

LONG MAN PARISH COUNCIL

www.longmanpc.org

Minutes of the Long Man Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 8 July 2024 Wilmington Village Hall at 7.30pm

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Attendance & apologies for absence

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

Apologies: None

Absent: Lizzie Chisholm

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

Alison Cotton Tree Warden was unable to attend the meeting

3. Declarations of Interest – None

4. Public Discussion (15 minutes maximum).

None present

5. Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Long Man Parish Council Meeting held on 13 May 2024 and the Parish Assembly held on 24 May 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record

6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 24 May 2024 – It was noted that the Parish Assembly had been a great success with a very good level of attendance. The evening had been supported by guest speaker Rod Barker who gave an interesting and well received talk.

7. Reports from other bodies

7.1 County Councillor Stephen Shing:

- Cllr Shing would be attending the full East Sussex Council meeting the next day which agenda is 450 pages.
- East Sussex Children's Services are in the top 10 authorities for providing an overall good experience and standard of care and achieved an outstanding inspection result.
- Recycling sites are allowing a small amount of previously chargeable waste from households to be recycled free of charge. Opening hours have been extended at some sites which has improved recycling efforts.
- The contract for repairing pot holes is still being debated to look at efficiency and efficacy.
- The Exceat Bridge improvement works are delayed while compulsory land purchase agreements remain under discussion.
- It was noted that in Wealden District new house building levels are at a higher level than likely new national mandatory requirement for the district.

- 7.2 **District Councillor David Greaves:** Cllr Greaves presented his report which is attached as Appendix 1
- 7.4 **Tree Warden Alison Cotton:** There were no updates to report.
The question of hedgerow management was raised and the clerk was asked to prepare a paper as a guideline to inform residents of their legal responsibilities.
- 7.5 **PCSO Isaac Wood:** No report available. It was agreed to pursue contact with the PCSO, and also invite the rural crime team representative to attend.

It was noted that a new MP has been elected, James McClearly, and the clerk was asked to initiate contact to invite him to a council meeting.

8. Reports from Parish Councillors

8.1 **Folkington:** Nothing to report

8.2 **Milton Street:**

- The works at the Old Barn were raised and these are reported in Item 13 planning report.

8.3 **Wilmington:**

- Issue noted regarding a footpath which is impassable during autumn and winter due to mud. Members to let the clerk know exact location so that ESCC Rights of Way can be informed to include on their check list.
- The 40 mile limit sign is missing from the A27, the clerk was asked to inform East Sussex Highways
- The planters at Ades Field have been removed pending license from ESCC.

9. Traffic & Highways

9.1 **A27** – CC had received a response from National Highways which stated that SDNPA did initially approve the junction lighting as within the limit of their dark skies policy. The parish council however, continues to be approached by residents whose lives are being seriously affected by the brightness of the lights all through the night. It was agreed that CC would approach SDNPA for a review now that the problem is demonstrable. If necessary any follow up would include conversations with Vanessa Rowlands, SDNPA representative and James McClearly MP.

9.2 **Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR)** – ESCC has confirmed that the next round of meetings would not start until September. The clerk will circulate possible dates to members.

10. Finance

10.1 **It was resolved** to approve and authorise the following accounts payable as shown in the payments list for July 2024 and add an expenses reimbursement to CC of £28.80 for which a receipt had been received:

Clerk wages June 2024	£439.23
Clerk wages July 2024	£439.23
Clerk expenses & mileage as detailed on claim sheet & receipts	£163.33
HMRC PAYE April to June 2024	£329.40
Grant to Cuckmere Flood Forum	£80
AFH Payroll Services April & May 2024	£37.80
Claire Church expenses	£28.80
TOTAL	£1517.79

10.2 The financial reports as circulated by the clerk were approved:

- i. The Bank Reconciliation & Reserves updates to the end of May 2024 (June bank statement had not yet been received).
- ii. The Budget v Actual Quarterly Report at June 2024.

10.3 The grant request from Wealden Citizens Advice was considered and **It was resolved** to approve a donation of £200 which will be paid in September.

11. Communications & Policies

11.1 **It was resolved** to adopt the updated Financial Regulations and these will be displayed on the website.

11.2 It was re-affirmed that councillors would check emails at least weekly to avoid missing important communications. It was agreed there had been improvements.

12. Clerk's general update

12.1 Correspondence:

- i. Concerns continue to be expressed over the lighting at Wilmington junction.
- ii. A resident had written to enquire about the removal of the bench at Ades Field and any plans for its replacement, it had been used by residents while waiting for the local bus service.

12.2 Maintenance

- i. Ades Field bench – **It was resolved** that the bench would be replaced and the clerk is to gather information with costings to be presented at the next meeting.

CC gave an update on the village hall lighting. The existing external lights have been repaired and a sensor with timer fitted. The boules pitch light has been changed to LED and can be swivelled to light the path area should that be required. Any further lighting works would be done at a time in the future when the main pathway needs replacing. This releases the CIL funds for use elsewhere and could potentially be used for the new bench.

13. Planning

13.1 The planning report had been circulated and was noted.

13.2 The council considered two outstanding applications:

SDNP/24/02579/LIS Post Cottage - **It was resolved** to Support the application.

WD/2024/0681/F Woodside Poultry Farm – **It was resolved** No Comment on this Application.

The updated planning report is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

14. Emergency & Resilience Planning

The clerk gave a verbal update as to the progress of the plan. Contacts have been made with South East Water and UK Power Networks who can offer a partner referral scheme, This would mean the council can help ensure that vulnerable residents are registered with the companies to receive extra support during emergency situations. So, as well as continuing to complete the overall written plan, work is ongoing to look at “bottom up” planning to make sure information is easily available to individual households to help themselves when they can. The clerk was asked to try and get the One Stop Information section of the website more prominent. It was agreed that a parish Emergency Co-ordinator needs to be identified along with a small representative group that would form the core team responsible for initiating any wider emergency actions.

15. Feedback from external meetings – TB & CC had attended Code of Conduct training and TB reported on the main points:

- There had been discussion on expectations of parish councils being higher than can be achieved and how can that be managed – potentially a “remit” bullet list showing what we can do.
- Civility & Respect an initiative to help councils and councillors consider how they behave between themselves as individuals and bodies.
- Robust discussion is encouraged but not to include personal rebukes. Be wary of strong opinions.
- In social media it must be clear on what is being commented on as a council and not as a council. Gossip to be avoided.
- May have to look at the Nolan principles of public life.
- Maintain impartiality in all matters. In Planning, decisions must be based on factual information and not emotional.

16. Parish Magazine

It was noted that the revised submission date for papers to be included in the magazine is now the 12th of each month.

17. Date of next meeting – Monday 9 September 2024 at Wilmington Village Hall, 7.30pm. TB and AO informed the clerk that they would not be able to attend.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15pm.

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

Signed:.....

Position:.....

Date:.....