

LONG ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 pm IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STOCKTON ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON

Present: **Cllrs:** David Cobley (Chairman)
 Barbara Atkins (Vice-Chairman)
 Ian Briggs Christopher Hancock
 Don Loughman Christopher Spencer
 David Williams

District & County Cllr: Robert Stevens

Parish Clerk: Sue Jack

Members of the public: 2

1. **Apologies accepted:** Councillor Pails (work) and Councillor McNally (ill).

2. **Questions from members of the public:**
 - 2.1 Mrs. Hughes, from Bascote Heath, first said that she was pleased about the refusal of the Cemex application and thought that the representatives from Long Itchington did a very professional job in speaking against it.
She then referred to a suggestion that was made some time ago about installing additional streetlights at Bascote Heath to aid traffic calming. She had written to residents asking their views and had received two responses in favour of the idea. The Clerk confirmed that she had also had some responses to the suggestion, the majority being against the idea.
It was agreed to proceed with a request for a sign to ban HGV's from using this route and to report that the road was cracking in several places.
Councillor Stevens commented that he was planning to meet Mr. Fossey about highways matters and could raise the problems of the crossroads and HGVs. The Chairman suggested that the matter could be raised at the next Community Forum meeting.
 - 2.2 Mr. Fletcher informed the meeting that British Waterways had marked cracks on the towpath with yellow paint and were to monitor them for future repair. He was also concerned that the proposals for a forest at Bickley's Bridge could reduce the light reaching the canal and, with the increased leaf fall, affect the ecological balance of the water. He also suggested that a footpath along the river to the centre of the village would be beneficial to villagers and boat users and would be good for businesses in the village.

3. **Declaration of interests:** none.

4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2009**
Councillor Hancock proposed that the minutes, having been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting, were signed as a correct record. Councillor Atkins seconded this proposal and it was agreed.

5. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
Councillor Spencer said that he had reported a gang of youths hanging around his property but had received no response from the police. Councillor Loughman had spoken to CBSO Taylor about it. The Chairman had been contacted by Harbury Parish Councillor Tim Lockley, who was concerned about the police no longer attending parish council meetings and wanted to write to the Chief Constable about it. It was agreed to join in this letter and to attend the next Community Forum meeting to raise these concerns with the police.
The Clerk pointed out that the police attendance at parish council meetings could be approved if a request was submitted concerning sufficiently important matters, and also that rulings could be subject to review.

6. Report from District/County Councillor Stevens:

Councillor Stevens reported that the Fire Review consultation would be finished soon and the proposals were likely to be modified, although any decisions would be dominated by the need for budget cuts.

A consultation was to be carried out on the catchment areas for Stratford Grammar Schools, similar to that carried out in Rugby.

Coventry University Hospital - the recent comments in the Dr. Foster report were being looked into.

7 Reports from committees:

7.1 Planning

7.1.1 Monthly report: see attached planning report and schedule of current applications and recent decisions. It was agreed to get a list of all of the outstanding applications relating to the Polo Grounds at Stoneythorpe from the District Council. A hedge had been removed at Manor Farm and the Clerk was asked to find out if it was to be replaced.

7.1.2 Cemex: Councillor Atkins thanked Councillor Hancock and the team of people who had helped to put the case against the proposal for a Climafuel Facility at the old Cement Works. Warwickshire County Council Regulation Committee had refused the application at its' meeting on 17th November and had approved the application for the Malpass Farm site in Rugby. Councillor Hancock commented that the future of the site was still of concern to residents and it was agreed to put the item on the agenda of the Cemex Liaison Group and on a mini survey of local people once the Parish Plan was approved.

7.1.3 Housing needs: the Clerk agreed to contact Mr. Ward, the Rural Housing Enabler, for a progress report.

7.1.4 Enforcement matters: a) The Buck and Bell - an application had been made for the re-siting of the extractor. It was agreed not to object to this subject to the approval of the planning officer. B) Fox Farm, Bascote – the Clerk was asked to contact Mr. Thatcher, the Enforcement Officer, about his matter.

7.1.5 Stratford Planning Committee Meetings 25th November and 7th December: no items.

7.1.6 Planning Rota:

December – Cllrs. Pails and Williams January 2010 – Cllrs. Loughman and Spencer
It was agreed that councillors on the rota should be consulted first unless unavailable.

7.2 Street Lighting/Highways

7.2.1 Faulty Lights: Councillor Briggs had received an offer from Kevin Brown, a lighting engineer, to inspect the streetlights in the village and identify those in need of replacement. It was agreed to obtain plans showing the location of the lights and begin inspections after Christmas. The light opposite the Co-op was leaning and it was agreed it should be replaced as a priority.

