

LONG MAN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Long Man Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13 November 2023

1. Chairman's welcome

The Vice-chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Attendance & apologies for absence

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

Apologies: Tyler Butterworth and Jeremy Christey.

It was resolved to accept the apologies as given.

Other attendees: County Councillor Stephen Shing and Alison Cotton, Tree Warden

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lizzie Chisholm declared a personal interest in item 15.2 on two of the applications under consideration and did not take part in those discussions.

4. Public Discussion (15 minutes maximum).

One member of the public was present, there was no discussion.

5. Reports from other bodies

5.1 County Councillor Stephen Shing:

- ESCC will be looking at the potential to apply for Government funding to help with its 16m budget deficit
- Cllr Shing submitted two questions to suggest changes in policy at the 10 October ESCC meeting:
 - i. When managing rural area verges the council was asked to consider sowing wild grass seed which will improve biodiversity. This was agreed.
 - ii. An extra team has been employed to manage the collection of food waste at a time when the amount of this waste is actually reducing. It is a costly service and a re-assessment was requested. The request was not agreed as the policy had already been passed through council so will continue with the collections every two weeks.

5.2 District Councillor David Greaves: A written report had been circulated.

5.3 Guest Speaker Vanessa Rowlands: Did not attend the meeting.

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

5.4 Tree Warden Alison Cotton:

Plans for the next phase of planting at Wilmington Junction will soon go ahead to look at hedge screening which had been suggested earlier in the year. This will be part of the Call for Nature initiative and a triangular zone will be used as the planting area for 120 English shrubs, some of which can be coppiced. The aim is that the growth height will be enough to shield the lights. A document will be circulated with details and the council was asked to respond as soon as possible as to their opinion. The budget for the purchase of shrubs plus associated hardware is £1124.90. WDC will contribute and fundraising will complete the balance required.

There will be additional planting into the gaps where needed from last year.

It was noted that some 50% of new planting along the cycle route has already died.

6. Minutes of the Long Man Parish Council Meeting held on 11 September 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of both meetings held on 11 September 2023 not covered elsewhere on the agenda

- i. CC confirmed completion of the bank mandate forms to add her as signatory.
- ii. Clarification was requested on the responsibility for grass cutting north of the A27 as cuttings had recently been abandoned in situ. It was confirmed that WDC is responsible, and they have already been made aware of the contractor's failure to manage the cuttings. The issue is being dealt with.

8. Reports from Parish Councillors

8.1 Folkington:

- A car had been abandoned
- The footpath from Robin Post Lane to the A27 has been approved although residents had tried to fight it. It is part of the updates to the Definitive Map. The application for the path to the waterworks had been discarded.
- The notice for cyclists to dismount at the cycle path junction is too high to be noticed, a kissing gate would improve safety
- The new route works resulted in the drainage system being removed at Folkington resulting in flooded areas.

8.2 Milton Street:

- A resident had commented on the previous meeting minutes and was against the idea of cutting back the rural hedging as it acted as a natural traffic calmer.
- The co-ordinated hedge cutting for private land adjoining the road has been delayed due to the weather
- Recent flooding at both ends of the village caused a four hour period when residents were unable to leave. Emergency services and ESCC Highways attended to pump out the water. The drain under the A27 was found to be blocked by roots and weeds and Highways are planning to return to clear it.
- There is a dip at junction with the A27 which also causes an issue with flooding

8.3 Wilmington:

- Maintenance work is required on the footpath which runs through the graveyard and it was suggested that in the first instance the church should contact its own diocese. If they are unable to help then the Rights of Way Team could be approached.
- The village hall committee is looking into the feasibility for external lighting at the hall and will be speaking with an electrician. They will then report back to the council regarding the available CIL funds.

9. A27 Ongoing Junction Issues

9.1 A meeting has been arranged for the 20 November 2023 between Maria Caulfield MP, representatives from Highway and CC & MB from LMPC. As previously noted, this is to discuss concerns around the new cycle path and village junctions.

The clerk was asked to put a message out on the village WhatsApp group to ask for details of any incidents which can be used to demonstrate the safety issues.

10. Farming in Protected Landscapes

This is a funding initiative looking to support large projects under the headings of Climate, People, Nature and Places. The process is quite complex but it was agreed that CC approach the new WDC Ranger to see if they know of it and for the council to then consider whether it is worth putting together a proposal.

14. Communications

14.1 Meet the Council - the event held on 3 November had been well attended with around 40 people meeting members of the council. The “A bit of a Carry On” ticketed performance which followed was a huge success and presented to a full audience.

14.2 Council emails - It was resolved that councillors will check emails weekly to avoid missing important communications and messages which may require a response.

15. Planning

15.1 The planning report had been circulated and was noted.

15.2 The council considered the outstanding applications and **It was resolved** to submit the agreed responses as shown on the updated report attached to these minutes as Appendix 1

15.3 It was resolved that the clerk will not submit planning application responses to the planning authorities unless at least three members of the council (quorate) inform the clerk of their comments. It was agreed to look again at a later meeting into how the process of assessing applications could be improved given the division of councillors between villages and the use of local knowledge.

15.4 It was resolved to approve the update to the Planning Application Processing Policy taking note of item 15.3 above.

16. Feedback from external meetings

16.1 Cuckmere Buses - AO attended and reported that five parish councils were represented at the meeting. The £2 bus fare will continue until the end of 2024 and has helped increase the number of passengers, but it is unknown what will happen when the fare subsidy comes to an end. An electric bus was trialled between Berwick and Seaford but had limited capacity and cost more than double the current cost of a diesel bus. The Art shuttle contract which runs until the end of the year is proving popular but at the expense of other routes. There is a publicity drive for more volunteer drivers which are urgently needed. It was suggested that they advertise in the village magazine, and the clerk was asked to put a copy of the notice onto the village WhatsApp group.

16.2 ESALC AGM – it was confirmed that CC will attend this meeting on Tuesday 14 November 2023.

17. Date of next meeting - Monday 8 January 2024 at Wilmington Village Hall, 7.30pm

The meeting was declared closed at 9.10pm.

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

Signed:.....

Position:.....

Date:.....