

**Meeting of the Longford Parish Council Held at the Village Hall on Wednesday January 17th
2018**

Present

K. Doherty (Chair) E. Doherty P. Gough. L. Gough. M. Hamblett, B. McInerney A. Williams.
Councillor M. Williams (Tewkesbury Borough Council - TBC)

1.) Apologies for Absence

Councillor D. Waters TBC

Paul Ounsworth – Clerk to the Council

Minutes of last meeting

Chair advised that as these were not an agenda item they could not be considered at this meeting but would be at February's meeting

2.) Declarations of Interest

PG, LG.BM, all declared an interest in the Village Hall and development. Additionally B.M declared an interest in Together NHS FoundationTrust

3.) To discuss present situation with regard to S106 monies and a suggestion as to the way forward

Chair gave an overview of the progress made by the Village Hall Working Group thus far.

She then summarised the current position including a brief summary of the result of the consultation exercise carried out in December. This latter suggested that of those who responded the majority felt that remedial works to the village hall should be a priority with a comfortable meeting/ community room closely following in importance.

She felt both the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee should pay heed to results of the consultation exercise when planning and considering expenditure, limited thought the exercise was.

She outlined requirements that needed to be met before any further progress could be made on works to the village hall, namely:-

- Village Hall needs to be compliant with all statutory requirements
- Position of Longford Football Club needs to be settled. This is not to say a phased approach to works cannot be taken i.e. confirmation of LFC position need not delay

work to west end of hall. Work on changing rooms and showers could take place at a later stage when position is clear.

- The items identified by Village Hall Working Group representatives as requiring attention / needed should be prioritised. Research required to see what is possible and feasible e.g. badminton court is not, due to height of hall
- Village Hall Committee needs to furnish Parish Council with annual accounts as set out in the Trust Deed.

Chair moved on to suggest a way forward outlining a number of proposals she hoped would facilitate progress; to be voted on after public session :-

- A) That the Parish Council consider making grant/s available towards the overall village hall project and also events/ activities to benefit the community of Longford. These subject to certain conditions and further detailed discussion at future meetings. B.M suggested that this should also be subject to satisfactory financial reserves.
- B) The Parish Council requests that the Village Hall Committee consider alternative plans to the architects latter plan, because it did not meet the original brief, the disproportionate expenditure to be spent on changing rooms and showers in this plan, the meeting room was not of useful size or versatility and finally the outcome of the football club deliberations was not yet known so to spend on facilities that would predominantly benefit the club could not be justified.
- C) The Parish Council agrees that should the football club avail itself of the new facilities on offer, it be allowed to use the pitches on the playing field if new pitches become unplayable.

Public Session

Les Bailey thought it had been agreed that P.C. Working Group members would put plans to P.C for putting to planning. K.D said she did recall this but had said all along she could not justify spending money on F.C. E.D said that the Working group was not the decision maker .

Query about who would fund maintenance of new facilities - developers

Les raised a query about using both facilities. He felt there was sufficient demand given he could field 3 teams.

Mrs Dunwoody asked who would be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the new facilities. Chair advised whoever took on the facilities would be responsible for costs of cleaning whereas maintenance of the fabric of the buildings would be the developer who had provided funds for 15 years.

B.M said we should go back to the original brief namely a meeting room and storage.

Chair spoke about the issue of lighting up the drive and to the front of the hall which repeatedly came up in meetings and in the consultation. She felt a Duty of Care was owed to users and there were health and safety issues.

Discussion ensued about ownership of the drive. Mrs Dunwoody an original VHC member present when the village hall was built believed it belonged to Parish Council as did L.G. Chair believed Deed of Trust showed it belonged to Village Hall. Chair felt ownership was immaterial. Whichever body owned it needed to take into account the strength of feeling about this issue and deal with it as a priority.

Councillor Mark Williams to try and obtain copy of original Trust Deed **Action**

Councillor Mark Hamblett to approach Land Registry for relevant documents **Action**

Anne GAZE (CHECK SPELLING OF NAME) said that whole concept of improving the village hall and the future of Longford has been dealt with by a small number of dedicated and committed individuals. In the not too distant future there may not be a Committee. The Committee members have put in lots of work over the years but the recent consultation exercise shows there is general apathy. What has been proposed is adequate for a community that appears disinterested in what goes on.

Voting on Proposals

A.) Ref. grants Proposed by Chair Seconded by E.D and carried **Agreed**

B.) Consideration of alternative plans by VHC Proposed Chair , Seconded by E.D and carried **Agreed**

C.) Continued use of pitches on playing field by LFC proposed by Chair , seconded by E.D and carried **Agreed**

4.) Budget

Budget was agreed at last month's meeting subject to certain amendments related to F.C as discussed at last month's meeting. The amendments having been incorporated E.D proposed that the budget be accepted, seconded by P.G and carried **Agreed**

5.) To agree the precept

E.D explained the ramifications of raising the precept at various levels or keeping it at the current level. Discussion about levels of precept followed and it was agreed to

raise it by a small amount to recoup a little of the losses of last year. It would also enable the P.C to do more in the parish and would give the flexibility to give grants and provide some funding for VAS

E.D proposed £30.32 for Band D. Seconded P.G. This was voted on. **Agreed**

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.00pm

K. Doherty

Chair

DRAFT