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Minutes of the Meeting of Longden Parish Council held on  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 7.30 pm in Longden Village Hall

**Present:**

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

**Also present:** Caroline Higgins, Clerk, and one member of the public

**196/2024 Chairman’s Welcome & Public Participation** – Cllr P Carter opened the meeting and welcomed the public present.

**197/2024 Public Participation** –

**197.1** A resident of Longden informed the Council he had been validly nominated for election to the Parish Council and wished to observe the meeting.

**198/2024 Apologies** – None, all present

**199/2024 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest** – None

**200/2024 Minutes** - The minutes of the full council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record following correction of the road name in 192.4.3 (Flaxman’s Lane). **Resolved with one abstention.**

**201/2024 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.*

**201.1 25/00817/OUT, Proposed dwelling, west of Hanley House, Hook-a-Gate, Shrewsbury;** Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of one dwelling. It was **RESOLVED, with one abstention** that the Parish Council makes no comment other than to observe that housing completions have significantly exceeded the guideline numbers set out in the adopted SAM.Dev. Local Plan.

**201.2 25/00889/OUT; Plot adjacent to Preseli, Longden Common Lane, Longden Common;** Proposal; Outline application for the proposed erection of one dwelling. It was **RESOLVED, with two abstentions** that the Parish Council makes no comment

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other than to observe that housing completions have significantly exceeded the guideline numbers set out in the adopted SAM.Dev. Local Plan.

**201.2 Planning Decisions** – The following planning decisions were noted:

**201.2.1 25/00829/CPL, Ashmount, Lyth Hill:** Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed partial conversion of existing garage, installation of solar panels, heat pump and sunpipe with associated internal alterations; *Decision – Certificate, lawful.*

**201.2.2 25/00273/TPO, Land across from Chapel House, Lyth Hill, Shrewsbury, SY3 0BT:** Proposed crown reduction of protected sycamore tree; *Decision - Refuse*

**201.3 Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr P Arnold gave an update on a recent liaison meeting with Shropshire Council, who are positive about the Neighbourhood Plan despite a recommendation to withdraw the draft Local Plan. It was noted that unspent funds from the Locality Grant as at 31 March 2025 would have to be repaid. The Steering Group had therefore approved the payment of the invoices for hire of the village hall under delegated authority. The next meeting will be held on 4 April at the Red Lion PH.

**202/2024 BT Phone Box Removal** – It was noted that only one phone call had been made from the telephone box in Longden in the last 12 months so BT are proposing to remove the telephone equipment, however the box is a traditional K6 red box so it will not be removed. The parish council is invited to adopt the box for £1 and assume responsibility for maintenance or it will be sealed. It was noted that adoption would result in a cost to the council however the box would be a suitable location to store the defibrillator. **It was resolved unanimously that the box be adopted and a decision on relocation of the defibrillator deferred to a later meeting after the scheduled elections.**

**203/2024 Village Hall Land Registration** – The Chairman reported on a meeting of the working party with the Village Hall Committee and the solicitor acting for the trustees. The solicitors have been instructed to put the trustees in the correct legal position to facilitate the Village Hall Committee to manage the hall properly. If a lease is required to obtain grants or loans, this can be arranged quickly. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council allows the village hall trustees to resolve the situation to the benefit of the community. There were no objections.

**204/2024 Highways Safety** – The Council noted the consultation was not yet available however Shropshire Council are targeting installation of the 20mph school zone in June 2025.

**205/2024 VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – The Clerk reported that no applications have been received for a grant.

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## 206/2024 Play Areas

**206.1 Annscroft Path** – Cllr Carter reported the Annscroft Path appeal had attracted pledges of £280 from 17 backers. The appeal requires a minimum of three more pledges to secure a grant of £3,400. The link to the appeal has been shared on social media.

**206.2 Annscroft Picnic Bench** – A request to move the bench closer to play equipment was supported and the Chairman volunteered to move it to the existing tarmac platform.

**206.3 Annscroft Standing Spinner** – The Clerk reported the removal of a rubber bung from the top of the spinner. It was **resolved, with one abstention**, to replace the bung.

**206.4 Longden Play Area** – A report of bicycles being ridden in the play area was noted. It was **resolved with one abstention**, to forbid the use of bicycles and scooters in the fenced play area and to add this to the signage for the play area.

