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Minutes of the meeting of Longden Parish Council held on
Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 7.30 pm in Longden Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. Paul Carter – Chairman	Cllr. R Evans – Vice chair	Cllr. P Arnold
Cllr. Mrs K Lovegrove	Cllr. N Evans	Cllr. Mrs C Roberts
Cllr. K Roberts	Cllr. C Rigby	

Also present: Caroline Higgins, Clerk and four members of the public

101/2022 Chairman’s Welcome - The Chairman welcomed all present

102/2022 Apologies – Cllr J Whysall, (work commitment), noted

103/2022 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest – Cllr K Lovegrove declared a non-pecuniary interest as a member of the management committee for Douglas Swire Hall, (Longden Parish Hall), to be discussed under item 8.3 of the agenda.

104/2022 Minutes - The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

105/2022 Public Participation –

Two representatives from the management committee of Douglas Swire Memorial Hall outlined their plans to extend the hall in which the council met. They reported that a saving of 50% of the fee could be made if the Parish Council were to submit the planning application on their behalf, saving £462 which would offset the costs of the scheme. The village hall committee would reimburse the cost of the discounted fee and undertake all administrative works. The members asked about the fire strategy and requested more detailed plans.

Two residents of Hook-a-gate outlined their updated application to convert their barn to a wedding venue and set out their proposed operational plans which included up to two weddings per week plus occasional hire for meetings and conferences. Members asked questions relating to capacity and the timings of events plus traffic movements and signage.

The public session closed at 8;05pm and two members of the public left the meeting.

106/2022 Reports

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106.1 Clerk’s Report – The Clerk updated the written report circulated with the agenda. It was noted that a litter bin was still hoped for near Hanley House in Hook-a-gate, (awaiting delivery by Shropshire Council); that agreement had been reached between the employers and Clerks as to the National Pay Award, effective from 1 April 2022 and that the backdated pay would be included with the November salary calculations; that NALC Affiliation fees would increase by 3% in 2023/24 (£0.771/ elector) and that a Climate Change Workshop was being held on 2 and 29 November at a discounted cost of £75 to include a Carbon Literacy Project Certificate for delegates. A meeting has been arranged at Annscroft to discuss the possibility of connecting a defibrillator cabinet to the VAS sign and the outcome will be reported to the next meeting. The cost of cable ties to fix poppies to lampposts was reported as £3.86 which should be reimbursed to Cllr K Roberts

106.2 Chairman’s Report – The Chairman reported on a long awaited meeting with Shropshire Council’s Traffic Engineer and a meeting with the Lyth Hill Advisory Group. He reported that the road signs at Wood House crossroads had now been replaced. He had unfortunately not been able to attend the Civility and Respect Training because of a technical issue.

106.3 Shropshire Councillor’s Report – Cllr R Evans reported on the following issues:

- The Quarry Swimming Centre will be closed and repaired but would be retained
- Boundary Commission review to be published on 8th November will recommend Longden will be part of the Shrewsbury parliamentary constituency
- Ongoing concern about the suggested location of the proposed GP hub at Otley Road
- Shropshire Council has received a £2.5M grant to support rough sleepers
- A six week consultation has commenced on an 18 month trial of 20mph zones outside 6 schools
- £30M cost of living contribution to be publicised
- £1M funding for electric vehicle charging provision for drivers with no private charging facilities
- No application to be submitted for Investment Zone funding
- Levelling up bids – awaiting outcome of LU2 application for Shrewsbury Connect and Rural Connect schemes
- Lyth Hill bus service may become part of a pilot to improve the service in the future

106.4 Councillors’ Reports

Cllr C Rigby concerned about the number of commercial vans and private vehicles using Lyth Bank at excessive speed. Although the road is unrestricted, they are not driving with regard to the road conditions. It was agreed to request a greater police visibility in this area.

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Cllr N Evans reported blocked drains at Redhill layby. Cllr K Roberts reported he had cleared a blocked drain at Hanley Lane in Hook-a-gate but another was blocked with mud and silt. It was agreed to request a drain sucker be sent to clear all the gullies through the village.

