

LONGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LONGTON LIBRARY ON 13TH JANUARY 2009

PRESENT:

Councillors Gooch (Chairman) Artis, Underwood, Cunningham, Welch, Kershaw, Worthington, McLoughlin, Crighton, Fox and Wignall

3 members of the public were present.

01/09 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Rainsbury & Kershaw

02/09 MINUTES

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting on the 2nd December 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

03/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Fox declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 8 on the agenda due to her involvement as secretary to the Village Fete Committee who were requesting a donation. Cllr Fox left the room during the debate and voting on this item.

04/09 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION

The meeting was adjourned for a period of public discussion.

A update with regard to the 2009 Longton Fete was provided. It will take place on the 16th May 2009. Arrangements are progressing well. There will not be any floats this year. The focus will be on the main arena and many performances have been arranged. A decision as to whether the Longton Victory Memorial Recreation Ground may be used has yet to be decided.

Mention was again made that the on demand taxi service to Chorley hospital was little used and was in danger of withdrawal. A suggestion was made that the Parish Council might wish to write a letter in support of its continuance. It was pointed out that any decision on this could not be made at this meeting.

Pot holes in Marsh Lane have not been repaired. A list of them is to be provided to the Parish Council who will then report the issue to LCC.

Arrangements are in hand for the flooding issues in Chapel Lane to be addressed. This will mean closure of Moss Lane to traffic between 1 26/1/2009 and 17/4/2009. Notices are being issued which will include the diversion route.

A recent accident on the A59 has prompted further concern with regard to the safety of this dual carriageway. Pressure is being brought to bear to have the recommendations resulting from the recent vulnerable user audit dealt with as quickly as possible although it was noted that the driver in this latter case was estimated to be driving within the speed limit and it still remains unclear as to the actual cause of the accident. A police report will be due shortly.

The meeting was then re-convened.

05/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

2008/0855 – Retrospective application for change of use for caravan storage @ Ashgrove (No6) Royalty Ave New Longton

2008/0856 - Prior Consultation notification from SRBC covering the erection of 1 no 15 metre high timber monopole supporting 3 no antennas and 2 no dishes with ancillary ground based apparatus @ Land Rear of Alderfield Wham Lane PR4 4JS

2008/0865 – Erection of 3 detached houses and garages (plots 9 and 10 detached garages and plot 10 integral garage) @ Land to rear of 23 Hugh barn Lane New Longton PR4 4XA (Plans will be available at the meeting)

2008/0867 – Substitution of house type to plot 5 to replace ‘Oxford’ type to ‘Stephenson’ type @ Land to rear of 21 Hugh Barn Lane

It was resolved that representation should be made in respect of application 2008/0865. This application is similar to a recent application for 14 houses to which this Council made several objections and was later refused by SRBC. There is an existing permission for 8 dwellings to be built which would mean that if this application were granted the total would then be 11 new dwellings. It was felt that the same objections applied to this application due to the overall size of the potential development. A similar letter of objection will be sent out lining those objections as follows:

1. Road safety issues due to the speed and amount of traffic on Hugh Barn Lane often in excess of the speed limit which would present additional road safety danger to cars accessing Hugh Barn Lane from the proposed development. In addition this danger would be exacerbated by regularly parked cars on Hugh Barn Lane which is a fairly narrow road with an approaching blind bend and is often reduced to one accessible lane. Hugh Barn Lane is also often also used by HGV’s and is an official diversion route when required.
2. Road safety issues to children due to increased traffic generated by the proposed development in the vicinity of the local school which already has issues with regard to the amount of traffic at certain times of day linked to the associated parking issues.
3. Road safety issues as a result of additional pedestrian or cycle traffic potentially generated from the proposed development due to the distance of secondary schools approx 2 miles away from the area given the lack of cycle lanes.
4. The local community cannot sustain the development due to the lack of local leisure and other facilities with main shops and supermarkets located away from the area generating additional traffic movements since they are not within walking distance.
5. There is no established need for this type of housing in the area as required by policy D1 and no affordable housing is provided.
6. The Design and size of the proposed dwellings and nearness to existing properties would create an overbearing and overlooking affect thus affecting neighbour amenity and as such would be in contravention of Local Plan policy QD1(f)
7. The drainage systems in this area are unable to sustain further development. Existing problems already arise on a frequent basis in this general area with effluent backing up and overflowing and general flooding occurring. The proposed development would again exacerbate this to the further detriment of neighbour amenity.
8. It is considered that despite the inclusion of visual splays that the access to this site is simply not suitable to the size of the now proposed development.

06/09 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

PARISH COUNCIL			
000988	W V McWhittle	Salary and Expenses December 2008	549.55
000989	Inland Revenue	3 rd quarterly payment Tax & NI	480.61
000990	Viking Direct	Stationery	50.57
000991	SLCC	Clerks Subscription 2009	166.00
LENGTHSMAN PAYMENTS			
000152	P Heise	Lengthsman wks 36-42	1380.00

It was resolved that the above payments should be approved.

07/09 INTERNAL AUDIT

It was resolved that Len Slade should be appointed as the Internal Auditor for 2008/9 at a fee of £100.00 and that the Terms of Reference and Internal Control and Suggested Testing Methodology as explained in the Parish and Town Council Audit Requirements Report which had previously been circulated should be approved.

08/09 LONGTON VILLAGE FETE DONATION REQUEST

It was resolved that the requested donation of £500.00 should be approved under the LGA 1972 S137

09/09 CHRISTMAS TREES 2009

Members had been asked to consider the suggestion that in 2009 permanent Christmas trees should replace the existing arrangements and identify sites for both Longton and New Longton. (A verbal indication has been given that funding may be withdrawn if sites cannot be identified)

It was resolved that after further consideration Western Parishes Area Committee should be advised that no suitable location had been identified in Longton whereas it was considered that the area around the New Longton children's playground might provide a suitable alternative site for New Longton.

10/09 FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO 31ST DECEMBER 2008

It was resolved that the Financial statement to 31st December 2008 as previously circulated should be approved.