



*Longwick-cum-Ilmer  
Parish Council*

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT 7.30 PM  
IN LONGWICK VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Val McPherson BEM (Chair)  
Cllrs Ian Walker, Jane Rogers, Sally Whitworth, Richard Myers, Rolf van Apeldoorn  
Cllr Bendyshe-Brown (County)  
Clerk Frank Post  
14 members of the public

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Clive Harriss (District) not present.  
Apologies received from Cllr Brian Richards and representatives of Longwick School and the Police

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting of the Parish on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3. REPORT FROM CLLR BENDYSHE-BROWN ON MATTERS CONCERNING LONGWICK-CUM-ILMER**

Cllr Bendyshe-Brown highlighted the following achievement in the last year:

- Installation of 2 Vehicle Activated Signs- VAS (Thame Road/Chesnut Way) with supplementary funding of £4k from Local Area Forum
- Clearance of footpaths and hedges
- Transfer of footpath to Village School to BCC
- Clearance of ditches in Bar Lane
- Fence repair near Scout Hut
- Bush clearance on Longwick roundabout

Cllr Bendyshe-Brown noted the work programme moving forward:

- Resurfacing of Owlswick Lane
- Traffic monitoring in Owlswick with mobile VAS
- Installation of white gates for Owlswick
- Minor road repair in Owlswick
- Surface dressing of road in Meadle scheduled for October
- Review of impact of heavy lifting of batteries in Ilmer
- Resurfacing of B4010

Cllr McPherson thanked Cllr Bendyshe- Brown for all his efforts in supporting the Parish.

It was noted that a Parishioner requested the use of the MVAS in Little Meadle.

**4. REPORT FROM CLLR McPHERSON (CHAIR) ON PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr McPherson highlighted the following in her report:-

- The 40% response from Parish households to questionnaires circulated for recommendations relating to Community Infrastructure Levy – CIL - Spending
- The updating of the Emergency Plan
- The installation of a new Parish Council noticeboard



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- The refurbishment for the milestones within the Parish
- The addressing of complaints regarding repair to pavements, footpaths and roads with the County Council throughout the year
- The review of 29 planning applications of which the Council objected to 7
- The publication of the twice yearly Parish Newsletter
- The successful arrangements for the Remembrance and Carol Services held in November and December respectively, particularly the provision of Silent Soldier silhouettes
- The approval of two projects for Longwick School through CIL funding
- The forthcoming drainage project for the Playing Fields and the potential provision of extra car park spaces
- The provision of additional equipment (MUGA/Outdoor Fitness) for the Recreation ground
- The replenishment of hedges by Bellway adjacent to the playing fields
- The discussions being held with the Village Hall regarding refurbishment
- The impending installation of the Lower Ickfield sign
- The development of Welcome Packs for new residents

Parishioners raised the following issues in the ensuing debate:

- The repairs required for the road signs on Bar Lane
- The requirement for an additional noticeboard
- The proliferation of non local signs in the Parish
- The potential increase in rubbish dumping following the closure of Bledlow

A full copy of the Chair's report is detailed below after the minutes of the meeting.

### **5. PARISH ACCOUNTS AND PRECEPT**

Cllr McPherson highlighted the following aspects of the financial performance of the Parish Council:

- Expenditure £38k with Income £39k.
- Mainstay of expenditure spent on VAS project £16k – other key areas of expenditure: Maintenance inc grass cutting, bins, repairs £10k, Administration inc newsletters, web, insurance, audit £12k
- Mainstay of income was precept, £27.7k
- Council also received CIL funding of £260k from Bellway and Croudace

### **6. REPORT FROM WI**

The following key aspects were noted:

- WI meetings are held on the second Wednesday evening of every month, except August
- Current membership 40
- New members are made very welcome
- Several interest groups meet weekly or monthly
- Excursions include visits to the theatre and canal boat trips
- Community involvement is extensive including supporting the Village Fete and Christmas Carol Concert, as well as litter picking and making donations to local charities
- Key national themes this year focus on smear tests and local buses

### **7. REPORT ON VILLAGE HALL**

The following issues were highlighted:

- The sad departure of Lynda Lawrenson, the caretaker for the Village Hall
- Bookings are solid this year
- The importance of Fete contributions to ensure maintenance and cleaning requirements



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- Current running costs of £29k, but income currently greater
- The resurfacing and sealing of the floor and repairs to the lighting
- Review of the best use of the land behind the Hall in conjunction with Pre-school
- Arrangement with RRJFC has been terminated
- Reviewing use of shower facilities and provision of extra car parking

It was noted that a Parishioner requested that any review should be considered in context of the advent of new housing.

### **8. REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The update included the following:

- Current shortage of co-ordinators
- Campaign to “no to door step selling”
- Low incidence of physical crime, but increased evidence of scams directed at the elderly

A Parishioner requested the supply of 2 Neighbourhood Watch signs.

