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Minutes of the Meeting of Longden Parish Council held on
Wednesday 4th September 2024 at 7.30 pm in Longden Village Hall

Present:

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

Also present: Caroline Higgins, Clerk

52/2024 Chairman’s Welcome & Public Participation – Cllr P Carter opened the meeting and welcomed members. There were no members of the public present

53/2024 Apologies – None, all present

54/2024 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest – Cllr K Lovegrove declared a disposable pecuniary interest in agenda item 5.1, with reference to a planning application for the barn at Oakshall Farm, Longden.

55/2024 Minutes - The Council unanimously RESOLVED to record Cllr P Arnold as attending the meeting on 3rd July 2024. The amended minutes of the full council meeting were then approved as a true and accurate record.

56/2024 Planning Committee Minutes – The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7th August 2024 were approved as a true record.

57/2024 Planning Applications

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.

57.1 24/03012/FUL and 24/03014/LBC: Longden Wood Farm, Long Lane, Longden – The Council RESOLVED to make NO COMMENT.

Cllr K Lovegrove left the room.

57.2 24/03256/FUL and 24/03257/LBC: Barn Southeast Of Oakshall Farm, Plealey - Conversion of existing barn to 1no dwelling following demolition of existing lean-to extension – The Council noted this was a relisting of a previously approved permission and RESOLVED to make NO COMMENT.

16	Longden Parish Council Minutes 2024 - 2025 Signature of Chairman _____ Date _____
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58/2024 Planning Decisions – the following planning decisions were NOTED.

58.1 24/02265/COU: Hare Shakers, 3 Halls Court, Summerhouse Lane, Longden; Proposal; Conversion of agricultural building to domestic garage; *Decision – Grant permission*

58.2 24/02678/VAR: Site Of The Cygnets, Hookagate : Variation of Condition No. 2 attached to planning permission 22/01044/FUL dated 17 May 2022 : *Decision: Grant Permission*

Cllr Lovegrove returned to the room.

59/2024 Place Plan Projects – The Council noted that a number of projects had not been added to the Place Plan as insufficient information was available. An option to commission traffic surveys at an above commercial cost was proposed but in the case of Hook-a-gate, a traffic survey had already been carried out and a traffic calming scheme designed and submitted to Shropshire Council. Offers to liaise with Highway consultants had not been taken up and schemes involving village gates and VAS signs had been put on hold. Meanwhile, Shropshire Council was seeking support from parish councils to provide services. It was RESOLVED to write a strongly worded letter to Shropshire Council expressing disappointment in their poor communication and lack of progress.

60/2024 Local Plan Review – The Council RESOLVED that Cllr P Carter shall represent the Council at the Stage 2 Examination Hearing in October and that the kind offer of support by Kembertons be accepted in the preparation of a statement.

61/2024 Planning Training – Places have sold out but approval given for up to two attendees should places become available.

62/2024 Neighbourhood Plan –

62.1 Locality Grant – It was noted that an additional grant of £1,405 has been approved, bringing the total grant awarded to the maximum of £10,000. Technical support for a Housing Needs Survey has also been approved. Urban Vision Enterprise have been appointed to provide neighbourhood planning support and a meeting arranged.

62.2 Community Survey – 87 surveys had been received by the end of August and are being analysed by a consultant. The online survey remains open for responses.

63/2024 Defibrillators

63.1 Longden Common Defibrillator – It was noted that the fundraisers were considering donating their funds to the parish council to purchase a defibrillator and

17	Longden Parish Council Minutes 2024 - 2025 Signature of Chairman _____ Date _____
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cabinet. It was RESOLVED to accept the donation and purchase a defibrillator and cabinet for installation at the Red Lion public house. Both will be added to the parish asset register.

63.2 Annscroft defibrillator – It was RESOLVED to allocate an additional budget of £1,328 for the purchase and installation of the Annscroft defibrillator, cabinet and post mount from the general reserves.

64/2024 Play Areas

64.1 Annscroft Play Area – A report and recommendations from the site meeting held on 6th August was NOTED.

64.2 It was RESOLVED to purchase 2 No. heavy duty practice basketball backboards at the cost of £203.28 & VAT and to approach local contractors to install them. A budget of £500 was delegated to the Clerk for installation.

64.3 It was RESOLVED to purchase a 90 Litre hooded bin and fixings to replace the damaged one at Annscroft play area.

64.4 There was no appetite to create a dog exclusion zone at Annscroft as this would result in a detrimental impact on the maintenance of the site. Should a dog exclusion order be imposed by Shropshire Council the option to fence the play equipment would be reviewed.

64.5 There was no progress to report on the path specification but as the DeFRA Open Spaces Grant has not yet opened for applications, there is currently no funding for this project.

