

LONG ITCHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL 2011 AT 7.30 pm IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, STOCKTON ROAD, LONG ITCHINGTON

Present: David Cobley (Chairman)
Barbara Atkins
Frances Heales
Russell Wheatley

Ian Briggs
Richard Jackson

Wendy Charles
Adrian McNally

District & County Cllr: Robert Stevens

Parish Clerk: Sue Jack

Members of the public: none.

1. **Apologies accepted:** Councillor Spencer (holiday).
2. **Questions from members of the public:** none.
3. **Declaration of interests:** none.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2011**
Councillor Wheatley proposed that the minutes, having been circulated to all councillors prior to this meeting, were signed as a correct record. Councillor McNally seconded this proposal and it was agreed.
5. **Report from District/County Councillor Stevens:**
There would be no election for the District Council in this area in May as Councillor Spencer had been elected unopposed. The referendum on AV would still go ahead.
The County Council were consulting the public on proposals which affected libraries, Core Strategy, Waste Strategy, HS2 and Youth Services. More would be decided about HS2 after the elections.
The deadline for redundancies at the County Council was 1st April – 600 posts were to go overall (from a staff of 8000). A reorganisation was going on at present.
17 out of 33 schools in the county were interested in becoming academies.
6. **Neighbourhood Watch:**
Mr. Charles reported that he had been to two meetings - one at Southam Police Station, which would be losing one Police Constable but would not be closing as the Forensic Science department was moving there and the other at Ladbroke which covered the same topics. Speeding on the A423 was an issue but the Speedaware Scheme was being cut. In the village bins had been set alight at the playing field and youths were hanging around causing trouble at Leigh Crescent. A lady in Church Road had received a call from a company selling a burglar alarm system connected to the police, which was probably a scam, and the derelict house at Thorn Way had been broken into again.
He had attended the Spring Show and recruited one more volunteer for the Collingham Lane area.
He had registered for NW Alerts, which meant he would be contacted by e-mail with details of any crimes carried out in the area.
- 7 **Reports from committees:**
 - 7.1 **Community Centre:**
Councillor Atkins reported that the Spring Show on the 2nd April had been a great success, with more people attending and more money raised than in the past.
The proposed alterations to the Lease and Trust Deed had been sent to the School Governors for comment.

7.2 Communications

Councillor Atkins reported that the recent survey had produced volunteers interested in village communications.

It was agreed to renew the Domain names held by the Parish Council.

Mr. Fletcher was concerned that he was getting too much information to publish in the Parish Diary. A meeting was planned to discuss options.

7.3 Emergency Planning

Watermark Project – meeting 5th March: the Clerk reported that the meeting had been very useful in refining the actions that needed to be taken in the event of an emergency. The Chairman distributed an updated telephone cascade to be used in the event of an emergency.

7.4 Finance

7.4.1 Monthly statement: not available due to year end not being completed.

7.4.2 Payments for approval: Councillor Briggs proposed that the accounts were approved and Councillor McNally seconded the proposal. All agreed.

7.4.3 Parish Survey: it was agreed to write a letter thanking Mr. Atkins of Researchcraft for carrying out the survey.

7.5 Street Lighting/Highways

7.5.1 Faulty Lights: the light at the garages at Leigh Crescent was still not working.

7.5.2 Working Party meeting 14th March 2011: see notes attached.

7.5.3 HS2: a response was required to the consultation by 29th July 2011.

7.5.4 Pot-holes: it was agreed to send an updated list to the County Council as soon as possible.

7.6 Playing Fields/Open Spaces

7.6.1 Village maintenance: Mrs. Fincham had resigned from due to family commitments.

It was agreed to write and thank her for her hard work on behalf of the village in recent years. Councillor Atkins agreed to check the list of volunteers from the survey to see if there was a possible replacement.

7.6.2 LILAC Project/car park/sponsored trees: Councillor Wheatley reported that a meeting had been held on 4th April and three new volunteers had attended (there were 13 possibles from the Parish Survey). Jeremy Atkins had reported on the survey, which had provided very interesting comments about the future of the playing field and what people wanted. LILAC had received a conditional grant offer for a nature trail of £10,000. A petition had been received from nearby residents who were concerned about a jogging track directing users too close to the rear of their properties but no final plan had been agreed at present. Mr. Purser had organised the planting of six elm trees and 120 holly bushes had been delivered for planting next week. It was agreed to write and thank the Arthur Rank organisation for providing the workforce.

