

21 April 2016

LONGSTOWE OPEN PARISH MEETING

Thursday 21st April 2016

Longstowe Village Hall 7.15pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Barbara Cooper (Chairperson)
Cllr Will Bevan
Cllr Geoff Hemmins
Cllr Ben Holland
Bobbie Coe – Clerk

Also present: Cllr B Smith

Tea, coffee and biscuits were served from 6.45pm The meeting started at 7.15pm.

Apologies: Cllr S Kindersley, PCSO John Coppard.

Minutes of the 2015 **Open Parish Meeting** were available.

Chairman's Report: Cllr B Cooper gave a comprehensive report for the year 2015–2016. A copy will be kept with the Minutes.

A handout of the unaudited accounts for 2015–2016 was presented.

PCSO John Coppard sent an annual report. A copy will be kept with the Minutes.

Cllr B Smith and Cllr S Kindersley were thanked for their hard work on behalf of Longstowe and for their presence at most of our meetings. PCSO John Coppard was also thanked for his support.

Dick Murden was thanked for his work on the Public rights of way in the Parish. A copy of his Report will be kept with the Minutes. Andy Church was thanked for his grass-cutting.

The Open Meeting concluded at approximately 8 pm.

Signed by:.....
Chairperson

Date:

Chairperson's Report

Welcome to the 2016 Longstowe Annual Parish Open Meeting at which the public may speak without invitation, followed by the normal Parish Council Meeting which again you are most welcome to attend.

Hopefully you have all seen the Agenda which has been on display on our various notice boards throughout the village and on the website. There will be reports from myself and Councillor Bridget Smith (District Councillor). There will then be an opportunity for Parishioners to ask questions.

- The Parish Councillors are:

William Bevan standing again
Geoff Hemmins standing again
Ben Holland standing again
Barbara Cooper standing again

David Rolls Not standing again
Clerk: Bobbie Coe

I would like to thank Sebastian Kindersley and Bridget Smith for their regular attendance at our monthly parish council meetings and for challenging various issues on behalf of our village. Bridget has and is helping support the village hall with their fund raising efforts. Sebastian has supported our ongoing campaign to reduce the speed limit on the Old North Road having successfully had the speed limit reduced last year along the High Street. There are additional funds we will be seeking this year and would love to hear from parishioners about what they think is needed in the community. Sebastian and Bridget have continued to keep the Parish up to date with the many issues facing the village and the county at large. As a parish we are very lucky to have their support over the past year along with the other parish council members who give up their time to support the Parish attending monthly and other meetings that enable the Parish Council to keep in touch with the challenges that face small villages like Longstowe.

We cannot however go without also thanking those on the village hall committee and their ongoing fund-raising efforts for the refurbishment / new village hall, and the village sports committee members who work tirelessly to keep the Longstowe sports field in such great condition.

Thanks must also be extended to Dick Murden who has kindly agreed to continue as the footpaths / rights-of-way warden for the village.

The Parish Council would also like to express its gratitude to Charlotte Hemmins who took over last year as the internal auditor for the Parish Council and who has kindly agreed to continue to audit the Longstowe Parish Council accounts this year.

Meetings

- Your Council has met each month, except for August, during the past 12 months. At these meetings we have discussed matters raised locally, planning matters referred to us by the District Council, local environmental issues, correspondence received, and our finances. In addition, we have attended a variety of additional

meetings, both within the District and more locally, for training, information, or as part of the ongoing Planning process for the area.

Finance

- Our major source of funding is the precept (£4000 for 2015–2016) from Cambridge District Council which forms part of the council tax that you pay. We have been awarded a grant of £10,000 to purchase speedwatch equipment and a grant of £449 to purchase a computer and scanner to comply with the new transparency regulations. Apart from paying our clerk, the majority of your money is spent on street-lighting, maintaining the bus shelters, playground, and footpaths, along with fees to useful organisations and insurance. A draft summary of income and expenditure for 2015–2016 is available at this meeting and will be available on the website.

