

**Meeting of the of Longcot Parish Council  
held in the St Mary's Church Hall, Church Close, Longcot  
on Monday 29 November 2021 at 7pm**

**Present**

Andi Cunningham, Chairman, John Barneby, Alan Rich, DC Elaine Ware and Tina Brock, Clerk.

**196/21 Apologies for Absence.**

Nathan Boyd (prior commitment), Amy Cooper (unwell), CC Yvonne Constance (car broke down) and DC Simon Howell (prior commitment). Council approved these apologies.

**197/21 Variance of Order of Business. None.**

**198/21 Declaration of Interest. None.**

**199/21 Public Participation. None.**

**200/21 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 11 October 2021.**

Council resolved to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman.

**201/21 Matters arising from the minutes. None.**

**202/21 Public Participation. None.**

**REPORTS**

**203/21 Report from County Councillor.**

CC Constance submitted a written report.

NEW 20 mph speed limit.

I'm continuing to assemble all information available on the roll-out of 20mph so that Parish Councils can make provision for probable spend in 2022. I haven't got a definitive statement, but it's clear that the new administration intends to provide some funding for 20 mph in their budget and will make no decision until budget setting in February 2022. In the meantime, it seems sensible to note the estimated costs to Parish Councils (stated in the papers to October Cabinet) and consider including at least that level of spend in your precept for 2022 so that you are ready to install as soon as possible in 2022, rather than having to delay for another year if you are intending to proceed with 20 mph safer limit.

As previously reported the estimated costs are: £5,000 for a small village; £15,000 for a large village and £35,000 for a town. I don't know if costs will be charged by numbers of signposts to be changed, or whether a village can apply for 20mph on some streets and not others.

My understanding of the process is now that OCC will roll out to parishes, which are the legal units for setting speed limits. There will not be a county-wide approval of 20 mph subject to application by PCs. It's likely that rollout will be to all parishes area by area, and roll-out will be over 3 years. That makes me keen to see Shrivenham Division in the first area roll-out, so I write to encourage you to consider registering now (on the web site as previously advised) on the basis of funding the estimated costs for your parish.

There will be issues around the priority for roll-out, and it seems wise to be as 'roll-out ready' as we can be.

Council agreed that it would not object to Oxfordshire County Council funding a 20mph speed limit along Kings Lane by the school. Council agreed that it did not have the funds to pay for the scheme and had concerns over how it would be enforced.

**204/21 Report from District Councillor.**

**Covid** – As infection rates still remain high in both the Vale and Swindon, we request that residents continue to follow the guidance and take care. Should the current arrangements change, we would encourage people to keep a watching brief on the Vale's website for new information. [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

**Waste Service** – We are pleased that the garden waste service has returned to normal.

There are still occasions when bins are missed, and residents are reminded to contact Biffa if any bins are missed. 03000 610610 or online [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/missedbin](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/missedbin)

**Afghan Refugees** – The Vale continue to work closely with the County Council and other Oxfordshire partners to assist with finding suitable accommodation, health, education, and other services. The Vale are committed to accommodate three families. The first of the three families have settled in well and we are expecting the next two families to arrive in the next few weeks.

**Planning** – The latest planning applications for all villages in our Ward may be found on the Vale website.

Last month we mentioned that there were two controversial applications one in Shrivenham and one in Ashbury. Both have attracted a great number of objections including a petition from residents in Ashbury and Oxfordshire County Council Highways where it is proposed to erect a 15mtr communications mast. The Shrivenham application is from the same developer who won the appeal to build the Townsend Place development. The decision target date for this development is 5 January 2022. If the application is recommended for approval, it will be considered by the Vale Planning Committee.

One other planning application that has been outstanding for some months was for the development of 5 dwellings on land North East of Swiss Cottage off Faringdon Road Shrivenham. This application was refused on the grounds of land outside the built area, in open countryside and within the defined settlement gap between Shrivenham and Watchfield.