7.6.3 Open Spaces Working Party Meeting 14th March 2011: see notes attached.

7.6.4 Bins: SM2/Leamington Road – the bin was not being emptied.

7.6.5 New footpath: Mr. Fletcher has suggested a new route from the canal to the village. Mr. Barnes, the landowner has blocked the steps with hedge trimmings so his opinion needs to be sought before any other action was taken.

7.6.6 Bin Stickers: Speed awareness labels – the Clerk to source supply.

7.7 Planning

7.7.1 Monthly report – see attached.

7.7.2 Cemex: the application for the quarry extension had been approved by the County Council.

- 7.7.3 **Housing:** the Planning Committee decided that the the Stockton scheme could only go ahead if a contribution was made towards education and other County Council costs. The Housing Association has now decided to reduce the number of houses in the Long Itchington scheme from 12 to 10 to avoid the same situation arising here.
- 7.7.4 **Enforcement matters:** the County Council had confirmed that Lilac Cottage, Bascote, had been built partly on highway land. The Applicant had been given three options and a response was awaited as to her decision.
- 7.7.5 **Stratford Planning Meeting 6th April:** no items.
- 7.7.6 **Planning Rota:** April – Cllrs. Jackson & Wheatley, May – Cllrs. Heales and Spencer

8. Meetings attended/forthcoming meetings

- 8.1 **Community Forum meeting Wednesday 16th March at Ladbroke Village hall**
- 8.2 **Community Centre Management Committee meeting 27th April**
- 8.3 **HS2 Roadshows: Bell Inn, Ladbroke, 2nd June and Graham Adams Centre, Southam, on 3rd/4th June.**
- 8.4 **SDC Core Strategy Planning Workshop 1st April at Harbury – Cllr. Briggs attended but found an unwillingness to listen from those running the workshop.**
- 8.5 **National Awareness Training Programme – Gypsies and Travellers – oversubscribed.**
- 8.6 **CPRE AGM 27th May at 6.30pm at Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick.**
- 8.7 **WALC Induction Training programme – Cllr. Jackson to attend.**

9. Correspondence for circulation

- 9.1 WDC Local Plan Consultation
- 9.2 Waste Core Strategy – WCC
- 9.3 WALC Newsletter/membership invoice
- 9.4 Mrs. Fincham - letter of resignation

10. Other Items

- 10.1 **Parish survey:** a presentation of the survey results was arranged for 11th April.
- 10.2 **Annual Parish Meeting 16th April:** format/reports were agreed.
- 10.3 **Annual Parish Dinner:** thanks had been received from Mrs. Clark and Mr. Tooby.
- 10.4 **Beer Festival:** a request had been received to park coaches at the Community Centre. Councillor Atkins agreed to liaise with the committee.
- 10.5 **Parish Council guide to CNEA 2005:** important information about powers available to deal with dog fouling etc.
- 10.6 **Churchyard Grant:** it was agreed to put a proposal to the next meeting.

11. Any other business – for information only

Councillor Briggs reported that a colleague of his had visited the parish as part of a study into "The Big Society".

12. Date of meetings all at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, Stockton Road.

4 th May 2011	1 st June 2011	6 th July 2011
7 th September 2011	5 th October 2011	2 nd November 2011
7 th December 2011		

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Signed..... **Date**.....

Long Itchington Parish Council – Cheques for authorisation 6th April 2011

Chq No	Payee	Description	Total
003041	Mr. S. Mills	Annual dinner guests x8	151.60
003042	WCC	Lettings to 28/2/11	349.43
003043	E.ON	Elec for Pavilion to 15/3/11	31.32
003044	J2A Ltd	Parish Diary/APM notices	106.75
003045	E.ON UK	S/L maintenance to 31/3/11	702.47
003046	E.ON UK	PL14 Church Rd/PL1 Stonebridge	66.00
003047	QRS MR Ltd	Data entry/tables for Survey	960.00
003048	WALC	Annual subs	527.00
003049	Mr. Round	Reimb. for banner	108.00
003050	Mr. Pails	Pitch maintenance	100.00
003051	Mrs. Brown	Toilet cleaning	100.00
003052	Mrs. Fincham	Relief keyholder – Mar'11	355.80
003053	SDC	Annual rates for C.Centre	355.06
003054	Mrs. Clark	Stationery/tel.allowance	45.00
003055	WCC Super. Fund	Clerk's pension contribution	468.00
003056	Mrs. S. Jack	Clerk's salary April'11	872.74
003056	Mrs. S. Jack	AOL subs March'11	14.99
003056	Mrs. S. Jack	Tax refund 2009/10	172.69
003057	Inland Revenue	Tax/NI payment March'11	173.05
003058	Mr. Purser	Reimb. for 6 elm trees	35.42
		Total	5695.32

Highways Working Party meeting 14th March 2011 – notes

Present: Cllrs. Heales, McNally and Wheatley and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllr. Jackson

1. Pot hole survey to be updated in March/April – Cllrs. Briggs and Cobley.

2. The verge and road opposite the pub - low priority according to Mr. Byrne.

Possibly remove tree to create a lay-by? Mrs. Whitehead has no objection.

Clerk to contact Mr. Burrows, WCC, in April to develop a priced project.

3. Cement dust/mud on A423/ice on road – Cemex are sending out the road sweeper twice a week and trying to find a path sweeper. They have tightened up their wheel washing procedures. Some damage has occurred to the footpath but Mr. Byrne, WCC, is sorting that out. Cllr. McNally said some lorries were still coming out dirty.

4. Speed reduction at Bascote Heath – Cllr. Stevens has obtained a grant of £16000 for safety works. Details to be available after 1st April.

5. Speedaware – WCC have changed the scheme.

6. HS2 - consultation documents have been received. SAAG have agreed to have a stand at the APM. The Southam Roadshow will be held on 3rd/4th June.

Already reported:

- 1. Gulleys** – Wulfstan Drive and triangle by Buck and Bell – drains sinking – reported to Mr. Byrne.
- 2. “Gate” sign, Stonebridge Lane** is missing – reported to Mr. Byrne.
- 3. New Highways signs:**
Height restriction signs needed for bridge at Snowford Hill near pond and weight limit on river bridge, Leamington Road and at the Fosse end of the road – requested from WCC. Informed that there is a backlog of requests and will be looked at as soon as possible. Clerk to chase.
- 4. New name signs:**
“The Green” - the Clerk had requested a sign for the green by the notice board in Church Road. Clerk to chase.
- 5. Verge at Stockton Rd** on left of Community Centre exit –Mrs. Fincham has been asked to trim.
- 6. The “Stratford District” sign** is off its posts on A423 – reported to SDC.

Streetlights

- 1. Meeting with WCC** - WCC have inspected and have taken over the newer lights at Russell Close, Galanos, Leather Street and Shepherd Close. The recently replaced lights at Odingsel Drive and Sabin Close do not meet WCC requirements. The Clerk had asked that the criteria be reduced for quiet rural areas and for a copy of the current criteria.
- 2. Light at Thorn Way** – was made safe by E.ON and a new light has been installed. Reimbursement had been received from NFU.
- 3. PL5 Galanos & PL? Bascote (Keytes Cottage)** – residents had requested shields to prevent light shining in their houses. No shields were available and it was agreed not to provide any form of shading.
- 4. Leamington Rd** – E.ON have said light needs replacing. WCC criteria to be checked.
- 5. A423 Marton Road** – street light leaning – WCC have cut off top part of column but are to be asked to remove the stump and make good.
- 6. Bollard light on A423 by Tudor House was not working** – report to WCC.