**206.4 Play Area Inspections** – The Clerk reported a significant increase in the quoted costs of Shropshire Council play area inspections. It was agreed to review the play area inspection arrangements at the next meeting. The invoice for the 2024/25 inspections was still awaited so the unspent budget has been set aside in an earmarked reserve to cover the costs on receipt.

## 207/2024 Finance

**207.1 Payments for approval** – The Council **RESOLVED, with one abstention** to approve the following online payments, including retrospective approval for payments made under delegated authority:

£

- Village Hall Committee (Neighbourhood Plan event, July) 103.50 (paid)
- Village Hall Committee (Neighbourhood Plan event, Feb) 120.00 (paid)
- Village Hall Committee (Parish Council meetings) 329.00 (paid)
- A Roberts (Installation of Longden noticeboard) 160.00 (paid)
- Lloyds Bank (Bank charges) 4.25 (d/debit)
- Highline Electrical Ltd (Street light repair) 168.00 (paid)
- SSE (Streetlight electricity – 12 months) 1,579.14 (d/debit)
- Cloudy Group Ltd (IT Support) 89.28

It was noted that salary costs had not yet been calculated but these would be retrospectively reported to the next council meeting.

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**207.2 Bank Reconciliation and fund transfers** – The Council approved a bank reconciliation showing the combined balance of all accounts to be **£26,659.99** on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**207.3 Reserves Transfers** – The Council noted that invoices were awaited for 2024/25 play area inspections and approved a new earmarked reserve of £1,000 to cover the expected fees, with any balance being reserved to cover the expected increased costs in 2025/26.

## **208/2024 Reports**

**208.1 Clerk’s Report** – The Council noted the written report and considered access to the new Longden noticeboard. It was **resolved** to get spare keys cut for Cllr P Arnold and to restrict notices to official parish council notices and those of wider community importance. Cllr Arnold’s contact details to be displayed for community notices. The old noticeboard by the village shop to be left in place for adverts and general community use.

The Clerk reported that new bus stop flags have been erected throughout the parish at the Connect on Demand stops.

**208.2 Shropshire Councillor’s Report** – Cllr R Evans gave a brief report on the activities of Shropshire Council.

- Deadline to subscribe for garden waste collections has been extended to 30<sup>th</sup> April.
- Dangerous pothole outside Chaney Plough, Exford’s Green has been reported to Highways via FixMyStreet.
- Residents of Darlow’s Bank, Stapleton have reported a spate of break ins.
- Local Plan Review – Officers recommendation is to withdraw the draft plan at the next opportunity, (following the election) due to the negative response from the Planning Inspectors to the proposed remedial programme. The current adopted SAM.Dev Plan will remain in force until December 2026 however the revised housing targets mean the Council cannot currently demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply.

## **208.3 Councillors’ Reports**

**208.3.1 Cllr Fotheringham** asked about the benches requested under the Shared Prosperity Fund. The Clerk confirmed these have been requested but no further information has been received as to when they will be available.

**208.3.2 Cllr C Rigby** reported the poor state of the road conditions on Lyth Bank.

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**208.3.3 Cllr P Arnold** observed that Plealey Lane is scheduled for closure for water mains repairs in May and this would be a good opportunity to repair the pot holes.

**208.3.4 Cllr N Evans** reported work had started at the former rail depot in Redhill, where a new site access had been created.

**209/2024 Next Meeting** – Annual Council Meeting – As it appeared possible there would be a contested election in the parish, the next meeting was moved to 14<sup>th</sup> May to allow sufficient time to issue the official legal summons to elected members.

**210/2024 Exclusion of the press and public** – Pursuant to schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972 and the Public Bodies, (Admission to Meetings) Act ,1960, it was unanimously **resolved** to exclude the press and public from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the remaining business to be transacted.

*One member of the public left the meeting.*

**211/2025 Staff Matters** – The Council reviewed the additional staff hours for Neighbourhood Plan administration and **resolved, with one abstention** to extend the current arrangements for a further 4 months.

*Cllr N Evans spoke to thank those Council members standing down at the next election and to wish good luck for those standing.*

*Cllr Rigby thanked the Councillors for their consideration in recent months.*

*Cllrs K and C Roberts announced that due to personal reasons they had missed the submission deadline for nominations however they were willing to stand for co-option should any vacancies remain.*

*The meeting closed at 9:20pm*