APPENDIX TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2017

8. THE FUTURE OF LONGMEADS HOUSE

8.1 NOTED it was **noted** that a meeting had been held on Monday, 30 January to discuss the short and long term issues of the new development at Longmeads.

8.2 NOTED it was **noted** that the WCA had met on Tuesday, 31 January to discuss the issues.

8.3 NOTED it was **noted** that Mr Bray gave a current update on the development. It was hoped that Marden Homes would go for planning in March 2017. They are currently waiting for tenancy at will agreements for Talking Newspapers and Writtle Green Pre-school. Mr Bray had sent all correspondence to the Essex County Council legal department. The contracts would not be signed until the agreements were approved. The statutory period for planning is 3 months and it was hoped that the building would be complete by the end of the year or early 2018. It was noted that the planning application for the Daws Farm development on Back Road took 9 months, but this involved replanning and this wouldn't be the case with Longmeads, so it shouldn't take as long. It was noted that a 2 year long stop period would be written into contract, this would allow provision for one appeal if necessary.

8.4 NOTED it was **noted** that Ian Nicholls, Chairman of the WCA discussed the timescale of the development and how 4 years later, it had still not been built. This had caused lots of issues for WCA and the committee of 12 were now down to 4 members. It was claimed that there had been no financial assistance from the Parish Council but an £8000 loan was given to the WCA in 2009 for the installation of the fire alarm. The Parish Council would like to keep the current Longmeads open until the new building opens. The proposal was to pay a book-keeper and booking officer to ensure this happened. The WCA would try to fund this and the Parish Council would ensure funds were available to pay these salaries until the end of 2017. The current WCA committee does not want to run the new building. The Parish Council agreed to assist if the building became unsafe or stopped bookings from being taken.

8.5 NOTED it was **noted** that WCA plan to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the best way forward for the association. The question was raised as to whether the WCA had enough funds to continue keeping the building open.

8.6 NOTED the question was raised as to what steps have been taken to get new people involved with the committee. It had 12 members and now has 4 members. It was noted that the community spirit in the village had changed although it was still a well used building.

8.7 NOTED it was **noted** that the WCA committee had been unable to open the financial accounts emailed through to them.

8.8 NOTED it was **noted** that plans for the development had been through the pre application procedure. The car parking has already been passed through City Council. Members of the WCA committee don't feel they are getting value for money for the development. Essex County Council will receive over £500,000 from Mardens for the plot and Mardens will build a new community centre for the Parish Council and WCA. It is a win win situation for the WPC and WCA as it is not costing any extra money to build the new centre, other than legal fees.