Minutes of the meeting of Longden Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 7.30 pm in Longden Village Hall

Present:

Cllr. Paul Carter – Chairman	Cllr. R Evans – Vice chair	Cllr. P Arnold
Cllr. Mrs K Lovegrove	Cllr. N Evans	Cllr. Mrs C Roberts
Cllr. K Roberts		

Also present: Caroline Higgins, Clerk, three members of the public

131/2022 Chairman's Welcome - The Chairman welcomed all present and forecasted a busy year.

132/2022 Apologies – Cllr J Whysall, (work commitment), and Cllr C Rigby, ill health; noted

133/2022 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest – None

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134/2022 Minutes - The Council approved one amendment to minute 126.2, which refers to the Lower Common noticeboard rather than Longden Common noticeboard then **RESOLVED** that the amended minutes of the full council meeting held on 7th December 2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

135/2022 Public Participation – There were three members of the public representing the Douglas Swire Memorial Hall, (Longden Parish Hall) Committee who sought the support of the Council in their application for a Centenary grant towards the extension and refitting of the hall. The Council was happy to confirm that it continues to support the building by hiring it for their meetings and community engagement events. It was further confirmed that the Council was willing to make a financial contribution of £10,000 to the scheme from the CIL Neighbourhood Funds set aside for infrastructure projects, (as recorded in minute 112.6, November 2022) in recognition of the importance of the hall to the whole parish. The Clerk undertook to confirm these details in writing to the village hall committee.

The Chairman closed the public session and the village hall representatives left the meeting.

136/2022 Reports

136.1 Clerk's Report – The Clerk updated the written report circulated with the agenda detailing the Tax Base for the 2023 – 2024 financial year. She reported on a

meeting with Shropshire Council Place Plan officers with respect to nomination of the parish as a Neighbourhood Plan area and updated the council on ongoing projects including the village gates for Hook-a-gate and defibrillator for Annscroft.

136.2 Chairman's Report – The Chairman reported that he had attended a briefing on the Local Government Boundary Commission Review of Shropshire ward boundaries in December and that a second briefing had been arranged in January to which all members were invited.

He reported that Cllr Jamie Whysall had given his resignation from the Council due to incompatible work commitments but wished to continue to contribute to the community in an informal way as he had enjoyed his role as Councillor. It was **RESOLVED** to write and thank him for his valuable contributions to the Council and to advertise the vacancy.

136.3 Shropshire Councillor's Report – Cllr R Evans reported on the following issues:

- Shropshire Council budget consultation is open until 30th January 2023
- £2.00 bus fare scheme running until end March 2023 allowing adults to travel as far as they wish on a single bus throughout the county.
- Support for low income families to be increased over the next 18 months
- Policy on hazardous routes for school children to be reviewed
- Payments to foster carers to be increased from 1 April 23 supporting over 600 children in care in Shropshire
- Library Strategy adopted
- Draft affordable warmth consultation open
- Draft Temporary Traffic Order proposal to charge for road closures for events
- Local Government Boundary Commission Review is minded to recommend no change to the number of Shropshire Councillors, (currently 74) but is seeking evidence to adjust ward boundaries to improve electoral equalities whilst reflecting community identities.

136.4 Councillors' Reports

Cllr K Lovegrove reported a pothole in the road opposite Gable Cottages resulting from a water leak. She undertook to report the location via FixMyStreet.

Cllr C Roberts reported a street sign bent to 45-degrees in Hook-a-gate at the entrance to the nursery parking area.

137/2022 Traffic and Highways

137.1 Traffic Safety – Cllr R Evans reported that Shropshire Council is investigating more effective locations for the Longden village VAS sign.

He reported that Shropshire Council could install a traffic mirror opposite the exit to the Tankerville Arms car park if permission could be secured to locate it on private premises. No residents had agreed so the Chairman undertook to approach the church wardens. Shropshire Council would charge for the installation.

137.2 Village Gateways – The Council noted that a commencement date of 16th January 2023 had been confirmed for the installation of village gates in Hook-a-gate.

138/2022 Planning

138.1 Planning Applications – The Council considered the following planning applications

138.1.1 22/05450/FUL **Camels, Annscroft**: Erection of single storey extension for disabled access wet room. It was **RESOLVED** to make **no comment**.

138.1.2 22/05550/VAR **Spring Cottage, Lyth Hill**; Revisions to approved plans for a replacement dwelling; It was **RESOLVED** to make no comment on this application.

138.1.3 22/05688/FUL Land Rear of Spring Cottage, Hook-a-gate; Erection of 1No dwelling following demolition of garage and outbuildings/sheds. In view of the late notification of the application it was **RESOLVED to defer discussion to the next meeting.**

Note: Council decisions are based on the information available at the time of the meeting. Members representing other bodies reserve the right to take new information into account and review their position should they be required to consider an application at a later date.