Cllr K Lovegrove reported that the Tankerville Arms had received a very high hygiene rating and urged people to support them with their custom.

107/2022 Traffic and Highways

107.1 Traffic Safety – A meeting had been held in Longden with Shropshire Council to discuss the lack of school warning signs and inappropriate speeds on Shrewsbury Road, the issues of inconsiderate parking on Plealey Lane, the lack of a safe crossing facility on Shrewsbury Road, the lack of a barrier at the end of the footpath between the school and the Tankerville Arms and the position of the VAS sign. The engineer also looked at signage near Cobham Villas and the positioning of the village gateways planned at Hook-a-gate. The Clerk will confirm the points discussed to the engineer and request his proposals, stressing the urgency of the need for the barrier opposite the Tankerville Arms.

107.2 Village Gateways – Awaiting installation date to be confirmed. (Clerk to chase up).

108/2022 Planning

108.1 Planning Applications – The Council considered the following planning applications

108.1.1 22/04633/FUL Stapleton Grange, Longden; Erection of stone temple on the edge of a lake; No comments

108.1.2 22/04554/OHL Street Record, Exfords Green, Longden; Proposed installation of third wire to an existing overhead line; Noted

108.1.3 22/04396/FUL Moat Hall, Annscroft; Proposed conversion of agricultural buildings into wedding and events venue and associated facilities; Following a lengthy discussion during which the applicants were given a further opportunity to speak the Council **RESOLVED** (with one abstention and one vote against) to make a neutral representation with no objection to the principle of the development but to express its concerns about the impact on residential amenity and to make the following recommendations for operating conditions:

- That events finish no later than 12:30am at weekends (Friday/Saturday) and no later than midnight in the week (Sunday - Thursday)
- That the start time for events be no earlier than 10am, to avoid traffic conflicts with school/nursery traffic
- That the number of events be restricted to 100 in any year (including meetings/conferences)

108.1.4 22/04795/FUL Reabrook Villa, Hook-a-gate; Erection of a four-bedroom detached dwelling, new vehicular access and associated

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landscaping; The Council noted the inaccurate and irrelevant statements relating to Bayston Hill housing targets in the design and access statement and confirmed that Hook-a-gate is identified as Open Countryside in the emerging Local Plan, which being at the examination stage, carries considerable weight. The parish housing targets identified in the SAM.Dev plan have already been exceeded with further housing awaiting delivery in the village. The lack of a road connection to Bayston Hill or any shop within the village of Hook-a-gate make the assertions about sustainable development inaccurate, particularly with the threat of the loss of the remaining bus service from April.

The Council noted a reduction in the size of the proposed dwelling but noted it was still positioned too far forward and too close to the neighbouring property. The two cars shown diagrammatically on the plans do not appear to be equal in size, suggesting that there would be insufficient space to park two vehicles off the road unless the building were moved back onto the plot. Residents would be reliant on private transport if the bus service is suspended.

Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to **OBJECT** to the development on the grounds of overdevelopment of the plot, unsustainable development over the identified housing targets and failure to meet the requirements for development in open countryside. It was further resolved to recommend that should officers be minded to approve the development, that the building be positioned further back into the plot and closer to Reabrook Villa and that a two bedroom property similar to the neighbouring cottage be built instead of the four bedroom house proposed.

Note: Council decisions are based on the information available at the time of the meeting. Members representing other bodies reserve the right to take new information into account and review their position should they be required to consider an application at a later date.

108.2 Planning Decisions – None

108.3 Longden Village Hall Planning request – The Council noted the request to submit a planning application and the potential to save costs. The Council did not identify any objections to the principle of the proposed extension but expressed a concern that as applicants they would not have the right to make any comments on the proposal. There were also concerns that the plans supplied did not include a fire strategy plan, which would be required for any public building. If it were to make the submission the Council would require sight of all relevant plans in order to undertake due diligence. It was the **RESOLVED** to **EITHER** make £500 available as a grant to offset the cost of the planning application by the Village Hall Committee **OR** to ask for the full plans for review before considering their request at the next meeting.

