

LONGFIELD & NEW BARN PARISH COUNCIL

www.longfieldpc.org.uk

Parish Clerk:
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Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 28th May 2024 – 7.30pm

St Mary Magdalene Church Hall

Meeting opened at 7.31pm chaired by Councillor Steve Brown

Those present: Cllr. S Brown (Chair), Cllr. J Kite (Vice Chair),

Cllr. C Stafford, Cllr. T Mack, Cllr. J MacDonald, Cllr. G Sandher

Clerk: Paula Henney

Members of the public: One Present

APM1/2024: Apologies received: Cllr. P Denman, Cllr. M Tamber, Cllr. P Smith, Cllr. R Perfitt, Cllr. J Denman.

APM2/2024: Minutes of APM May 2023 we agreed by all present. Proposed by Cllr. Stafford and seconded by Cllr. Brown

APM3/2024: The internal audit had been completed with Parish accounts approved by full Council at the meeting held 23rd April 2024. Accounts have now been submitted to the external auditors Mazars. The opening balance of accounts on 1st April 2024 was:

The Chairman's annual report was received by all present and confirmed the report would be printed and distributed to Longfield and New Barn Parish community members.

Chairman's Report

It gives me great pleasure to write this report to update you on the work of the Longfield and New Barn Parish Council during the past year. While our work varies greatly from month to month I summarise it under several headings in this report. If you'd like more information about any of them, please do get in touch.

Village Hall

The Longfield and New Barn Village Hall continues to prove itself as a very popular venue for regular classes and we have seen a considerable increase in Party bookings for children and families alike.

We are often booked weeks in advance but please do contact Paula, our Clerk on 01474 707290 or Carol on 07483 162956 if you're looking to book an event in the Hall. One particular highlight for me this year was welcoming the Mayor to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Longfield Lunch club. Here's to their next 40 years!

Play parks

We have maintained our 2 play parks at Longfield Country Park/ Village Hall and the Oval, New Barn using the funds available that we have. As future budgets allow, we are hoping to renew or purchase some new equipment. We regularly receive suggestions from our residents about new equipment they'd like to see. Please keep these ideas coming to us and we will keep you updated as we move forward.

Kings Coronation Event May 2023.

We were delighted to host our Village Celebration/ Party to celebrate King Charles III Coronation last May. The weather did not dampen our spirits and you all proved that you love a good party. We are holding our next commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D Day with entertainment, food, beacon lighting and a firework display on the 8th June 6-9.30pm. Please do come and support your Village event. It will be lovely to see you all.

Donations

We continue to support local groups and charities with targeted donations which fit in with our ethos of ' helping people to help themselves '.

We were pleased this year to donate £1500 to Longfield Hill Hall to enable them to complete the pathway and disabled access to the hall at Longfield Hill. My thanks go to Cllr Jeremy Kite, who provided a grant of £1560 from Dartford Borough Council as well for the work.

Allotments, Lighting, Landscape Services

We manage our allotment sites in the Parish and encourage and support the plot holders at both sites to maintain them to a high standard so that everyone benefits from this rewarding pastime. The Parish is responsible for several streetlights which are now all low energy units and our lighting contractors work hard keeping them maintained. Our Landscape services also work hard to maintain the grass areas in between our ever-changing weather conditions.

Planning

We continue to consider and comment on all planning applications that arise in the Parish. Although we hold no formal planning powers, we make sure our comments are always advised to Dartford Borough Council as the planning authority for the final decision.

Litter Picking

We are lucky to utilise the services of Neil and the many other litter pickers who work tirelessly to keep our area as litter free as possible. Please help them to help us. If anyone would like to look after a small area of their own, we can provide all the equipment you need. It's great exercise and a very rewarding endeavour.

Thanks

I'd like to record my thanks and appreciation to all my fellow Parish Councillors, businesses, volunteers and agencies who work throughout the year in the Parish on your behalf. If you'd like to know more about our work please do get in touch.

Carol, our hall volunteer is greatly appreciated by us all. She works to help with the Village Hall bookings as she has done so for many years.

Jo, our KCC Community Warden, has been an asset to the Parish this year and I thank her for the support she offers to us all.

Our clerk, Paula, continues to look after the Parish with great care, skill, patience and attention to detail and I'd like to express my thanks to her on behalf of you all. We'd be lost without her.

Our Parish is a great place to live so let's all continue to work to keep it that way. We look forward to seeing you on 8th June 2024 for the commemoration of the D Day 80th Anniversary.

Longfield and New Barn Parish Council Chairman, Steve Brown

Parish Councillors

Jeremy Kite MBE, Vice Chairman	Roger Perfitt
Catherine Stafford	Gurvinder Sander MBE
Paul Denman	Jennifer MacDonald
Phil Smith	Tony Mack
Mike Tamber	Jan Denman
Steve Brown, Chairman	

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APM4/2024 Parishioners question and answer session: One member present but did not pose any questions to the Councillors.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.