65/2024 Finance

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

	£
• Staff costs (2 months)	1,935.80
• Home working allowance (2 months)	52.00
• Cloudy Group Ltd (IT Support – 2 months)	184.56
• Boyd’s Groundcare (Grass cutting – 2 months)	216.00
• Mid-Wales Sign & Print (banner)	96.00
• Clerk’s expenses (Jul/Aug)	31.15
• Sutcliffe Play (Play area spares)	43.09
• PKF Littlejohn LLP (External audit)	252.00
• Parish Online (Website hosting)	462.00

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- KBS Depot Ltd (Lyth Hill noticeboard) 601.20 Proforma
- Net World Sports (Basketboard backboards) 243.93 Proforma

65.2 External Audit – The Council NOTED receipt of the external audit report, which raised no issues for concern. The notice of conclusion of audit has been displayed on the council's website.

65.3 Bank Reconciliation – The Council noted total cash in hand as at 31st July 2024 to be £139,148.33. This includes Locality grants totalling £10,000 and an Environmental Maintenance Grant of £600.

65.4 Budget Report – The Council RESOLVED to allocate an additional budget of £250 to the Neighbourhood Plan budget from general reserves.

The Council NOTED no direct debits had been collected for street light electricity due to confusion over the account, which had been confused with another parish council by the supplier.

66/2024 CIL Neighbourhood Funds – The Council approved the Annual Report on CIL expenditure for the year 2023-24. Cllr R Evans countersigned the report on behalf of Shropshire Council.

66.1 Hook-a-gate bench – Cllr K Roberts tabled a quotation from a local contractor for repair of the slats. As the quote exceeded the Clerk's delegated budget, it will be presented for consideration at a future meeting.

67/2024 Transfer of Land – The Council RESOLVED to accept the transfer of a strip of land at The Rectory, Longden for a peppercorn and to SIGN the following documents:

- Transfer of part of registered title(s) SL189149, SL283324 and SL210087 from the Hereford Diocesan Board of Finance and the Incumbent of the Benefice of Great Hanwood and Longden and Annscroft with Pulverbatch to Longden Parish Council.
- Pre-emption agreement giving the transferers the right to buy back the land at the same consideration should the parish council decide they wish to dispose of the land.

The Chair and vice chair signed and the Clerk witnessed the signatures.

68/2024 Consultations – A Shropshire Council invitation seeking partnership working for service provision was considered. It was RESOLVED to decline the offer on the basis of poor communication from Shropshire Council over projects promoted by the parish.

19	Longden Parish Council Minutes 2024 - 2025 Signature of Chairman _____ Date _____
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69/2024 Reports

69.1 Chairman’s Report – Cllr Carter reported that he had made representation to the Shropshire Council planning committee meeting in support of a planning application for two houses at Redhill, which had received planning permission.

He had taken part in a Speedwatch check identifying drivers exceeding 40mph through Longden village.

He had visited Longden play area and secured the loose foot grips and signs.

69.2 Shropshire Councillor’s Report – Cllr R Evans reported on the following issues:

- Highway repairs scheduled for Arscott to Annscroft road and Arscott to Pontesford road, (Rantipole Lane). This will take approximately 2 weeks. He encouraged all to report poor road conditions via Fix My Street.
- Shropshire Council Q1 budget report has been published showing very low general reserves
- Green waste collections will be charged for at £56 per annum from 1 October. Food waste can no longer be placed in the green bin and green waste cannot be placed in the general waste (grey) bin.
- School library service will be retained.
- Local Plan – The housing targets identified for the emerging local plan will be respected but if and when adopted, Shropshire Council will be required to begin work to develop a plan to accommodate the higher housing targets set by central government.
- A swimming pool survey has supported provision of a pool at Sundorne capable of hosting county level competitions, (25m x 8 lane pool). Cost estimate £29M
- Levelling up grants of £14M with match funding by SC of £4M are being used to dismantle the Riverside and widen pavements near the station. The money must be spent by the end of March 25.

69.3 Clerk’s Report – A written report was NOTED. It was agreed to request hedge whips from the free tree scheme and that Cllr Roberts would seek volunteers to help plan them at Annscroft play area.

69.4 Councillors’ Reports

- **Cllr Lovegrove** – Reported Quiet Lane sign at Darlows Bank is damaged, (broken post). It was agreed to use the Environmental Maintenance Grant to repair it using a local contractor.

20	Longden Parish Council Minutes 2024 - 2025 Signature of Chairman _____ Date _____
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- **Cllr K Roberts** – Reported overgrown blackthorn bushes on Hanley Lane path. (Report to Parish Paths Partnership).
- **Cllr C Roberts** – Reported overgrown hedge blocking visibility in Hook-a-gate. (Letter to householder requested).
- **Cllr N Evans** – Reported commercial vehicle parked regularly on Redhill layby causing obstruction. (Letter to business requested).
- **Cllr P Arnold** – Has reported drainage problems on Flax Lane and poor road surface on Manor Lane to SC but had no response.
- **Cllr C Rigby** – Passed on resident’s compliments about the Connect On Demand bus service at Lyth Bank.
- **Cllr P Fotheringham** – Reported verge outside Long Mynd View, Longden needs cutting. There was a brief debate to consider taking on the grass cutting responsibility for this area which will be referred to the Finance committee to consider in the next year’s budget.

70/2024 **Next Meeting** – 2nd October 2024

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

21	Longden Parish Council Minutes 2024 - 2025 Signature of Chairman _____ Date _____
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