



Longden, Ford and  
Rea Valley Local Joint  
Committee  
  
19 February 2014

Item  
  
**4**  
  
Public

**LONGDEN FORD AND REA VALLEY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19.02.14  
7.00 – 9.35pm**

**Responsible Officer** David Fairclough  
e-mail: David.Fairclough@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252739

**Committee Members Present:**

Geoff Brown	Minsterley Parish Council
Bill Clyne	Ford Parish Council
Roger Evans	Shropshire Council (Acting Chair)
John Fox	Great Hanwood Parish Council
Neil Evans	Longden Parish Council
John Pritchard	Pontesbury Parish Council

**Officers present:**

Kate Garner, Local Commissioning Manager  
David Fairclough, Community Action Officer

There were ten members of the public present.

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

No received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Geoff Rodgers declared an interest in the Minsterley Village Hall Grant Application.

Roger Evans declared an interest in the Mary Webb Grant application.

Neither could vote for these grant applications

**3. Substitutions**

There were no substitutions

**4. Note of Last Meeting**

4.1 The notes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by Chair Roger Evans seconded by Geoff Brown.

5. The Police and Fire Service were unable to attend to provide an update.

**6. Future of LJC Meetings**

Kate Garner presented and stated that both she and Neil Wilcox will be the new managers of Community Action Team starting from April. Kate confirmed that LJC budgets were being withdrawn from the budget as tough decisions were being made by Senior Managers at the local authority.

Kate stated that LJC's should continue but that the withdrawal of funds will impact the committee's and so the committee's need to think about how they can do things differently.

The LJC were given an F&Q document which highlighted some potential ways of working. One suggestion is around commissioning services e.g. Youth Work etc.

A question that the LJC asked KG was: could the LJC's help spend the CIL money? KG explained that this could be done, however, it's through the Place Plan where the detail will be. KG explained that there will be 6-9 months of change.

A question to KG: How could this approach enable us to engage more effectively with the Highways Agency? KG responded by stating the Highways Agency are a national agency and that this approach would probably not hold anymore sway with them. Best to take it up with local MP.

JP raised a question asking if individual Parishes could support the LJC by providing funds for local projects? This was discussed and agreed that PPC would write a letter to all Parishes with this proposal.

TB asked question about Scrutiny. Stated scrutiny is a hugely important tool and that this should be continued. KG agreed that this should still be an important function of LJC's.

TB wanted it stated on record that what works for Urban areas may not work for Rural LJC's and cited the Minsterley Youth Club closing. DF mentioned that perhaps a local Youth Partnership could be adopted with mix of Parish Council funding and National Funding. JF stated his concerns that local parish councils will have to make the difficult decisions and not the local authority. Also, setting of precepts is too late for this year.

**7. The Chair TB gave an update on Shropshire Council's planning department and the recent issues surrounding the five year housing land supply/SamDEV.**

TB stated the local authority have lost roughly 50% of their planning department Officers. New national policies are being written every day and the remaining Officers are having to constantly play catchup. E.g. At a recent Central Planning committee meeting there were 6 applications and 4 of those were deferred to due lack of policy.

NF stated more developments have been put forward in the Parish of Longden. Much more than was ever stated in SAMDEV. RE gave an

KG / Neil Wilcox to attend future LJC Meeting

Pontesbury PC Clerk

DF to investigate Youth Partnership for Rea Valley

update on the situation in Longden by stating as Shropshire Council did SAMDEV consultation, Central Government introduced NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) which included a 5 year housing land supply. Until SAMDEV is approved as policy, developers seem to have 'free reign' to put in applications which the Councillors find difficult to refuse. If applications are refused, and appealed, it could cost the Local Authority a lot of money. RE hoping the SAMDEV is adopted by late summer.

TB stated most Shropshire Councillors are lobbying their MP's who should then in turn lobby for change.

A question was raised that once all of these houses are built, will Shropshire Council ensure infrastructure is put in place? TB mentioned that CIL money will play a large role in this and that Parishes should have a major say in this infrastructure through the Place Plan document.

## **8. Applications for Funding**

DF gave update of current situation from funding report provided for LJC Board. In 2013/14 this Local Joint Committee has a total budget of £14,660. This is made up of £13,000 from the LJC budget and £1,080 from the arts funding, together with £580 carried over from the 2012/13 budget. At present this LJC has £5,830 left in its budget.

Since the last LJC meeting in October a decision was taken by the Chair to return un-used Travel Tokens from a previous project. This resulted in £1,020 being returned to the LJC budget which is included in the overall £5,830 left in the budget.

There were 7 applications to discuss. It was approved that:

Pontesbury Bowling Club should be provided with £0 given that they were successful with a previous grant request

Minsterley Parish Hall be awarded £2,600 for their fire alarms project

Hanwood Village Hall be awarded £600 for their new goalposts

Longden Seniors club be awarded £200 for their visit to the National Memorial Arboretum

Mary Webb School Community Archive Project be awarded £2,000 for their WW1 heritage project

Pontesbury Public Hall be awarded £1,030 to update their toilets plumbing and safety regulations

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

No meeting date has been put forward until the situation around the future of the LJC has been discussed.

DF to send  
award letters  
to all  
concerned.