

## LONG LOAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Long Load Parish Council held at the Village Hall, Long Load on Tuesday 18 January 2022.

(7.30 pm - 8.30 pm)

**Present:**

Cllr Marsha White (Chair)  
Cllr Pat Collins (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Richard Collis  
Cllr Diana Taylor  
Cllr Dave May  
Clerk Dawn Porter  
Cllr Neil Bloomfield (County & District)

7 members of the public were present

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**1. Apologies for absence**

No apologies were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Marsha White confirmed a declaration of interest on the Planning Application that was on the agenda.

**3. Matters arising**

Clerk Dawn Porter apologised for omitting Cllr Pat Collins' name from the last minutes, he was present at the last meeting.

The clerk reported that she has heard back from the District Council on the correct procedure for reporting problems with footpaths. It was agreed that Cllr Dave May would access the portal and report the problems. The clerk is to forward details of the portal to Cllr May.

**4. DC/CC Reports**

Cllr Neil Bloomfield provided an update on the current situation at District Council level. The local newspaper printed reports of untoward behaviour, abuse of position and corruption within the council.

Cllr Bloomfield confirmed that the unitary debate for Somerset Council has now come to an end and all District Councils will be absorbed under this. Elections for the unitary council will take place in May.

Cllr Bloomfield noted that the Long Load website looked impressive and is an achievement for such a small parish.

## **5. La Lade Caravan Site**

Clerk Dawn Porter confirmed that she is still awaiting a response from the planning department. There has been no feedback as to whether or not an inspection is to be carried out.

Cllr Broomfield suggested that the Clerk should forward the complaint to the Chief Executive of the council.

## **6. Defibrillator**

Clerk Dawn Porter reported that she is waiting for further information to arrive regarding cost of the defibrillator. Cllr Marsha White agreed to send previous information to the Clerk to contact the company that did the talk at Long Load before the pandemic.

## **7. Village Stone**

It was agreed by all that the stone should include the Long Load bridge.

Cllr Bloomfield noted that we could obtain a grant of up to 50% for the project.

Cllr Marsha White agreed to speak further to Mark to find out how much the stone would cost.

## **8. Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Marsha White reported that she had not received a response from Leach Pottery regarding mugs.

Cllr Richard Collis commented that he did not think the children of today would appreciate a mug and other suggestions were put forward by the council members, for example a commemorative coin and perhaps it may be an idea to ask the village what they would like to receive.

Cllr White reported that the Village Hall Committee are planning something family orientated to take place in the village hall and that there is a possibility of an open gardens event.

It was suggested that maybe stones could be installed at both ends of the village as the donation from the Parish Council to commemorate the Jubilee.

A vote was taken on whether something should be given to the children with a result of 4 yes and 1 no.

It was agreed that Cllr Marsha White would contact Mark regarding costing and then talk to Cllr Neil Bloomfield regarding the grant (subject to meeting the criteria).

## **9. Highways Small Improvement Scheme**

Cllr Neil Bloomfield confirmed that the scheme was due to open at the end of February or early March but thinks that it may be later.

It was agreed that all Councillors would think about any safety issues in the village and report back on what we could use the scheme for

Speed enforcement was discussed again with Cllr Pat Collins saying that he is not convinced that the speeding problem in Long Load is such that it would be cost effective to buy the equipment bearing in mind the cost of maintenance and upgrades etc.

A member of the public present stated that when the speed watch team are active this does act as a deterrent to the drivers that speed. The problem seems to be mostly first thing in the morning and on school runs.

It was agreed that Cllr Marsha White would put something in the newsletter for recruiting speed watch volunteers and that Barbara Nieto would send her the details for a recruitment contact.

#### **10. Correspondence & Planning**

There was no correspondence.

Planning application 21/03671/HOU was discussed. It was noted that the Parish Council are not in favour of retrospective planning applications. It was noted that the Council generally look at applications favourably, but the final decision is with the planning department.

The planning consultant that assisted with the application was invited to speak and stated that the main reason for the application was so that the applicant's daughter is able to get in and out of the driveway in her wheelchair.

Various issues were discussed about neighbours, highways and safety i.e. sufficient visibility and parking but it was agreed that if Highways are happy that it is within their regulations then the Council have no formal objections to the application.

#### **11. Accounts**

One cheque was written for Clerk's salary.

The 22/23 precept was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the precept would not be raised and would stay the same as the previous year.

#### **11. Public Participation**

It was reported by a member of the public that there is a plan of all the houses on the notice board that has become outdated and is in a somewhat tatty condition. It was agreed that this could be replaced with Cllr Marsha White providing the plan. Cllr Diana Taylor agreed that she would be able to laminate the plan.

A member of the public commented on the Jubilee with a suggestion that children love sweets so maybe a commemorative tin of sweets would be appropriate.

Another member of the public suggested that maybe a time capsule would be good and could involve the children.

#### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15 March 2022.

#### **13. Any other business**

Cllr Marsha White noted that there used to be daffodils on the verges through the village and whether she should contact Street scene to discuss. There were no objections to the suggestion.

A complaint was received from a churchyard user to say that they had been unable to get into the churchyard on a particular day as the gate was locked. Cllr Marsha White agreed to take ownership of the complaint and would speak to the owners regarding this. It was noted that the clerk had asked Cllr May and Cllr Taylor to check the gate that day at different times and it was noted that at both times the gate was unlocked.

Chairman Cllr Marsha White declared the meeting closed.

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Chairman