

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm at Longford Village Hall

### 1. Attendance noted as

Cllrs J Ford (Chair), C Byers (Vice-Chair), G Bocking, L Gough, R Harris, C Young

**Also present:** Mrs J Shirley (Clerk), Borough Cllr S Hands

**Members of public present:** Two members of public.

**Apologies:** Cllr K Doherty, Cllr R Meek, County Cllr P McLain

### 2. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Gough declared an interest in planning application 24/00124/FUL.

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Proposed by Cllr Byers, seconded by Cllr Gough, all in favour.

### 4. To receive an update on outstanding items not on the agenda. None.

### Public Participation

No public questions.

**County Councillor Report:** Cllr McLain sent his apologies and report which the Clerk read out.

**Borough Councillor Report:** Cllr Hands gave an update from the Borough Council, she has not had an update on the request to County Council regarding the floodgate. Cllr Hands has also made enquiries about resurrecting the multi-agency group to resolve issues at Walham.

Tewkesbury Borough Council has extended the deadline for the flood alleviation grant. National Flood Forum conducting advice visits on 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> April (provisional), also meeting with Sandhurst and Lane residents on 10<sup>th</sup> April. There is a thank you event for flood wardens on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

### 5. Flooding

- a) Council discussed the recent flooding issues and noted that Tewkesbury Borough Council pre-empted the last flood alert by delivering sand and bags to the car park at the village hall.
- b) Council received an update on the latest Flood Warden meeting attended by Cllr Byers and Cllr Harris.
- c) Council considered a storage solution for sandbags and sand to be available within Longford to allow for quicker response in future flood events; Council agreed to purchase two 1000 litre grit bins (proposed by Cllr Byers, seconded by Cllr Bocking, all in favour) which will be funded from general reserves if a grant application to the Build Back Better fund is unsuccessful. **Action: Clerk.**
- d) Council reviewed the first draft of the Emergency Plan. It was agreed to form a working group with Cllr Ford, Cllr Byers, Cllr Harris and invite Cllr Doherty to participate. **Action: Emergency Plan Working Group to meet and provide notes to the Clerk so that the draft can be updated.**

### 6. Finance / Procedures

- a) Council received the latest bank reconciliations and budget report for the 2023/24 accounts.
- b) Council approved the purchase of a litter bin for the overflow car parking side of the playing field from Broxap at a cost of £293+VAT and delivery. **Action: Clerk.**
- c) Council approved the Bench Policy with one amendment to paragraph 12 to include the word "design". **Action: Clerk** to add photos of the existing benches to the example list on the application form.
- d) Council set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting as Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 7pm with the parish council meeting following at 7.30pm. **Action: Clerk** to prepare the agenda.
- e) Council noted that the Village Hall was soon to have internet access installed and agreed to

contribute a grant of £180 per year to the village hall towards the cost of the internet provision. **Action: Clerk.**

- f) Council noted there were no invoices due for payment.

## 7. Parks, Open Spaces & Allotments

- a) Council considered the ground maintenance quotes received and appointed Glebe Contractors as the contractor for 2024. It was noted that the contract is tendered annually with Glebe winning the contract each year and the work has been satisfactory. Therefore, it was further agreed to offer the contract for 3 years if the contractor will hold the 2024 price for the 3 years (or no more than a 3% increase), with a review point at the end of each year. **Action: Clerk.**
- b) Council discussed the playing field lighting and agreed that Cllr Byers and Cllr Young will discuss options for the basketball light with the contractor. **Action: Cllr Byers and Cllr Young.**
- c) Council discussed the issue of dog fouling on the playing field and agreed to provide CCTV footage and report recent instances to Tewkesbury Borough Council. **Action: Cllr Byers, Cllr Young, Clerk.**
- d) Council discussed applying to the Tewkesbury Borough Council community orchard scheme. Deferred to the April council meeting pending further information. **Action: Clerk.**
- e) Council received an update from Cllr Byers on tree planting / wildflower areas:
- i. Clerk to provide a breakdown of the grant expenditure to Cllr Byers.
  - ii. All new trees have been planted. There is room for a further 40 trees.

## 8. Planning

- a) Council had no objections to planning application 24/00124/FUL 382 Longford Lane. (Cllr Gough did not take part in the discussion) **Action: Clerk.**

## 9. Consultations

- a) Council discussed a response to the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (closes 12th March). Cllr Bocking shared his individual response with the meeting. **Action: Councillors to submit their comments to the Clerk by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** to allow time to collate and respond to the consultation.

## 10. Highways

- a) Cllr Harris noted that there are still unspent section 106 monies for highway works between Twigworth and Longford, such as cleaning the road signs, hedgecutting etc. Cllr Harris has been in contact with the Local Highways Manager about the outstanding monies and works; no response.

## 11. To receive reports from representatives for information only:

- Allotments: fence between the allotments and the field needs repair by the field owner.
- Finance: no update.
- Personnel: no update.
- Playing Field: working party to be arranged.
- Village Hall: Cllr Young attended the latest village hall meeting. Village Hall gave consent for the Parish Council to open the barriers in emergency situations. Wassailing event discussed for 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Clerk to apply for the King Charles portrait. **Action: Clerk.**

**Next Meeting to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm. Due to other commitments, the deadline to submit agenda items is 19<sup>th</sup> March.**

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.