Open Spaces Working Party meeting 14th March 2011 – Notes

Present: Cllrs. Heales, McNally and Wheatley, Mr. Purser and the Clerk

Apologies: Cllr. Jackson and Mr. Round

- 1. LILAC/car park, Marton Road** – Cllr. Wheatley to report. A planning application has been made for drainage work, the car park and the storage container. Stone is still needed for the car park surface. The Queen Elizabeth 11 Fields Challenge may be a possible new source of funding. Grants had been received from Vision4Southam and the Wildlife Fund. Surfacing the car park was now the top priority.
- 2. Field adj. new Field, Marton Road** – has been sold.
- 3. Mower repairs/replacement** – PC needs to take an overview of use of playing field in future. Costs for level of use etc. need to be justified.
- 4. Pitch hire for 2011/12 season** – current teams have expressed an interest in continuing to hire the facilities. Costs/charges to be discussed.
- 5. Noticeboard for Leigh Crescent** – request from residents. Clerk to investigate the possibility of a grant to pay for the board.
- 6. Bus shelter guttering needs repair** - it was agreed that the guttering was not necessary and the remaining sections could be removed. Cllr. McNally to have a look.
- 7. Memorial seats** – it was agreed to place the seat in front of the Marsh House. Clerk has contacted Wendy Hawke about the location. Site meeting required to finalise position.
- 8. 73 Leigh Crescent** – roses etc. hanging over path - have been removed. Cllr. McNally will have a look.

9. Pond overflow – PC is responsible for repairs. Mr. Byrne had confirmed that a Section 50 Street Works Licence would be required if a connection was to be made to the main. He was happy to meet on site with plans to discuss the exact location of the mains. Clerk to arrange meeting. New flotation cubes(11) needed.

10. Practice goal - for playing field - Mr. Ward and Mr. Pails have installed it. Clerk has received grant.

11. Beechcroft – Cllr. Spencer had met Ms. Holdsworth of Orbit, Heart of England re Garden/verge along the front of the wall – Orbit do not own it but are willing to plant it up and hand over to LIPC for future maintenance. Mr. Purser has suggested Cotoneaster horizontalis. Possibly use volunteers to clear area.

12. “No parking” signs for Green x2 – Clerk has ordered.

13. Churchyard maintenance – Possibly get volunteers through the Arthur Rank Centre at Stoneleigh. (Gill Hopkinson). Mr. Myhill has written again to request help from the PC.

14. Beer Festival –no issues.

Information/updates on existing jobs

1. Marton Road - Sign “Gate this way”. T & J to put up.

2. Footpaths - Footpath along side of cemetery needs strimming – Clerk has asked Mrs. Fincham.

3. Play area repairs. Site visits would be useful for new councillors.

Leigh Crescent

Safety surface under swings needs repair

SDC asked to replace fence.

EA informed of smell

Springer to be replaced - T & J to be asked (DW has springer) Allan key needed – star shaped with a centre hole – Mick Pails has it. Clerk to chase up.

Short Lane Play area

Replacement of “springers” - Grant may not be available – PC to pay if not.

Fence around green needs inspecting - T & J

Problem with footballs. Re-design green area? – Clerk to contact garden designer.

Fence along road side needs posts screwing in – T & J to be asked.

Green End

Slide to be checked/wood needed – SJ to contact supplier.

Tractor – the Young Farmers had offered to paint it.

Mole problem – Contractor informed. Clerk to chase up.

4. Bins

4.1 Play area, Green End – bin missing – replace? Amount of litter to be monitored.

4.2 Plastic cover is missing from bin at the pond – DC has a new one in his garage?

5. Trees

5.1 Trees at New field – need clearing between them. Possibly get Mr. Hudson?

5.2 Tree by Church/Manor Farm – branch needs lopping – Cllr. McNally to inspect.

5.3 Elm trees available – Parish Council has agreed to buy the trees at £33.84. Mr. Purser will arrange the planting on 22nd March.

5.4 Model Village – a complaint has been received about the state of the pavement and tree roots which are breaking it up. Tree to be inspected.

5.5 Tree Warden meeting in village on Saturday 16th July – Cllrs. McNally and Wheatley to attend. A projector is needed – Clerk to enquire.

5.6 Tree work, Greens etc. – work to start in March.

5.7 Holly hedge at Green End – some plants will be provided by Mr. Austin, SDC. Possibly get a grant for balance of £1500? Mr. Purser will arrange planting.