The precept requested is higher for 2016–17 than for 2015–16 as we are required to raise £1,000 in advance to pay for possible Parish Council elections. There will be further elections in 2018.

So where has your money been spent. We have several major outgoings which together take the lion's share of our precept and some others I will outline:

- The first significant expense is the Parish Clerk. She is contracted to work 12–16 hours per month for us. In this she must deal with preparing for and recording our monthly meetings, dealing with our finances as our Responsible Financial Officer, together with the mountain of correspondence emanating from Central Government, the County and District Councils and other bodies – much of it in the guise of consultation. I can assure you that our Clerk does significantly more than she claims for and we are truly grateful. I believe she is fully employed on our behalf. Her pay rate is mandated by a National Agreement covering all council employees and reflects her experience in the role. We are a very lucky village to have Bobbie Coe as our clerk.

- Other significant expenses are insurance, maintenance, fees and printing costs for the *Skylark*.

Funds / Grants

An application by the Parish for a grant to purchase our own speedwatch equipment was successful. We hope to receive the funds for the equipment purchase shortly. The parish is very keen to encourage other local residents to become volunteers to support the delivery of the scheme which involves using equipment that can monitor the speed of passing traffic. Volunteers record the details, later adding them to a database. Vehicle checks will be undertaken by the police and letters then sent to the registered keepers advising them of the speed and reminding them of why it is a community concern. Speedwatch is not enforcement, it is all about education. It is important to know that speedwatch now forms a part of the response to speeding issues. Before participating in the scheme volunteers need to have attended a 3 hour training event run by the Cambridgeshire road safety partnership. There are multiple events held locally and therefore it is not difficult to access one of the programmes. If you are interested please contact Barbara Cooper bcconfidential@caw.ac.uk The Dene, Old North Road, Bourn. 07803 903047 for further details. By working together, the Community Speedwatch enables Longstowe residents to become actively

involved in helping slow the traffic with a view to reducing the excessive speed in Longstowe to within 30 mph limits.

The purpose of the Speedwatch equipment will be

- To change people's attitudes towards speeding through Longstowe;
- To create a safer environment for the parishioners particularly the elderly and children crossing the Old North Road;
- To empower the parish to work together in partnership with the road safety agencies.

The Parish will continue to campaign to reduce the speed limit through Longstowe.

Communication

Longstowe Parish Council will continue to ensure that it communicates with all its residents in a timely and effective manner, to inform and consult them about matters which affect them. The Parish Council will publicise the services offered by the Council and will endeavour to ensure communication is clear and appropriate. The key stakeholders with which the Parish Council must communicate include: residents; our Clerk; Councillors (Parish, District and County); village hall committee; village organisations; police and other services. We will continue to negotiate with the police and other services re the speed limit in the village

The parishes communication objectives include

- To improve, plan and shape the future of the parish according to local needs and priorities;
- To improve the quality and delivery of services;
- To use engagement to inform decision making, ensuring decisions meet the needs of the parish;
- To enhance the well-being of the parish;
- To be a stronger, active and more cohesive parish;
- To work towards improving and enhancing the environment and the quality of life for residents.

How this will be achieved:

- Parish Council meetings are open to the public and include an opportunity for members of the parish to engage with Councillors. All meetings include an item for public participation.
- Agendas for all meetings are sent to Parish and District Councillors and posted on the village notice boards and the Parish Council website in advance of each meeting.
- Contact details for all Councillors and the Clerk are available on the village notice board and the Parish Council website.
- A Meeting Report will be sent for inclusion in every issue of the Longstowe Village Newsletter the *Sky/lark* (see the Longstowe website for the latest issue).
- Development of an extended parish volunteer group to assist with a range of activities including dealing with speed watch, cleaning road signs, clearing litter etc... Discussions with neighbouring villages re supporting the services of a cross-village volunteer group.