7.2.2 Highways Working Party meeting 18th November: see notes attached. The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 16th December at 7.30pm at The Harvester.

7.2.3 Gates on Stonebridge Lane: the Clerk had received a report that gates had been closed across Stonebridge Lane and a "Gated road" sign erected at the Leamington Road end of the road. Mr. Byrne, the Highways Surveyor, was looking into the matter.

7.2.4 Model Village: The list of maintenance jobs is to be added to the Highways agenda.

7.3 Playing Fields/Open Spaces

7.3.1 LILAC Project: the Clerk had not received any response to the request for volunteers to form a new group to progress this project. No action could be taken until a scheme was agreed for the site, including drainage.

7.3.2 Open Spaces Working Party meeting 18th November: see notes attached. The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 16th December at 8pm at The Harvester.

7.3.3 Smell at Leigh Crescent: the Clerk had made an official complaint to the Customer Services Section of Severn Trent Water. The Chairman said he would ask Dr Wright if he knew of any health problems attributed to the smell.

- 7.3.4 **LIFE Tree Project:** the tree planting had been carried out on Sunday, 29th November. The Clerk had planted a Whitebeam tree at Short Lane play area on behalf of the Parish Council. It was agreed to thank the LIFE group for organising the planting in the village.
- 7.3.5 **Footpaths:** a new fence had been erected along a section of SM2 between Short Lane and Whitehall Farm. The County Council footpaths officer had agreed to check that no reduction of the footpath has taken place.
- 7.3.6 **Pond:** Councillor Hancock said that the overflow needed to be opened and the water quality needed to be checked. It might be possible to get a grant to pay for this.
- 7.3.7 **Christmas tree:** the tree was to be erected on 19th December. It was agreed to purchase three new strands of lights at a cost of £30.
- 7.3.8 **List of Tree Preservation Orders in the parish:** the Clerk has requested a list from Stratford District Council.
- 7.3.9 **Coping Stone, Green End:** Councillor Pails had reported that one had been removed
- 7.3.10 **Gents' Toilet, Green End:** a new bin was required.

7.4 Emergency Planning

- 7.4.1 **Flood pump:** it was agreed to purchase a trolley for the pump.
- 7.4.2 **Fire extinguisher training:** a date was still to be arranged.
- 7.4.3 **Environment Agency river scheme:** it was agreed to send a letter of thanks for the improvements.
- 7.4.4 **Church Road drain replacement:** it was agreed to monitor the progress of this proposal.

7.5 Community Centre:

Councillor Hancock reported that a grant had been applied for to insulate the whole building at a cost of £7500. A decision was expected in January.
 Mrs. Watt had retired as volunteer bookings secretary after 30 years and a gift and flowers had been presented to her to mark her exceptional contribution.
 The possibility of additional clerical support for the Community Centre had been discussed. It was confirmed that the appointment of Mr. Hancock as Treasurer and Mr. Buchholz as Bookings Secretary was approved.

7.6 Finance

- 7.6.1 **Monthly statement:** see attached report.
- 7.6.2 **Payments for approval:** Councillor Hancock proposed that the accounts were approved and Councillor Loughman seconded the proposal. All agreed.
- 7.6.3 **Budget 2010/2011:** Councillor Spencer agreed to bring the final proposal to the January meeting.
- 7.6.3 **Computer for office:** Councillor Spencer and the Clerk were to meet Mr. Richards on 4th December to discuss updating the computer.
- 7.6.4 **Appointment of admin/finance assistant for Parish Council and Community Centre:** it was agreed to delay appointing an assistant until the new Parish Council is elected in May.

8. **Reports from meetings:** none.

9. Attendance at future meetings

- 9.1 **Warwickshire County Council meeting with parish councils** 14th December 7 – 9pm at Leek Wootton Village Hall – highways to be discussed.
- 9.2 **Community Centre Management Committee meetings** 10am on 11th January & 1st March 2010.
- 9.3 **Community Forum meeting** - 22nd February 2010 at 6.30pm at Southam Primary School.

