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Minutes of the Meeting of Longden Parish Council held on
Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7.30 pm in Longden Village Hall

Present:

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

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

37/2024 Chairman’s Welcome & Public Participation – Cllr P Carter opened the meeting and invited those members of the public present to speak. They indicated that their interest in an update on a defibrillator for Annscroft village.

38/2024 Apologies – Cllr P Arnold, ill health

39/2024 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest – None

40/2024 Minutes - The Council unanimously RESOLVED to correct the date of the meeting to 5th June 2024. The amended minutes of the full council meeting held on 5th June 2024 were then approved as a true and accurate record.

41/2024 Planning 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 future date.*

41.1 Planning Applications

41.1.1 24/02243/VAR; Spring Cottage, Lyth Hill; Proposal; Variation of Condition 2 attached to planning permission ref 20/05286/FUL ; relocation of 3-bay garage to avoid existing sewer. It was RESOLVED, with one abstention to make NO COMMENT.

41.1.2 24/02265/COU; Hare Shakers, 3 Halls Court, Summerhouse Lane, Longden; Proposal; Conversion of agricultural building to domestic garage; It was RESOLVED, with one abstention to recommend that the garage be tied to the dwelling by condition.

41.2 Planning Decisions – None

42/2024 Neighbourhood Plan –

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42.1 Locality Grant – It was noted that a grant of £8,595 has been approved, commencing 20th June 2024.

42.2 Community Survey – It was noted that booklets have been printed and are being distributed by volunteers prior to a launch meeting on 10th July. A consultant has been appointed to assist with an independent analysis of the survey results. Cllr K Roberts commented positively on the design and structure of the survey. A small number of residents have challenged the surveys and requested they be withdrawn. They have been invited to bring their concerns to the launch meeting

42.3 Launch Meeting – It was RESOLVED to approve expenditure of £80 to purchase a banner to promote the launch event and to approve payment upon receipt of invoice under delegated authority. It was noted that the meeting clashes with a popular football match which might reduce the numbers attending. A Facebook publicity campaign has been planned to raise awareness of the event and an officer from Shropshire Council Planning Policy team invited to answer technical questions.

43/2024 Defibrillators

43.1 Annscroft defibrillator – In the absence of an alternative quote from Shropshire Council’s lighting contractor, it was RESOLVED, by 7 votes in favour and 1 against, to accept the refreshed quote for electrical installation provided by our street lighting contractors and to purchase a defibrillator, cabinet and post mount for installation at Annscroft using an electrical supply from the Shropshire Council VAS, as approved by Shropshire Council Highways.

43.2 Longden Common defibrillator – The Chairman reported that a recent fundraising event had raised sufficient funds for a community defibrillator at the Red Lion PH. Financial assistance would not therefore be required from the parish council.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to the fundraising organisers and to offer to adopt the Longden Common defibrillator as a council asset, to ensure it is maintained in an emergency ready state.

43.3 Defibrillator training – It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to the licensee of the New Inn for hosting the training, which was well supported.

44/2024 Play Areas

44.1 Specification for path and basketball backboard – It was RESOLVED to hold a site meeting on 6th August 2024 at Annscroft Play Area to consider the specification for a path and replacement basketball backboards. It was RESOLVED to seek further advice and to request revised quotes from all contractors based on the finally agreed specifications. It was further RESOLVED to investigate the creation of a fenced dog exercise area at Annscroft Play Area. It was RESOLVED that funding

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would be sought from the Open Spaces Grant Fund as no budget has been allocated from the Precept.

44.2 Foot grip – Longden Play Area – Despite efforts to tighten the foot grips, one has disappeared. A replacement has been ordered together with a suitable adhesive. It was RESOLVED to approve the expenditure of £35.91.

44.3 Dog Control Orders – It was RESOLVED to seek clarification on exclusion of dogs from Annscroft play area and to investigate the creation of a fenced dog exercise area.