PLANNING REPORT April 2011

11/00194 Charles Wells Brewery The Duck on the Pond

Long Itchington Parish Council wishes to object to this application as the proposed signs would detract from the visual amenity of the Conservation Area. Although the pub is set back from the road it is highly visible and very well known locally and in the wider area – the car park has been full regularly in recent years.

The Council would prefer less signage in keeping with the sensitive environment of the area. The signage of the nearby Buck and Bell pub (at Green End) is an example of discreet signage which blends in with the surrounding area.

There is also some concern that the signs may cause a visual obstruction to traffic entering and exiting the car park as the road is very busy at this point. Response sent to SDC 04/03/11

11/00064/FUL Miss G. Paige, Lilac Cottage, Bascote

Amendment to approved scheme 09/01034/FUL to insert three dormer windows to the front roof slope.

This application was discussed at length at last night's (3rd March 2011) Parish Council meeting with representations from the public present. The Council is highly disturbed at the continued development of this site, which is a gross overdevelopment of an existing property and now far in excess of the original planning approval. The precedent that this development sets in a highly sensitive location is a matter of extreme concern for both the community and the Council. Successive retrospective applications mask the degree of expansion from the original approval and result in a development that bears no relation to the original approval and is now the cause of distress to neighbours and the wider community.

1. The original approval was for a two storey development in keeping with near and related properties and if it were contained on two floors would maintain the general vernacular of the locality.
2. The building line far exceeds the plan of the original Lilac Cottage and now encroaches on to the highway, resulting in certain hindrance to the access and egress from Bascote Manor. This causes severe concern about the access for emergency vehicles as the fire hydrant is on Bascote Manor land.
3. The approved plans allowed for a reasonable gap between Lilac Cottage and Spring Bank Cottage – showing a space of 2.4 metres. The 'new' Lilac Cottage has a space significantly less than one metre.
4. The construction of a ramp access to the front door of the 'new' Lilac Cottage is actually upon the highway itself, further restricting access.
5. The development is now three storeys in height and whilst the original plans called for all windows to be constructed of wood, tailored and pre-formed plastic windows have now appeared in the property.
6. It is reasonable to assume that given the size of the 'new' Lilac Cottage space will be required for more than the two vehicles accounted for in the size of the garage to the property. Any further car parking will result in obstruction to the highway and potential for damage to the verges at the side of the highway.
7. The wider vicinity of Lilac Cottage and Spring Bank Cottage has a reported drainage and rainwater run-off from the field to the south and the overdevelopment of the site bring into question increased risks of flooding not just to the highway but to both properties as well.
8. The Council appreciates that the District Council is presented with a challenging issue with this application. The Council feels it is intended to regularise the developer's deliberate intentions to build a property significantly different from that which was applied for from the outset and will result in a property that will be out of keeping, both with the spirit and detail of the original approval and the character of this sensitive locality.

The Parish Council cannot express strongly enough the depth of concern that is felt over this development. An urgent site meeting with the District Council and the County Council (as the Highways Authority) is requested to demonstrate this level of concern. Ultimately, the Parish Council is called upon to be the voice of the community and in this case the Council is critically aware of the strength of feeling and the appetite that the neighbours in Bascote and the wider community have to seek a resolution to this issue that conforms with the detail and spirit of the original approval and nothing beyond.

Failing a satisfactory resolution the Council is clear in its intentions to take this issue to a wider audience as it is felt that it is not just the near neighbours to the 'new' Lilac Cottage, but the whole community that is open to the risk of being failed by the statutory authorities in this case. The development, as it stands, sets such a dangerous precedent for any future property developments in the parish.

Response sent to SDC 04/03/11

11/00285/FUL Long Itchington Parish Council - Field adj. Playing Fields, Green End, L.I.

Culverting existing surface water drainage trench, construction of car aprk and retention of a container for storage of sports equipment.

No comment.

11/00248/VARY Mr. N. Morton, 26 Model Village, Long Itchington

Variation of Condition 4 of 09/00233/FUL to change position of access.

By 6th April 2011

11/00556/LBC Dr. P. Bellamy, Yew Tree Farm, The Green, Long Itchington

Demolish and rebuild existing outbuilding to convert into ancillary accommodation and erection of single-storey orangery.

By 12th April 2011