- 10. Correspondence in
 - 10.1 In2Sport – Stratford DC magazine
 - 10.2 Countryside Voice - CPRE magazine
 - 10.3 E.ON updated terms and conditions
 - 10.4 Clerks and Councils Direct magazine
 - 10.5 WALC Newsletter/Annual subs

- 11. Other Items
 - 11.1 **Parish Plan:** the Plan was to be considered by the East Area Committee on Tuesday 8th December. It was agreed to get it printed once it was approved. Possible mini-survey to be carried out in New Year.
 - 11.2 **Website:** Linda Clark was working on updating the site.
 - 11.3 **Clerk’s Performance Targets:** Councillor Spencer to arrange a meeting.
 - 11.4 **Parish Council Election 2010:** possible change of date to 27th May if a General Election is called on 6th May. New councillors wanted – suggestions for publicity etc. An item to be put in the Parish Diary in January.
 - 11.5 **Communications Working Party:** a meeting was arranged for 15th December.
 - 11.6 **Date for Annual Parish Meeting in April 2010:** to be agreed at the next meeting.

- 12. **Date of meetings all at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, Stockton Road.**

6 th January 2010	3 rd February 2010	3 rd March 2010
7 th April 2010	12 th May 2010	2 nd June 2010
7 th July 2010	1 st September 2010	6 th October 2010
3 rd November 2010	1 st December 2010	

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.45 p.m.

Signed..... Date.....

LIPC PLANNING REPORT for November 2009

Sub-Committee: Cllr. McNally

09/02172/TREE Mr. C. Young, Tudor House, Southam Road, Long Itchington

4 no. Maple: shorten back overhanging branches to 6 Village Hall Yard to give clearance of 1.5m over roof, chimney etc.

No objection.

18/11/09

09/02230/TREE Mr. M. Greenshield, 1 The Meadows, Brakeley Lane, Long Itchington

2 no. Ash: fell. 1 no. Ash: removal of overhanging branches.

No objection.

18/11/09

09/02072/FUL Mr. N. Jones, The Buck and Bell, The Green, Long Itchington

Erection of ventilation duct and cowl.

An internal flue would have been preferable with only the roof outlet showing but if the Planning Officer is happy with the appearance of the proposed flue the Council will not oppose it.

19/11/09

09/02276/TREE Mr. Hobbs, Gordons Barn, Church Road, Long Itchington

T1 Willow: pollard back to previous pollard points. T2 Sycamore: 20% crown thin. T3 Sycamore: 20% crown thin.

To be decided.

Highways Working Party meeting 18th November 2009 – notes

1. **Bollard opposite the Co-op** – Mr. Byrne has been asked to replace.
2. **Bascote Heath** speed reduction/traffic calming request. County Council had said this area did not meet criteria for a village scheme at present. Mrs. Hughes had received a negative response from the County Council. Residents had e-mailed the Clerk opposing any traffic calming measures or additional street lighting. PC to reconsider its' attitude to speed reduction request? Suggest to residents that they write individually to the County Council to complain about speeding.
3. **Buck and Bell/Village Hall car park** – Mr. Evans, WCC, had confirmed that signs had been ordered. Clerk to check.
4. **Leigh Crescent** - lay-by to improve parking – to be looked at by Orbit, Heart of England Housing Association.
5. **Highways signs:** Clerk to chase up
 - a) Sign, Southam Road - knocked over by a car - reported
 - b) Height restriction signs needed for bridge at Snowford Hill near pond and weight limit on river bridge, Leamington Road and at the Fosse end of the road – requested from WCC
 - c) Height sign at Stonebridge Lane between sewer works and railway bridge – just post left.
6. **Name signs :**
 - a) Pudding Bag Lane, Bascote - sign removed by Mr. Morley. WCC to be asked to reinstate.
 - b) "The Green" - Clerk to request a sign for the green by the notice board in Church Road.
7. **Bus shelters – 1) Southam Road** – Shelter installed. WCC informed. Payment requested.
2) Short Lane – WCC will pay once installed. No objection from residents. Highways and Planners to be consulted.
8. **Jetting etc.**– idea of sharing a jetter or other services with other villages? Legal considerations to be taken into account.
9. **Grit bin for Bascote crossroads** - delivered (10% voucher obtained). Mr. France will liaise with WCC re installation and filling.
Clerk to provide a list of locations of grit bins to WCC.
10. **Smell at Leigh Crescent** - meeting to be arranged. Severn Trent was looking into it again. SDC, Environmental Health, asked to investigate. Mr. Constable, a sewer pipe layer, is going to Dowdeswells to confirm whether the pumping station is being maintained regularly. Clerk to update.
11. **Idea of a zebra crossing by Buck and Bell** – put to Highways?.
12. **Bascote Road canal bridge** – chevron missing – report to WCC.
13. **Items reported to Mr. Byrne**
 1. **Pot hole on access road to Two Boats**
 2. **Southam Rd, opposite Diner** – the path has been cut back but drains are blocked and verge drains on to path causing flooding. Gully has been emptied. Drainage grips have been installed in the wrong place (by the Two Boats)
 3. **Stonebridge Lane** – road breaking up – danger to cars
 4. **Grey dust can now be seen as far as Rhine Hill** – Cllr. McNally has seen lorries coming out of the site without being washed. Report to WCC.
 5. **Drain blocked** - by horse chestnut opposite the Buck and Bell
 6. **Refuge opposite Marton Road Farm** – road is collapsing**Street lights**