138.2 Planning Decisions – The following planning decisions were noted:

138.2.1 22/02730/CPE **Caravan 1, Yard Opp. Longden Wood Cottages, Long Lane, Longden;** Lawful development certificate for the siting of a residential caravan; *Lawful*

138.2.2 22/03039/FUL; **The Vinnals, Lower Common, Longden, SY5 8HB;** Erection of a building to house CHP biomass boiler, woodchip store and drying floor; *Grant Permission*

138.2.3 22/04633/FUL; **Stapleton Grange, Longden, SY5 8HF:** Erection of a stone temple on the edge of a lake**;** *Refuse*

138.2.4 22/04396/FUL; **Proposed Conversion Of Agricultural Buildings South Of Moat Hall, Annscroft;** The conversion of an existing agricultural barn into a wedding and events venue and associated works; *Grant Permission*

139/22 Neighbourhood Planning

139.1 Steering Group Update – The Clerk and Steering group reported on the useful meeting held that morning with Shropshire Council Place Plan Officers at which the designation of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) area had been discussed. The benefits of protecting green spaces throughout the parish were noted as was the requirement for community consultation should only part of the parish be designated.

It had been confirmed that whilst Longden was expected to be designated as a Community Hub, there were no sites allocated for housing development in Longden and no obligation for a NP to allocate sites for development.

After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to designate the whole of Longden Parish as the Neighbourhood Plan area and to write to Shropshire Council to approve it in accordance with Regulation 6.

139.2 Consultancy Costs and Locality Grant Funding – The Clerk reported on a conversation with a local planning consultant and with other Councils who are preparing a NP. It was suggested that a consultant be appointed on an hourly rate to support the steering group at key stages, including writing draft policies in conformity with the emerging local plan.

139.3 Next Steps – The Council agreed to publicise the development of a Neighbourhood Plan within the community and to encourage residents to join the Steering Group. It was agreed to hold an early Parish Meeting in March and to use the event to engage with the community about the key objectives of the NP.

140/2022 Training Programme – Cllr N Evans expressed interest in refresher training on the Code of Conduct. All members were encouraged to review the recently circulated training programme and indicate their needs to the Clerk. It was recommended that members consider training related to their committee roles. It was **RESOLVED** to defer discussion on the recently circulated draft Training Strategy until the next meeting.

141/2022 Play Areas – It was **RESOLVED** to allocate a budget of £50 to replace the missing cap from the standing spinner at Annscroft Play Area and the signage recommended in the Annual Safety Inspection Report. It was further **RESOLVED** to prepare a risk-based policy for responding to inspection reports.

Cllr K Lovegrove reported she had obtained three quotes for hedge cutting at Annscroft. It was agreed to add this item to the February agenda for approval.

142/2022 Street Furniture – Covered by Clerk's report

143/2022 Finance

143.1 Payments made by direct debit – None

£

143.2 Payments for approval – The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the following online payments:

	£
• Staff (December Salary)	643.95
• Staff (Expenses)	23.80
• NEST (Pension contributions)	46.55
• HMRC (Tax & NI contributions)	11.40
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143.3 Invoices received after publication of the agenda – The Council approved the following invoice for payment:

	£
• Cloudy IT (January IT support)	75.36
• Information Commissioner (Registration fee)	35.00
• Boyd's Groundcare (Grass cutting – Missed Sept invoice)	54.00
• E.ON (Street light repair)	133.96

143.4 Bank Reconciliation – The Council approved the reconciliation dated 22nd December 2022 and the Chairman signed it.

143.5 CIL Report – The Clerk reported that the CIL receipts to December 22 had not yet been published.

143.6 Tax Base Notification – The Council noted a 0.27% increase in the provisional tax base to 544.61 Band equivalents in 2023-24 (previously 543.12) giving a Band D equivalent charge of £68.81 for the recommended Precept of £37,472.

143.7 Precept Recommendation – The Precept of **£37,472** recommended by the Finance Committee was **RESOLVED** unanimously.

144/2022 Correspondence & Consultations - Local Government Boundary Commission Review – Initial consultation closes 30 January 2023. A consultation on the proposed revisions will be opened in April. It was **RESOLVED** that members submit their comments in a personal capacity.

145/2022 Date of next meeting – It was **RESOLVED** that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

146/2022 Exclusion of the Press and Public – It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public in order to discuss confidential staff matters

147/2022 Staff Matters – The Council reviewed the allowance for Working from Home and approved alignment with the HMRC weekly limit, backdated to 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signature of Chairman _____ Date _____