At 9:30pm the Council resolved to lift standing orders to enable the remaining business on the agenda to be completed

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108.4 Neighbourhood Planning – The Council noted that the Shropshire Local Plan adopted in 2017 was effectively out of date but developing a Neighbourhood Plan would help to safeguard the planning status of the parish. It was noted that a Neighbourhood Plan is a significant piece of work which would require additional officer time and the support of a suitably experienced planning consultant. Grants are available from Locality but time will be required to prepare a successful application. It was **RESOLVED**, with one abstention to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to consult with a neighbouring parish about preparing a grant application and to estimate the costs of consultancy support. It was further agreed to seek the advice of the Place Plan Officer at Shropshire Council together with a cost estimate.

109/2022 Play Areas – The Council approved the spraying of moss on the Annscroft MUGA at a cost of £75.00 using the existing grounds maintenance contractor as an extension of his contract.

110/2022 Street Furniture

110.1 Litter bins – Shropshire Council are still planning to trial a bin at Hook-a-gate near the end of Hanley House Lane

110.2 Noticeboards – The quotation of £820.00 was noted for a noticeboard to fit the posts at Lower Common and to match that recently installed at Hook-a-gate

110.3 Defibrillator – Cllr K Lovegrove reported that she hoped to be able to source a defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation but we would be required to contribute a suitable cabinet. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lovegrove submits the application. The Clerk will meet with Shropshire Council’s Street Light manager to discuss the possibility of taking a power supply from the VAS sign in Annscroft and report back to the next meeting.

111/2022 Tree Planting – Cllr K Roberts reported that he had collected the Jubilee tree which is a 6’ potted sapling. It was agreed to plant the tree at Annscroft play area on 19th November at 10am. All Councillors are invited to attend.

No application submitted for the free tree scheme.

112/2022 Finance

112.1 Payments made under delegated authority – The Council noted and ratified the following retrospective payments:

- SSE Southern Electric (Street lighting electricity – November) £ 106.00

112.2 Payments for approval – The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the following payments:

£

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- C Higgins (October Salary) 607.59
- C Higgins (Expenses) 28.09
- HMRC (NI contributions) 1.80
- NEST (Pension contributions – combined) 43.22
- HAPTC (Civility & Respect Training – P Carter) 15.00
- Boyd’s Groundcare (Annscroft Grass cutting – September) 108.00
- Shropshire Council (Lyth Hill Grant) 8,656.00

112.3 Invoices received after publication of the agenda – The Council approved the following invoice for payment: £

- Cloudy IT (October IT support) 75.36

112.4 Bank Reconciliation – The Council approved the reconciliation dated 21st October 2022 and the Chairman signed it.

112.5 CIL Report – The Clerk presented a draft annual report summarising Neighbourhood Funds received and allocated to date. It was noted that the earliest CIL funds had been held for over five years and needed to be spent or returned to Shropshire Council. It was agreed to allocate £820 for the replacement of the Lower Common noticeboard for which a quotation had recently been obtained. It was agreed that the annual report should be updated with the noticeboard as project three and the noticeboard ordered.

112.6 Budget Proposals – Projects suggested included:

- A grant of £10,000 from the remaining CIL Neighbourhood Fund to support the extension of the Longden Village Hall, should their planning application be successful
- Additional Village Gates
- Pavement improvements through Longden Village

113/2022 Correspondence & Consultations

The Council noted correspondence listed on the agenda

- Acknowledgement of re-declaration of re-enrolment – Pensions Regulator
- Fee increase and contract renewal agreement – D M Payroll
- Subscription increase advance notice – Scribe accounts

114/2022 Civility and Respect Project – The Council noted that the recently adopted Dignity at Work Policy replaced the previous Bullying and Harassment Policy. The Chairman signed the Civility and Respect Pledge which will be publicised within the parish. The Clerk was asked to bring a draft training programme to a future meeting for approval.

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115/2022 Date of next meeting – It was **RESOLVED** that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 7th December 2022. A meeting of the Finance Committee will take place on Wednesday 16th November to consider the next budget recommendations. The committee meeting will start at 2:00pm at the village hall.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm