

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
LONGWICK-CUM-ILMER PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st APRIL 2009 AT 8.00 PM
IN LONGWICK VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Cllr G Harper (Chairman)

Cllrs I Walker, Mrs J Rogers, Mrs. P Priestley, Mrs V McPherson and G O'Neill

Mrs S Griffiths (Clerk)

1/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs D Brock

2/ MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meetings of the Parish Council, having been circulated were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3/ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

Cllrs Mrs P Priestley declared an interest in item 15, Planning Applications.

4/ MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA

The Clerk had requested that Manor Estates perform a soil analysis test on the Playing Field and provide a quotation for strimming the school path by the Scout Hut. Because of the delay due to the problems with the soil analysis kit, Manor Estates went ahead with a basic 9-7-7 spring summer fertiliser treatment. This was applied on the 8th April 2009. When the soil analysis results are received they will forward a copy to the Parish Council for a decision on the way forward.

The cost of strimming the alley will be £9.25 + VAT per occasion. **All present agreed** to request for this work to be done as per the quotation. **SG**

The following issues were reported to Highways - reference numbers 241207, 241209 and 241210.

- The missing sign post in Bar Lane giving directions to Owlswick and Longwick
- A very deep pot hole in the Lower Icknield Way approaching the bridge from the Chinnor direction which is extremely dangerous and needs urgent attention.
- Pot holes in Boxer Road, Longwick.

5/ FINANCE

A/ Accounts for Payment

Cheque number 296: Sally Edwards Printing – Parish Newsletter	£286.00
Cheque number 297: Manor Estates Groundcare Ltd, grass cutting (Mch)	£389.09
Cheque number 299: P.C.C. Owlswick – Grant towards maintenance of the churchyard.	£75.00
Cheque number 300: St Michael's Church, Horsenden –Grant towards maintenance of the churchyard.	£75.00
Cheque number 310: St Peter's Church, Ilmer – Grant towards maintenance of the churchyard.	£75.00
Cheque number 311: WDALC – Annual Subscription	£4.00

Bank Balance £ 6,636.82 (allowing for the above entries)

The income and expenditure for April was examined by the Council. **All present agreed** that the necessary cheques be signed.

6/ CAPITAL ITEMS AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

A/ Playing Field – Cllr I Walker confirmed that the hedges had been cut.

B/ Children's Play Area – Cllr G Harper confirmed that a memorial seat had been ordered to be installed in the Children's Play Area by the brook.

7/ ROADS, VERGES AND RIGHTS OF WAY

The Clerk is requested to raise the following concerns with the relevant local authority: -

SG

- The first stile on Footpath number 18 from the Owlswick end behind the Shoulder of Mutton is unsafe for the less able to use.
- The stile across the playing field on footpath number 4 next to the Railway Bridge is loose.

Cllr Mrs J Rogers advised the members that there was a lot of litter in the ditch along the footpath to the school past the Scouts Hut. **All present agreed** for the Clerk to contact the Scouts and request that consideration is given to including this area for litter picking when the Scouts do any work in the community. SG

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence: Items of general interest on the table.

Correspondence to be discussed:

a) Letter from BCC re: Transport for Buckinghamshire

A letter from BCC had been received advising of the developments within the Transportation Service at B.C.C. Ringway Jacobs will be delivering the full range of transportation services under the name of Transport for Buckinghamshire. It is envisaged that there will be no discernible difference for the Parish Councils and Public.

b) Letter from the Internal Auditor re the Audit return for 2008/2009

The Internal Auditor confirmed that he believed the systems and procedures of Longwick-cum-Ilmer Parish Council to be robust and effective and there are no issues he wishes to bring to the attention of the Parish Council.

9. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2008/2009 AND THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT RETURN

All present agreed to approve the accounts for the year 2008/2009 and the Annual Governance statement of the Annual Audit Return.

10. A REPORT FROM THE WEBSITE WORKING GROUP

Cllrs Mrs V McPherson and Mrs J Rogers gave a report on the progress to date of establishing a web site for the Parish Council. A collection of photographs that had been taken by Mr. Alan Bairstow were shown to the members for their consideration as to which photographs were preferred for the opening page on the website.

All present agreed to request the Clerk to send the collection to Mike Henson, for his advice as to which would be the most suitable before the final decision is made. SG

11. REPORTS

A School Governors:

Cllr G O'Neill advised the members that the school still needed a Community Governor. However, he was pleased to advise the members that there was to be an election for two parent governor vacancies as three candidates had expressed an interest in filling the vacancies

B Local Community Partnership:

The next meeting is to be held in September.

Cllr G O'Neill informed the members that there had been a general concern that these groups have no power or budget and most Town and Parish Councils are doing everything that these groups are talking about. They lack a constitution, authority and accountability.

There had been an increase in the number of meetings which Parish Councillors have to attend when they were led to believe that there would be less and there is a continual repetition of the same statements/issues. Many consider the meetings a waste of time and of little relevance or use with the Town and Parish Councils not seeing any benefits of the Local Community Partnerships. It was accepted that some of the problems were being created by government policy.

C. WDALC:

Cllr I Walker agreed with the information provided by Cllr G O'Neill.

At the last meeting of the WDALC held in March, the Parish Councils were each asked for their views and impressions on the value of the Local Community Partnerships.

It was felt that there was a tension between elected representatives and unelected members of the public and that the elected representatives are accountable whereas members of the public are not. It was also felt that the role of Town and Parish Councils should not be undermined or eroded and should be the link for Community Engagement.

D. Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr Mrs V McPherson informed the members that the Community Speed watch traffic monitoring scheme had been very successful in Princes Risborough with six people receiving warning letters sent out by the Police to the registered keepers stating that their vehicle had been reported as speeding. Locations for monitoring speed are selected from sites suggested by the community, based on where there is most local concern about speeding traffic, or the impact of speed. Cllr Mrs V McPherson advised that there were five volunteers from Longwick, including herself, to man the Speedwatch monitoring device. Training is due to start for these volunteers in the near future.

E. Newsletter

Cllr Mrs V McPherson was thanked by the members for the excellent production of the last newsletter. It was acknowledged that the members were short of a few copies to deliver one to each household in the parish. Cllr V McPherson agreed to increase the amount printed to cover the shortfall. VM

Cllr Mrs P Priestley left the meeting.

12. Planning Applications

A/ Progress on applications already considered:

09/05170/FUL29/01/2009 Land at Corner of Lower Icknield Way and Mill Lane Monks Risborough Buckinghamshire Construction of 4 x timber stables and tack room, feed box and hay store **Permitted**

09/05447/CTREE: Quakers Farm, Meadle Village Road, Meadle. Fell 2 Leylandii trees, 1 Norway Spruce and 1 Hornbeam. **Permitted**

B/ New Applications to be considered

09/05576/FUL 5 The Green, Longwick: Erection of single storey conservatory to rear. **The Parish Council has no observations.**

09/05583/FUL Brook Cottage, Horsenden Lane, Princes Risborough. Application for construction of single storey side extension. **The Parish Council has no observations.**

13. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Acceptance of Office to be signed by the Chairman.
3. Election of Vice Chairman.
4. Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed by the Vice Chairman.
5. Nominations for representations with other organisations.
6. To receive a report from the Website Working Group (Cllrs Mrs V McPherson and Mrs J Rogers)

14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 19th May 2009 in Longwick Village Hall at 8.00pm. There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.