Community involvement

There have been several highlights of the year, including the village fete in the Summer, the Longstowe horse ride, the Jane Austen fundraising event at Longstowe Hall and the dog show. There are several other community events scheduled over the forthcoming months in support of the village hall building appeal.

The latest tranche of funding for the Community Chest grant scheme run by South Cambs is now open. The funding is available to voluntary and community groups, charities and parish councils wishing to improve the quality of life for residents in South Cambridgeshire. Applicants can apply for up to £1,500 for improvements to community facilities, equipment and materials and project start-up costs. For full details about the fund and guidance on eligibility, visit www.scambs.gov.uk/communitychest. Longstowe Parish Council would love to hear from residents about any ideas that might be worthy of an application to support the community.

Planning

Monthly meetings are held to review planning applications in the parish, assessing their impact on both the immediate neighbourhood and the village in general. Local knowledge and common sense are used to make informed representations to Cambridge District Council as a consultee. The Parish Council is happy to discuss any resident application with individuals before submission for planning approval and for parishioners to attend the meetings where planning issues are discussed.

Planning applications can be viewed on the South Cambridgeshire District Council's web site at: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/services/planning-applications>.

The district council website contains information about the parish. We always welcome your feedback on it and any other parish matters that you feel should be raised.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their continuing support and commitment to ensuring that Longstowe remains a pleasant, safe and outward-looking parish. In particular my appreciation goes to our Clerk Bobbie Coe and William Bevan who has kindly stepped in as chair in my absence during my third year as Chairman

Thank you

Barbara Cooper, Chairperson, Longstowe Parish Council
April 2016

21 April 2016

PCSO John Coppard's Police Report

Longstowe Annual Parish Council Report 2016

Crimes recorded for the village between 1st April 2015 and 1st April 2016:

Total 10 which has stayed the same in relation to 2014–2015

3 x Theft if not classified elsewhere;

6 x Theft from Motor Vehicle;

1 x Burglary in a Dwelling.

The thefts from motor vehicles are occurring at Hayley Wood on the B1046. I do patrol along this stretch and it looks like the offences are happening between 11.30–1.30pm and again between 3.30–5.00pm, so please make everyone aware, dog-walkers etc, to keep your vehicle empty and take any belongings with you when away from your vehicle.

Well done all for being observant and looking out for your neighbours.

Op-HUNTER: this is a more in-depth follow-up from Op-Oaklands with home visits being conducted from an online quiz and offering crime prevention security equipment and marking / registering property.

The online quiz takes a couple of minutes and the score determines how secure your home is, three grades of Straw, Wood or Brick. It's called The Big Bad Wolf: – Do you feel that your home is safe and secure from the potential burglar.... Use code 7269.

Try the online test and good luck.

<http://tinyurl.com/bad-wolf-test>

Thank you for your continued help & support.

John Coppard, April 2016

21 April 2016

Longstowe public rights of way

This is a report of my work on the Public rights of way in the Parish, 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

15th June 2015: Strim entrances to footpaths (FP) no. 11 and no. 2.

9th July 2015: Adjust kissing gate FP10, St John's end. Trim out crossing FP8 / FP11 by old railway.

27th July 2015: Trim bushes at entrance to FP11 and FP2.

Wednesday 16th September 2015: Tour of footpaths as there have been complaints of damage on two paths by farm machinery. This was eventually put right.

Reported fly-tipping Byway 12, Gransden Road end, and later dealt with.

During 2015: A new bridge was installed by County Council on Bridleway 14 where it leaves Longstowe Parish into Croydon.

January 2016: Toured all rights-of-way.

22nd March 2016: Toured paths, put up some new way markers.

25th March 2016: Adjusted gate Bridleway 3 (Church drive); needs pot holes fixing at entrance.

Overall, the rights of way are in good order. There are two wood estate path posts that have rotted at ground level and fallen, one where it leaves Byway 12 and the other on the old railway pointing East.

Report by Dick Murden, 18th April 2016