1. New street lights - The light opposite the Co-op to be replaced to improve the area – Mac to check if leaning. Short Lane checked - appear OK.

2. SL5 Galanos – resident has requested a shield to prevent light shining in his house – now adopted.

3. Lights on signs - 40mph sign past Tollgate Cottage and junction of Leamington Rd/pond – Clerk has reported. Cllr. McNally has checked – now working.

4. E.ON – standard criteria for inspecting streetlights for electricity connection and structure of post – result of survey awaited, which will include condition of lights. Order of replacement to be prioritised. Results of survey chased up.

Councillor Briggs said there was to be 10% public sector energy saving by the end of 2011. It may be necessary to consider switching off alternate street lights in the future.

Budget for next year – any reasons to change provision for replacement lights?

Open Spaces Working Party meeting 18th November 2009 – notes

Present: Cllrs. Williams, McNally and Briggs and Mr. Round and the Clerk.

Apologies: Cllr. Pails

1. Dog obedience classes – Helen Clarke, a dog trainer, asked to use the playing field for 5 weeks on Saturday mornings. It was suggested that the new field was used if it was suitable. It was agreed to allow the use for the trial period of 5 weeks.

2. Marton Road - Sign “Gate this way”. SJ has ordered. £14 quoted - agreed

3. The Pond & The Green - T & J to strim.

4. Footpaths

SM2 spur to Leamington Road – roots breaking up surface - WCC to be reminded. SM2 rear of Galanos - Greenbelt had cleared - resurfacing responsibility to be checked. Clerk to check maintenance agreement.

SM2 Short Lane to Whitehall Farm - WCC had left chippings too deep. T & J have been asked to tidy it - also strim triangle by White House.

SM3 area around kissing gates gets very muddy when wet - needs hardcore/chippings laying. T & J to look at it.

T & J to check paths for leaves etc.

5. Leigh Crescent

Safety surface under swings needs repair - DC's report – SDC asked to replace fence. EA informed of smell

Springer to be replaced - T & J to be asked (DW has springer)

New noticeboard?

6. Short Lane Play area

Replacement of “springers” - Grant approved.

Hedge to be reduced to 5ft - Agreed - Footpath Group to do.

Fence around green needs inspecting - T & J

Re-design green area? – Clerk to contact garden designer.

7. Green End

Doors for Pavilion - Mr. Dawson has quoted £880 for 2 doors & frames with locks. It was agreed to recommend approval to the Council.

Slide to be checked/wood needed - T & J/Mac.

Mole problems - Mr. Jukes has been asked again. Clerk to chase.

Fence , Marton Road – T & J to check and repair.

8. Bins

Dog bins - Dog Group to report.

Bin at Blue Lias lay-by has been broken - T & J to inspect

Bin at Chaters Orchard/SM2 has been damaged - T & J to inspect

9. Trees – LIFE project – it was agreed that the PC would pay for trees and then be reimbursed.

PC to pay for BCTV to plant trees - £250 – already agreed by PC.

Plan a new tree survey –last one was done in 2002. Tree at Wulfstan Drive needs checking (opposite Mrs. Salt). Clerk to get a quote (last one was £386).

10. Village maintenance – this topic was raised at the Southam Area WALC meeting on 19th January. SJ to liaise with surrounding parishes re sharing a contractor? Items to be agreed first.

11. **Pump** – Mac is waiting for a trolley to enable the pump to be moved, as it is heavy.
12. **LILAC** – IB gave information on a Community Trust. Mr. Purser agreed it was a good idea.
13. **73 Leigh Cres** – bins on grass – tipped over by kids. SDC to be asked to send a warning letter.
14. **Forest, Bickleys Bridge** – Mr. William Jackson, Poplar Tree Co., will plant and manage site for 10 years – happy to meet cllrs. and residents.

Budget for 2010 – ideas for expenditure? Tree Survey, play equipment (inspection?)