Between 16 September and 16 November there have been 37 planning applications registered at the Vale from villages in our Ward.

**Council Meeting** – The next full Council meeting will be held on 8 December. The agenda will be published on the Vale website on Wednesday 1 December.

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee** – The next meeting will take place on Monday 10 January 2022 and the agenda will be published on 3 January 2022.

**Swindon CCG** - Following questions raised at full Council meetings regarding communications between the Vale and Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group we are pleased to report that a meeting took place at the beginning of November between senior representatives of the CCG and the Vale Leader Cllr Emily Smith and Deputy Chief Executive Suzanne Malcolm. A further meeting is due to take place early next month which will enable Elaine and Simon to raise issues that directly affect residents of our Ward.

**Meet your Councillors** - At the Meet your Councillors event held on 6 November concerns were raised about the speeding traffic in the High Street. Of particular concern is the speed of the S6 bus in the early hours of the morning and after rush hour in the evening. We have raised the issue with Stagecoach, and they have agreed to remind their drivers of the 20mph speed limit and to respect the speed humps. In addition, Stagecoach Inspectors will be monitoring the buses during the hours that have been highlighted.

**Electric Vehicles** – Awaiting confirmation of exact locations and then relevant legal licenses will be obtained. It is still anticipated that all installations will be completed by next March.

**Civil Parking Enforcement – The scheme is now live.** Officers will be able to enforce the majority of restrictions where traffic orders and regulatory signs and lines are in place. It is stressed that problems such as pavement parking are not automatically enforceable unless there are formal restrictions in place. In order for the scheme to settle PCN's (Penalty Charge Notices) will not be issued until January 2022.

**White Horse Community Lottery** – As previously reported the Lottery now has its own website: [www.whitehorsetlottery.co.uk](http://www.whitehorsetlottery.co.uk) which provides all the information required to participate. Voluntary and charitable groups are invited to join. It is free for you to get involved.

**Thames Valley Police** - Vale Councillors received presentations from the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner on 11 November. If Parishes are interested in the content of the presentations, please let Elaine know.

**Christmas shopping free parking** - Faringdon 27/11, 4 and 11/12 and Wantage 4, 11, 18/12

**Swindon Borough Council – New Eastern Villages**

Although the White Hart roundabout has been reopened there is still traffic management in place. So much so that the tailbacks are again backing up to Acorn Bridge. It is anticipated that the works will carry on around the area at least until next February. The works continue to have an impact on local villages which have seen a significant increase in traffic, often speeding in an attempt to avoid any possible queuing on the A420. The increase in HGV traffic has been most noticeable and has caused a great deal of damage to roads that are totally unsuitable for such heavy traffic. What is of concern and has been mentioned previously is that once the White Hart Roundabout and the other roadworks in and around

the A420 have been completed that the diverted traffic will continue to use the villages as Rat Runs.

At a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Committee at Swindon Borough Council the Cabinet Member for Strategic Infrastructure, Transport & Planning reported on a number of areas including the New Eastern Villages. In the last year Outline planning permission has been granted for 6,430 homes, 5 local centres, 4 new primary schools, a 10 form-entry secondary schools, 3 sports hubs and a park & ride site. In addition, there are 70 homes currently being constructed on the former South Marston Hotel site. Many of these permissions will have a direct effect on the A420. Indeed, the report also refers to *quote - a connectivity study on transport improvements through the whole Swindon to Oxford corridor, looking at all modes of transport including the A420 as a key element. This study is critical to future infrastructure investment along the corridor between Swindon (Didcot) and Oxford and will consider multi-modal travel, including potential dualling of the A420.*

#### **205/21 Update from Chairman.**

LongFest 2022 contacted Council to request staging the event on 2 July 2022 on the Dash. Council agreed to give permission subject to the following conditions:

