

Corsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on 1st September 2014 in the Reading Room at 19.30

Present: Neil Britten (NB) Chairman
Robin Chapman (RC) Vice Chairman/Minutes taker
Mike Bird (MBi)
Mike Butler (MBu)
Olly Hares (OH)
Judith Helliar (JH)
Simon Jasper (SJ)
Gill Parkinson (GP)
John White (JW)

In Attendance: Michael BIRNIE and Bob MONTGOMERY representing Longleat Estate.
A number of local parishioners.

14/75 Apologies: An apology was received and accepted from John WILLCOX.

14/76 Longleat Estate Presentation

The Longleat Estate had recently made two key senior appointments, Mr Michael BIRNIE as Land Agent and Mr Bob MONTGOMERY as CEO. Both had offered to introduce themselves to the Parish Council and take questions and they attended the meeting for these purposes having already done the same in Horningsham. The Chairman had previously met with Mr BIRNIE and discussed a wide range of issues, including Longleat traffic and the series of meetings held over the last two years, the closure of two local pubs, the empty Longleat housing in the Village and high rents. Both posts report to the Longleat Trust. Members of the PC were individually introduced to Messrs BIRNIE and MONTGOMERY.

- a. Michael BIRNIE described his recent experience as a Land Agent on an Estate in the Scottish Borders and explained that he came from a farming background. He is responsible for Longleat property, Farms, the House and the Caravan Club site. He lives with his Wife in Horningsham and works from an office in Stalls Farm. Mr BIRNIE would be the main contact for Longleat traffic issues, though it was accepted that the issue was shared with the CEO since large elements of the Longleat traffic streams arise from decisions associated with the attractions.
- b. Bob MONTGOMERY described his worldwide experience of commercial presentation of events, most recently in Lakeland Park, Windsor, but lately also in Canada. He is responsible for Longleat Tourism including the Safari Park, Hotels and Cheddar Gorge. He explained that Longleat had been going through a “culture change” which included a significant number changes to key staff and management attitudes. They had just come to the end of the major annual revenue earning period and were now taking time to review the future and develop more rational plans. Looking forward, they expected a year on year increase in the number of visitors spread over the season. He took the opportunity to publicise an event being planned for the Christmas period, entitled a “*Festival of Light*”. This would involve a display of very large static spectacular Chinese lantern structures, on a 30 acre site in the

Park, starting in December. This was expected to bring significantly more visitors during the Christmas period than in previous years.

Questions put to Messrs BIRNIE and MONTGOMERY principally concerned Longleat traffic and its impact on the both Village lanes and the main roads. The combination of visitors to the Park, Centre Parcs, local agricultural, business and private traffic raised safety concerns and made for very difficult, frustrating situations for both local residents and holidaymakers coming to Longleat and Centre Parcs. Councillors expressed concern over the general yearly increase in the volume of traffic and the consequence of events such as the Festival of Light. Strongly held views were expressed that Longleat and Centre Parcs should take much more positive steps to manage the entry and exit routes within their own boundaries and not rely on unsuitable narrow lanes. The view was also expressed that Longleat should also takes steps to manage the queues which build up at peak times within the Park and not rely on the capacity of public roads. This was particularly an issue in the Picket Post roundabout area. Mr MONTGOMERY explained that steps were already being considered to speed up the processing of customers at the main entrance in an effort to reduce queuing.

It was pointed out that the use of SatNav assisted navigation takes visitors on minor narrow road in the parish. This was accepted by Mr MONTGOMERY who said that it took a couple of years to persuade SatNav companies to alter the SatNav App. It was pointed out that deleting Post Code information encouraged travellers to read roadside information as they approached their journey's end.

Both Michael and Bob agreed that they would work together with the PC respect to re-open detailed discussions to try and find solutions to the traffic issues in the Village. The Chairman took an action to arrange a date for resumption of these meetings.

14/77 Declaration of Interest

Mike BUTLER stated he had an Interest in Planning Application 14/07791/FUL.

14/78 Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 2014

The minutes of the meeting had previously been circulated. These were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14/79 Matters arising from the Meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

There were no Matters arising not already covered by the agenda.

14/80 Planning Applications

14/7369/FUL 111, The Hollow: Single storey extension at NE end of house, with ballustrade and new first floor access to new tiled flat roof. Previously approved application (Jan 13) outstanding. No Objection was proposed and unanimously agreed.

14/07791/FUL 120 Lyes Green: Revised access with new splay, gateposts, gate and tarmac drive. Old access to be closed and replaced by post and rail fencing and hedge.

NB described the Application with the aid of drawings. No Objection was proposed and unanimously agreed.

