobile signal is not the greatest.

However, paint for refurbishment of the Milton Street box can be purchased from the official BT source and it was agreed that the box does require some attention. The council asked the clerk to order paint and primer.

Action: Clerk

ii. **Notice Board repairs** – quotes from one contractor had been received for both Milton Street and Wilmington boards. The council agreed to seek additional quotes for comparison

Action: CC

12. Communications

12.1 Meet the Council - The date was agreed as Friday 3rd November 2023 6.30pm for the evening which will be followed by a talk at 7.30pm presented by TB. The talk will be a ticketed event with proceeds going to the Village Hall. The council will provide initial refreshments to greet attendees, the later event will be hosted by the Village Committee when there will be a cash bar. Posters are being prepared, with a house drop planned. A

copy of poster and promotional wording will be sent to the clerk for approval from the council side.

Action: MB

12.2 Village Whatsapp- as agreed at the July meeting once the clerk is added to the group this will help the council keep residents informed.

Action: JC

13.Planning

13.1 The planning report had been circulated and is now attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes with agreed amendments having been made.

- The council agreed to revise the wording regarding the Arlington Meadow item to point out that where sought, planning permission had been granted reference: SDNP/23/00179/OPDEV

Action: Clerk

- The council asked the clerk to include details into the report of the recent By-way modification to the area Definitive Map between Rights of Way points 44a and 44b on the Long Man path, of which parishioner’s may not be aware.

Action: Clerk

- Councillors agreed that the “No Comment” decision response by LMPC, although the proper term to use, did not necessarily imply to parishioners that due process and consideration of each application had been carried out. The clerk was asked to prefix each planning report with a guide as to the meaning of the formal responses.

Action: Clerk

- It was agreed that No Comment would be submitted on application SDNP/23/03509/FUL The Giants Rest, Wilmington as this was a retrospective application.

Action: Clerk

- The council had No Comment to make on application SDNP/23/03461/HOUS Merriville, Milton Street, but will wait to see if there is any response from residents before the deadline.

Action: Clerk

14. Feedback from external meetings - None attended.

15. Date of next meeting

Monday 13 November 2023 at Wilmington Village Hall, 7.30pm

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15pm.

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

Signed:.....

Position:.....

Date:.....