- carry out a risk assessment and sent to Council prior to the date of the event
- obtain appropriate insurance, proof to be sent to the Council
- road closure to be arranged with Oxfordshire County Council
- any damage made to the Dash to be reinstated immediately after the event
- all litter to be collected and removed from site
- ensure outside bodies ie bouncy castle hirers have the correct insurance in place
- obtain a music licence if needed, information can be found on the gov.uk website
- that residents close to the event are informed
- have a start and end time

## **FINANCE**

### **206/21 Payments of Accounts.**

It was resolved to authorise the payments below:

*Table 1 List of receipts.*

<b>Spending Power</b>	<b>Receipts received</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
LGA 1929 s115	SSE	Wayleave	£2.00

*Table 2 List of payments*

<b>Spending Power</b>	<b>Payments due:</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total</b>
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle Water	Allotment water - October	£46.72
EP128 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	MRH Services	Service of play equipment	£39.50
EP129 LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014 EP90	T Brock	Clerk's Oct salary	£201.05
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle Water	Allotment water – Nov	£46.72
EP130 LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014 EP90	T Brock	Clerk's Nov salary	£200.85

Bank balances as of 18 November 2021:

Current account £14,524.13 cr.

Deposit account £4,911.18 cr.

## **COUNCIL**

### **207/21 Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill.**

Council agreed to thank Zero Hour Oxfordshire for the information about their campaign, and comment that Longcot Parish Council does not get involved in anything political but of course does take the green agenda very seriously and are proud to have new eco homes built in the village and being one the first in Oxfordshire to do so.

### **208/21 VWHDC Draft arrangements for considering allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct.**

Council considered the draft and agreed not to respond.

**209/21 Financial Regulations.**

Council reviewed the regulations and agreed they were fit for purpose,

**210/21 Financial Risk Assessment.**

Council completed the RA and agreed no actions were required. Annex 1.

**211/21 Register of Assets.**

Council reviewed and accepted the Register of Assets.

**212/21 Effectiveness of the System of Internal Audit.**

Council reviewed the system and found them adequate. Annex 2.

**213/21 Complaints Procedure.**

Council approved the Complaints Procedure.

**214/21 Standing Orders.**

Council considered and approved the amended Standing Orders.

**215/21 Clerk's Salary,**

Council approved increasing the Clerk's salary from SCP28 £16.75ph to SCP30 £17.56ph from December 2021.

**216/21 OCC 20mph restriction. See minute 203/21.****217/21 Budget 2022/2023.**

Council amended the budgets slightly and approved the budget 2022/2023 (V2). Annex 3.

**218/21 Precept 2022/2023.**

Council agreed to set the 2022/2023 precept at £7,800.00.

**219/21 3-year plan.**

Council reviewed the plan and agreed to include replacement office equipment and flood defence. This was agreed. Annex 3.

**PLANNING****220/21 Permitted Planning Applications. Noted**

*Table 3 Permitted planning applications.*

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P20/V3049/LB	The Byre, Kings Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TZ <i>Replace a rotten wooden valley gutter with lead (additional details submitted on 26/1/2021, 17/3/2021 and 5/10/2021) – retrospective.</i>
ii	P21/V2190/FUL	Land off Mallins Lane, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7PR <i>Agricultural building for the storage of hay, straw, and associated machinery. (Additional drainage details rec'd 27/6/10/2021.)</i>

**PLAY AREA****221/21 Maintenance requests.**

- i. Upgrading of play equipment at The Dash, Play Park. Council agreed to hold a public consultation in the spring to gather residents' views on upgrading the play park.
- ii. MRH Services carried out a service inspection of the play equipment in October 2021.
- iii. Maintenance requests. None.

**HIGHWAYS****223/21 Update on any issues. None.****ALLOTMENTS****224/21 Update on any issues.**

- i. Allotment Tenancy. Council considered the agreement fit for purpose and would review the annual rent at the next meeting.
- ii. Update on any issues. None.

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION****Exclusion of Press and Public**

**To move the following resolution, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting, and they are requested to withdraw.**  
**225/21 Any Matters. None.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
**226/21 Next meeting of the Parish Council.**  
To be advised.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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