**LONG LOAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of a meeting of the Long Load Parish Council AGM held at **the Village Hall, Long Load on Tuesday 13 June 2023.**

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**Present:**

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| Cllr Marsha White (Chair)  Cllr Richard Collis  Cllr David May  Cllr Diana Taylor  Clerk Dawn Porter  Cllr Emily Pearlstone  (Somerset Unitary Authority)  Cllr John Bailey  (Somerset Unitary Authority) |  |

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Cllr Marsha White welcomed all attendees.

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**3. Chairmans Report**

The following report which included village group reports was read out by the Chairman.

The Council have worked hard this past year behind the scenes researching the various

issues that have been brought before us. We have enabled certain upgrading to be carried out in the Village Hall by supplying a grant.

* New LED Lighting in the kitchen Hall and toilets as well as the outside area,
* New Heating all of which is more economic and environmentally friendly.

**Why**? It has been asked do we spend so much money on the village hall?

**Answer**: The Village Hall has Charitable status and as such is a village asset that belongs

to the residents of the village and is run by the Trustees of the Hall. It is firmly supported by the Parish Council.

Within the constitution of the Village Hall, the commitment of having a Parish Councillor represented on the Village Hall committee is also required. This is why it is important everyone supports the events the Village Hall Committee who work so hard to arrange the events that happen and are well publicised within the village.

We have a new notice board on order that will be shared with the Village Hall Committee.

It wasn’t something that everyone other than the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee

agreed with but it is a done deal and objections were not raised until after the order was underway. We just need to wait for planning to get back to us.

A Parish Ranger (similar duties to the Lengthsman) has been appointed and has been given a list of tasks that need to be kept under control. Work will start this Friday. In order to get things under control for the first 3 months the Ranger is hoped to be employed by the PC for 2 days a month after which it will be assessed and gradually come down to I day a month in the Winter. It’s a bit of a learning curve and we will suss it out as the year progresses.

Some of the tasks the Ranger will be responsible for are varied and will be prioritised

accordingly:

The purpose of this scheme is to give the Parish the opportunity to get works done that are outside of routine maintenance, no longer funded, or are unique or responsive to their particular area.

Just some of the types of work that the ranger can provide include:

* Grounds maintenance
* Minor arboriculture
* Environmental enhancement; provision and installation of bulb, wildflower or tree planting
* schemes
* Additional clearance of flood alleviation/drainage systems
* Installation/repairs to fences, gates and benches that are the Parish Council’s responsibility
* Additional herbicide applications
* Additional clearance of street weeds

There are still outstanding items to be addressed or in the process of being addressed,

most of which are subject to planning and/or listed buildings permission none of which is

fast moving I`m afraid. This includes: -

* Installation of the Defibrillator
* Siting of the Notice Board
* Alternative to the Stone Marker if we are unable get siting past planning. This will be

discussed within the Council.

* Suggestions for alternatives should be sent to the Parish Clerk in writing for the PC

to consider.

* Speeding Issues SPEED WATCH VOLUNTEERS

**Table Tennis**

The team plays in Division 1 of Yeovil and District League. The league currently has 20 teams playing in 3 divisions. The 2022/2023 season has just ended, and our team finished 5th out of 9 teams, probably our best performance for several years. Much of that was down to a consistently successful season for Nick Stacey who won 67% of his games!

If anyone in the village is interested in playing or wants to know more about social play,

competitive play, or coaching, please call me on 07763 09997 phil.stringer@email.co.uk

**Take Note**

We are a choir of some 24 singers who regularly sing to care homes and over 60s groups.  We meet in the Village Hall to rehearse throughout the year. On average about 12 to 15 of us meet every Monday.  Our two musical directors bring the keyboard, amplifiers etc and we have a great time singing wonderful music.

We regularly entertain the residents of Wessex House in Somerton, Burnworthy House in South Petherton, Immaculata Care Home in Langport and also in Taunton, Street and Bridgwater. The camaraderie engendered by our weekly meetings is fantastic and we are highly motivated group.  We much appreciate the comfort and environment of the Village Hall which suits us down to the ground! Long may we last!! Julia Harvey

**Somerton Group of Artists**

The hall is routinely used by the SGA on Tuesday mornings for the Spring and Autumn terms - typically 11 sessions per term, occasionally 12.  The gatherings comprise 10 or so people doing their own work but as well as painting the social chat and interaction is equally enjoyable and important.  Also 2 or 3 whole day workshops take place each year where members receive tuition from a high-quality professional artist.

The economy, the peace and pleasant environment are much enjoyed and, although key members are local others travel from as far as Keinton Mandeville, South Petherton and Curry Rivel. Overall, the availability of LLVH is much appreciated.

**Craft Club**

The Craft Club is now in its 7th year and although we couldn’t meet for a few months due to

Covid restrictions the membership has gradually increased from 8 to the current number of

23. Everyone is welcome no matter what experienced or none. All sorts of craft have been tried from rag rugging, Dorset button making, glass engraving, jewellery making and dry felting. The club meets every 2nd Wednesday in the month and members come from Long Load, Martock, Somerton and Curry Rival.

Tea and Biscuits is the mainstay served up by Norman Curtis who we really couldn’t do without.

It is an informal group meeting for making new friends and spending two hours in the company of other like-minded people while learning a new craft Chinese Brush Painting

This group has been postponed for the time being due to a series of personal problems, but it is hoped they will be able start up again later in the year.

The group meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 2pm to 4pm and is open to anyone who wishes to try this style of painting. All materials and basic instruction can be provided for beginners.

Everyone is welcome and free to choose their own subject plenty of books and handouts are

available.

**PUB**

The Long Load Pop Up Bar continues to run on the last Friday of the month. Doors open at

7:30pm and close at 10:30pm. Attendees bring their own drinks and snacks and pay a small

contribution towards the Village Hall hire.

Numbers regularly range from 10 -15, but the Curry Night held on 31st March had 22 attendees.

Now the evenings are getting warmer we hope to move to the outside area and have plans to run other themed evenings such as BBQ, Fish Supper and a Chinese night.

Contact is Paul Fielden

**5. Committee Positions**

It was confirmed that the councillor positions will not change

**6. Minutes of Previous AGM**

As the previous minutes were not available it was resolved to sign them at the next monthly meeting.

**7. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**8. Any other Business**

No other business was raised.

Chairman Cllr Marsha White declared the meeting closed.

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|  | ..……………………………………Chairman |