45/2024 Finance

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

	£
• Staff costs (confidential)	967.90
• Home working allowance	26.00
• Cloudy Group Ltd (IT Support – July)	92.28
• Boyd’s Groundcare (Grass cutting – June)	108.00
• Mid-Wales Sign & Print (sign stickers)	24.00 (paid)
• Clerk’s expenses (May/June)	73.30
• Save Our Shropshire CIO (Carbon Literacy Certificate)	10.00
• Spark Agency (Neighbourhood Plan surveys)	489.00

45.2 Bank Transfer – The Council APPROVED a transfer of £5,000 from the Lloyds Business Saving Account to the Treasurer’s account to cover August expenditure.

45.3 Bank Reconciliation – The Council noted total cash in hand as at 30th June 2024 to be £131,951.74. This includes earmarked reserves of £64,248.26.

45.4 Environmental Maintenance Grant – The Council NOTED an award of £600 against an application for £1,200. It was RESOLVED to arrange for vegetation to be cut back from road signs as soon as possible to improve highway safety.

46/2024 CIL Neighbourhood Fund Allocation

46.1 Village Gateways at Longden Common – It was NOTED that space is only available on the verge at the northern end of the village for a pair of 1m wide gateways. These would require approval by Shropshire Council Highways. It was RESOLVED to allocate £2,100 of CIL Neighbourhood Funds for supply and installation of a pair of 1m wide gateways and seek approval from Highways to install them.

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46.2 Replacement of benches – It was RESOLVED to replace three benches in Longden village with recycled plastic benches. A budget of £400 per bench was allocated from CIL Neighbourhood Funds.

The bench in Hook-a-gate has broken slats but could be refurbished. Cllr K Roberts was authorised to approach a local carpenter to quote for repairs to the slats and a maximum repair budget of £500 set aside for the Clerk to authorise.

46.3 Replacement of Lyth Hill noticeboard – The Council RESOLVED to allocate £501.00 CIL Neighbourhood Funds to purchase a noticeboard sized 1,050 x 750 mm (9 x A4 sheets) with a single side opening door and domed header marked 'Longden Parish Council' to match the style of those installed in Hook-a-Gate and Lower Common

47/2024 Adoption of Policies

47.1 Model Financial Regulations - It was RESOLVED unanimously to adopt the draft Model Financial Regulations circulated in advance of the meeting.

48/2024 Consultations & Correspondence – The Council RESOLVED to take no action with respect to the request for funding by Crane Consulting.

49/2024 Local Policing Priorities – The Council RESOLVED to confirm their local policing priorities remained as previously stated, 1. Speeding, 2. Anti-social Behaviour (particularly drugs misuse) and 3. Thefts from farms.

The Council RESOLVED to authorise the Chairman to complete the annual survey on behalf of the council.

50/2024 Reports

50.1 Chairman’s Report – The Chair reported he had installed temporary letter boxes to collect Neighbourhood Plan surveys and arranged signage to promote the launch event.

He was preparing a response to the letter from the Shropshire Council leader correcting incorrect information about Highways inaction and poor communication.

He had attended an inspection of the works to develop a wildflower meadow and ponds at Lyth Hill and works were progressing well with the active contribution of the tenant farmer.

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50.2 Shropshire Councillor’s Report – Cllr R Evans reported briefly on the Smithfield Riverside / Station Gyrotory work which is causing some disruption to traffic.

50.3 Clerk’s Report – A written report was NOTED.

50.4 Councillors’ Reports

- **Cllr Fotheringham** – Disliked the way verges are being allowed to grow, which appears untidy. Disliked the road safety signs designed by local school children.
- **Cllr Rigby** – Improved visibility on Lyth Bank due to cutting back of hedges.
- **Cllr N Evans** – Redhill planning application has been referred to Shropshire Council Planning Committee for a decision.
- **Cllr R Evans** – Has been assured by Shropshire Council Cabinet member that road signs will be enlarged but this has not happened. It was suggested that this be included in the Chairman’s letter to the Leader.
- **Cllr C Roberts** – Village gates in Hook-a-Gate need cleaning and stick on letters on village sign are coming away.
- **Cllr K Roberts** – Replacement bin still needed at Hanley Lane

51/2024 Next Meeting - 4th September 2024

The meeting closed at 9:25pm