14/81 Streetscene

SJ reported that:

- a. There is outstanding work for drainage at Temple and close to Little Cuckoos school.
- b. The priority for the forthcoming Community Day will be Sturford Lane and Temple.
- c. Money has been allocated for the improvement of the lay-by at the bottom of Geys Hill and a decision was expected at the next CATG in w/b 8 September .

No action had yet been taken with respect to paragraph 14/69 of the minutes of the Occasional meeting on 28th July (JW and SJ to discuss the feasibility of marking key drains around the Corsley Lanes to make them more easily located in the event of flooding) but this would now be taken in hand by JW and SJ.

14/82 Affordable Housing – Rural Housing Needs Survey

The Chairman reported that 360 Questionnaires had been delivered within two days of their receipt from Wiltshire and thanked the helpers – David CARRUTHERS, Marion TITT, Graham WHITE, Jonathan CORP, Robin CHAPMAN, Gill PARKINSON and Mike BIRD. He stressed that Parishioners should be encouraged to respond to the Survey Questionnaire by 26th September to get maximum response and the best possible accuracy of result. The Questionnaire has been highlighted on the BridgeWebsite.

JH asked whether it was possible to provide a needy couple living outside Parish boundaries with a questionnaire. The chairman thought that this was unlikely since the Survey was for the Parish of Corsley and the couple in question lived in Chapmanslade. It was agreed that the Chairman would verify this position and liaise with JH.

14/83 SAF Update

The Chairman reported that SAF were now resident in their new premises in Frome and would report to the PC when they were ready to complete the handover with the PC. SAF had already restored the turf on the OSPF and the Memorial Playing Field Committee had expressed interest in some of the wooden play items. The sale of the Corsley Centre had not yet completed and it was likely that the PC would have a brief period co-existing once again with the current owners of the Centre.

14/84 Accounts

The accounts had been audited and it was noted by the Auditor that the Len WHITE Trust was not registered with the Charity Commission. The Auditor directed that the PC check with the Charity Commission or NALC to establish if this was needed. The Clerk had circulated a paper entitled “*The Leonard White Memorial Trust*” which reported the results of the consultation and recommended that the PC consider:

- a. Whether the Trust should register with HRMC (to gain the benefit of Charity Relief and claim gift aid)
- b. Whether the existence of the Trust should advertised (to enable the original object of the Trust to be fulfilled)
- c. Any other aspects regarding the Trust and its administration

The original Trust Deed was deposited with Solicitors AMES, KENT, RATHWELL & WALTERS, of Bridge House Frome, in March 1993. A copy is held in Parish records and a

copy of this was distributed to each Councillor. Several key points were evident from the document:

- d. The Trustees “..mean and include not less than six members of the Council..”
- e. The objects of the Charity cannot be changed
- f. There is a requirement for a Minute Book and proper books of account recording income and expenditure.
- g. The Trustees shall maintain such banking accounts as consider convenient

After some discussion it was agreed that paragraph a above should be undertaken by the Parish Clerk and that sub paragraphs b – g be discussed at the December quarterly meeting after due consideration by the PC. The Clerk would circulate proposals before this meeting.

14/85 Budget

A summary of the current position was circulated to all PC Members for information and as advance reading before the quarterly meeting in December.

14/86 Correspondence/Communications

- a. Grant Thornton - Audited Annual Return – see item 14/85 above
- b. Wiltshire Council – Parking Review Pre Consultation Scoping paper. This was the result of a questionnaire relating to organisation and authorities’ views of the extent to which Wiltshire should consult in its parking review. It was an extremely concentrated and detailed paper for a consultation which will take place between now and December. The major impact, if any, on Corsley could be changes to the arrangements in major Wiltshire Towns. Four PCs responded to the questionnaire.
- c. Wiltshire Council – Open Spaces Study (reminder). This is due by 15th September and is a questionnaire with ten questions. It was agreed that a reply would be completed by the Chairman and circulated to the PC for ratification.
- d. Wiltshire Council – Parish News Letter. Consultation on proposed changes to Kerbside waste collection and bus pass scheme. These are for individual response and have been publicised on the Bridge web site and Village notice-boards.
- e. Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service – Consultation on future direction of the service and briefing on the options. It was agreed that the Chairman and MBi would attend the briefing on 13th October at Trowbridge Civic Centre and then complete the questionnaire (due by 20th October)

14/87 AOB

- a. GP reported that Knotweed was growing on the banks of Deep Lane.
- b. JH referred to the continuing work being carried out at the Weighbridge House at 75 Lane End. NB said he had talked to the owner, Justin HANNEY, on three occasions and had been re-assured that the building size and position of the extension was such that it lay within the Permitted Development rules and thus did not need planning approval. Mr HANNEY had talked to Planning Development and had been told that written confirmation was not required if the development was within the rules as published on planning web sites and this has been double checked.

14/88

DONM

Quarterly Meeting 8th December 2014 – Main item: 2014/15 Budget and Precept for 2015/16