### **13. OPEN FORUM**

Comments that arose from the floor included:

- Cllr Bendyshe-Brown noting the improvements in 101 call response resourcing

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm

### Chairman’s Full Report 2019.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 we appointed a new Clerk Frank Post.

It had been agreed that due to the speeding of traffic throughout the village we needed some form of traffic calming management and therefore a couple of Vehicle Activation Signs would possibly help to slow the traffic down, in Chestnut Way and Thame Road. The two VASs have now been installed. We spent £16,000 but we were lucky to receive contribution towards the cost from the Local Area Forum and WDC and the balance came out of CIL money.

Expenditure £38,000. With Income £39,000. Other Key areas of expenditure includes: Maintenance and grass cutting, bins, repairs =£10,000. Administration, including newsletter, web, insurance and audit =£12,000.

The Precept income was £27, 700 and the CIL money received from Bellway and Croudace accounts to £260,000.

Planning Applications: 22 Approved and 7 Objected.

The CIL money from the building of new homes from Bellway and Croudace has been received by the Parish Council so it was decided to send out a questionnaire via the Parish Newsletter last



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October which was hand delivered to every household to ask their ideas/ suggestions on what they would like to see implemented within the Parish. A stamped addressed envelope was enclosed so that we were able to have replies from all residents including those who do not have internet.

We had already had some ideas that had been incorporated within our Neighbourhood Plan which we mentioned on the front page of the Questionnaire such as: possibly purchasing the triangle of land opposite the Red Lion in Chestnut Way/ Bell Crescent. Installing a Multi -Use Games Area and Adult Fitness Centre on the Playing Fields or offering a small strip of land to have extra Car Parking for the Village/ Village Hall use. On the back page we gave a few other options that had been mentioned in the plan. The responses varied from Village to hamlets, but total No of properties that replied thorough out the Parish was 561, Number of responses 223 making it % 40. The majority gave sensible answers, with good suggestions, a few were angry responses, a few said the money should be spent in Longwick, a couple said that the residents in the hamlets were all rich and did not need any money, but the one in particular stood out when it became personal and compared me to being a Judas to the village . The Longwick-cum-Ilmer Neighbourhood plan was put in place for the whole parish.

Longwick School put in a bid for an Eco Classroom and Playground refurbishment which will not just benefit the children but also the community. The Parish Council have agreed to give the school £55,000 towards these two projects.

The Village Hall Trustees are also looking into some refurbishments for the hall and we have offered to help once they decided on the project(s) they wish to undertake.

We are also looking on providing a MUGA/ and equipment for outdoor fitness for Adults on the Playing Field and are obtaining quotes for these two projects.

The Playing field drainage has been an on-going project but due to costs it had been put on the back burner, we are now able to obtain quotes to look at starting the work later in the year. This will also include the culvert on the Playing Field.

New Welcome Packs have been agreed and this work is in progress for new residents coming to live in the Parish.

The two Milestones have been cleaned and the lettering has been renewed.

Residents and Parish Councillors were very upset when Bellway started taking down the hedge on the Playing field by the stile and erecting steel fencing on the Playing Filed without permission from the Parish Council. A meeting was held with WDC the Planning Officer and the Ecologist, Parish Councillors and Bellway. Bellway were informed they had to leave the hedge as it was not in their planning application.



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Flooding in Bar Lane and surrounding areas were undertaken with Transport for Buckingham and Croudace along with our County Councillor Bill Bendyshe -Brown to resolve the issues. Hopefully there will be no more flooding.

New Noticeboard now installed outside The Old Schoolhouse.

Footpaths between Chestnut Way and Walnut Tree Lane have now been repaired.

The Emergency Plan has now been Updated and posted on the Website, and the new Road signage for Walnut Tree Lane with the roads off has been made good.

Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the Lower Icknield Way signage to be replaced- and the directional sign further up Lower Icknield to be rectified. This has been reported to WDC.

The old bench in Ilmer has now been replaced by a Memorial Bench to George Harper, by the family.

Potholes are being filled by using a plane and patch method.

Rubbish dumping seems to be increasing and it does not help that the main household waste tip in Bledlow has now been closed to the public. If you have any problems with abandoned vehicles, / or rubbish dumping/ dog fouling/potholes please go to <http://parishes.transportforbucks.net> or: <http://www.fixmystreet.com>

We have had a few complaints regarding the state of the roads and pavements especially around Boxer/Barn Road due to the house building by Bellway and concerning litter around near Bar Lane where Croudace are building new homes, but we have either replied by email or letter and have addressed issues.

The Remembrance Service held last year to celebrate the 100 years of the First World War was well attended by the residents, and the two Silent Soldiers silhouettes stood proudly.

The Carol Service went well, but we did not have such a good turnout as the previous year, due to other activities being held on the same evening.

Val McPherson BEM

Chairman April 2019.