



Longwick-cum-Ilmer
Parish Council

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023/24

Precept

The Parish Council decided this year not to increase the Precept again, so keeping Band D unchanged at £37.19 which results in a precept of £35,293.31.

CIL

CIL Money Received 23-24 = £217,684.67

CIL Money Spent 23-24 = £4,146.86

Grants

Longwick Evening WI: £76.37

Longwick C of E Combined School: £5,000 – Library Area

Planning Applications:

Reviewed: 74 applications

Refused: 9

Permitted: 45

Not to make a tree preservation order: 9

Withdrawn: 4

Longwick Transport Vision Plan for the Parish.

The Parish Council continues to push for progress in addressing these proposals which in essence consist of a wish to lower some speed limits throughout the Parish, and to reinforce these lower limits in certain places with chicanes and buffer zones. A huge frustration is the pace at which the local authority works with the figures for the various vehicle speed and volume counts passed to Bucks over a year ago and yet when we finally met with officers last month, we were informed that they had not seen all the data and could not comment on the figures!

In summary we have a firm commitment for the data to have been analysed by the end of June when a further meeting will take place hopefully in July, as informal discussions indicate that Bucks does not look positively on chicanes or buffer zones, it is obvious that we are going to have to fight extremely hard to persuade transport officers to respect the wishes of all the residents and agree to our wholly reasonable requests.

Bar Lane

A few residents raised concerns about the red slurry surface laid in Bar Lane. It was checked by highways and informed that the surface had been laid correctly.

Since Bucks Highway had resurfaced the lane, they had removed all the slow road markings. We have been informed by the Local Area technician that once the weather improves the road markings will be redone.

Owlswick Green

The developers have agreed to gift Owlswick Green to the Parish Council and transfer of ownership of land is proceeding. We have registered it as an asset of Community Value.

Drop in Sessions

The Parish Council held its first drop-in session in the Platinum Room in the Village Hall for parishioners to come and speak to two Councillors regarding their concerns within the Parish. The first was held on 18 November 2023, the second on 3 February 2024 and another is planned for 18 May 2024.

Advertising for these sessions was placed on our Website, Facebook pages, PC Notices Boards and Posters via Village Shop and Village Hall.

The stream, the bank, and hedges around the Playing field.

The stream has been cleared out and the banks of overgrown bushes and shrubbery removed. The trees around the field have had their annual cut back.

Play Area, Skate Park, and Zip Wire.

The play area has had its annual moss sprayed and cleared plus the children's tractor has had a larger area of rubber surface laid around to prevent tripping. Skate Park and Zip Wire all repair works completed ready for more enjoyment from our young and not so young generation.

Rotunda

The Rotunda has been removed completely and the area re-grassed due to constant complaints regarding Anti-social Behaviour activities.

Coronation of King Charles 111.

We held a Flag raising ceremony to hoist the Coronation Flag and give out medals to all the children from 0 – 18 years who lived in the Parish on the Playing Field on Friday 5 May at 4.00pm to celebrate the coronation of King Charles 111 becoming King.

Parish Council Remembrance Service

The Remembrance Service was very well attended by the residents of the parish and visitors plus children from Longwick School who read some of the poems. Greg Smith our MP attended along with our Bucks Councillors.

Thank you to the resident for arranging an excellent service and to some ladies of the WI who decorated the Memorial and the LOGs for clearing the area.

Christmas Tree

Thank you to Penn's nursery for donating a Christmas Tree to the Parish Council which was placed on the Playing Field and thank you to a resident for collecting and erecting it on the field along with Cllr Barter and Cllr Myers for adding the lights.

Flower Boxes

Thank you to the two ladies who are tending to our Flower Boxes in Longwick. The variety of flowers make a lovely display.

Redwood Tree

We would like to say thank you to the resident who donated the Redwood Tree to the Parish Council, and we have planted it on the field between the Garage and the Zip wire.

Turning Mirror

A few residents mentioned about having a Turning Mirror at the junction of Chestnut Way and Lower Icknield Way. The Area Local Technician stated this was not a good idea as it can cause over reliance and more issues pulling out of the junction.

Community Speed Watch signs

There are two new Community Speed Watch signs on White gates as you enter into Longwick. This means that the Speed watch group can do a speed watch check anytime and do not have to carry the heavy signage around with them.

Average Speed Cameras

This question on Average Speed Cameras keeps being raised by a few residents, stating other villages have these cameras so why not Longwick.

I have addressed this issue with Thames Valley Police a few times and have received the same reply as quoted below.

“Average Speed Cameras measure how long it takes you to travel between two set points on a road, measured by cameras at each point. This information is then used to calculate your average speed and only data and images of vehicles exceeding the posted speed limit are stored by the system. Thames Valley Police (TVP) does not support third party funding for average speed systems. The installation of an average speed system should be fair and balanced across the Thames Valley area and not just at locations where third-party funding is available. The cost of an Average Speed system depends on site environment and type of equipment, for a system with one entry/exit camera this can be around **£100k**.”

Mobile van enforcement already takes place in the area and other options such as, education through the Community Speed watch initiative, the use of SID (Speed Indication Devices) and roadside enforcement by local Neighbourhood Officers should also be considered as potential solutions.

Effective engineering measures must also be considered such as the road layout including road humps, chicanes and tyre rumble devices, these can be implemented by Local Authorities in situations where general speed compliance is evidenced as an issue.”

Dog Fouling and under control.

We have had more complaints that some dog owners are still not picking up after their dogs have deposited their mess on the playing field or keeping a watchful eye on what your dog does when off the lead. Please be mindful there are many users on the Playing Field, children playing, people walking that do not wish to be approached by dogs running up to them and in some cases knocking over children. If your dog tends to do this, please place your dog on a lead.

Thank You

And lastly, I would like to say thank you to Tracey Martin our Clerk for all the hard work she has done on behalf of the Parish Council throughout the year and to the Parish Councillors who have undertaken other projects, plus our three Buckinghamshire Councillors who support the Parish Council and update as on matters around the area.

Valerie McPherson BEM

Chair Longwick cum Ilmer Parish Council April 2024