

# **LONGFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **MINUTES OF THE** **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

HELD ON TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 at 7.30pm at Longford Village Hall

Present: Cllrs L Gough, E Doherty, K Doherty, three members of public and Mrs J Shirley Parish Clerk

1. Welcome from Chair of Parish Council: Cllr K Doherty welcomed all to the meeting.
2. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were noted and signed.
3. To receive the Parish Council Chair's report on 2019-20 and 2020-21. Despite significant constraints imposed by COVID-19 lockdown, the Parish Council has carried out its statutory functions. The Council held an allotment competition in 2019 and 2020 and the allotment holders held a socially distanced barbeque in the summer of 2020.

Progress has not been made on the road safety matters as hoped, the Council had been told it could have a vehicle activated sign (VAS) but when the new local highways manager was appointed it appeared that the proposed locations (Tewkesbury Road and Longford Lane) did not meet the criteria for a VAS. A recent meeting with Highways has been encouraging and it may be possible to have a pedestrian crossing point on Tewkesbury Road.

A number of activities have been on hold due to COVID-19, not limited to but including community first aid course, Longford and Sandford Engagement Group, liaison with Village Hall Committee in relation to further improvements to external lighting, use of the hall for bicycle security marking, emergency plan, and neighbourhood development plan.

In addition to the Council's usual responsibilities such as maintaining the park and playing field, the Parish Council has funded some necessary work at the allotments. For the first time, the income from the allotments no longer meets all the expenses so fees will increase in 2022 and 2023. The Council also had the skip removed from the playing field and installed lighting along the driveway, the vehicle barrier was improved, and notice boards installed. Grants have been given to Great Western Air Ambulance and S.A.R.A. Remembrance Wreaths were purchased in 2019 and 2020, and a significant grant provided to the Village Hall for improvements. The Council and the Village Hall organised a joint film event looking at 'old Longford'. The Council also part-funded a community consultation in relation to section 106 monies. More recently, the Council has agreed to make a memorial garden on the open space at Sivell Close.

Currently, the Council has 5 vacancies for Councillors. The Chair gave thanks to the parish councillors past and present, the Borough Councillors Bocking and Okleton and County Councillor Phil Awford, and all the front line workers.

A summary of the accounts for 2020-21 was circulated.

4. Questions from the public.  
Q. How does the Council carry out community consultations?

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A. A drop-in event was held at the village hall but not very successful. Further consultation was carried out by Community Roots who door-knocked a sample of residents and held a public consultation event on the field.

The consultation results and proposed plans for the village hall improvements is on the Village Hall website.

Meeting closed at: 7.50pm.

Chair:

Date: