

Minutes of the meeting of Longden Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at Longden Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Paul Arnold	Cllr P Carter	Cllr N Evans
Cllr R Evans (from 8:10pm)	Cllr N Ingham	Cllr K Lovegrove
Cllr D Morgan	Cllr C Roberts	Cllr K Roberts

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

39/2025 Apologies – *Cllr R Evans sent apologies for a late arrival due to a conflicting school governors' meeting.*

40/2025 Declarations of Interest – No declarations of interest were declared with respect to the business on the agenda.

41/2025 Minutes - The draft minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 4th June 2025 were unanimously approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

42/20205 Public Participation – Two members of the public spoke in support of their planning application for the installation of a cattle underpass. They are currently using rented land to reduce the need for their animals to cross the road. Should this no longer be available they would need to cross up to four times daily at a risk to staff and cows and creating significant disruption to traffic.

Members questioned how traffic would be managed during the construction phase. The applicants would seek to avoid a road closure if safe to do so. The work would not be imminent as the applicants would need to secure finance and meet ecological requirements

The public session closed at 7:48pm.

43/2025 Planning –

43.1 The Council considered one planning application:

43.1.1 25/01953/FUL: Welbatch Farm, Hook-a-Gate: Proposed cattle underpass – The Council noted that when cattle had been required to cross the road in previous years a car had hit and injured a cow, causing it to be destroyed. They also noted the danger to staff due to live traffic and poor sightlines. They noted that applicants had attempted to address the concerns raised by the parish council in response to a previous similar application, particularly in relation to maintaining through traffic although they acknowledged that no guarantees had been given to keep the road open. The Council resolved unanimously to support application on the grounds of safety and animal welfare.

43.2 The Council noted one planning decision:

43.2.1 25/01877/FUL, **Sunnyside, Plealey Lane, Longden**; Replacement porch; *Permission granted*

44/2025 Neighbourhood Planning – The Council noted the disappointing decision to not renew the Locality grant funding, which may have supported the strategic environmental assessment of potential housing sites. This is likely to have a financial impact on the project which is being assessed by the steering committee however Shropshire Council is continuing to support the Neighbourhood Plan for the time being. The Council gave its support to continuing the plan whilst budgets and programs are reviewed.

45/2025 Highways - The Council reviewed the plans that have been prepared for the 20mph Longden school zone. The plans were of a very small scale and highly detailed so could not be reviewed adequately on a smaller screen or printout however it was identified that the Longden VAS would no longer be required. Highways had been asked to investigate whether this unit could be relocated to Hook-a-gate. The formal Traffic Regulation Order had not yet been publicised so information had not been shared with parents, despite the rapidly approaching school holiday during which period work was expected to start.

At 8:10pm Cllr R Evans joined the meeting. He had shared information about the scheme with the school.

The Council **resolved** to meet with Highways to discuss the proposals and to write to Highways and the deputy leader to express dissatisfaction with the lack of communication and consultation.

46/2025 Play Areas

46.1 Annscroft Path – Cllr P Carter reported a suitable specification had been agreed by the working party, which extends the proposed path to the top of the field (180m x 1.5m) and this had been sent to three contractors. It was agreed to approach the town council for recommendations for additional contractors to ensure a good spread of quotes and that a deadline of 25th July be set for receipt of quotations. It was agreed to request an indication of a start date from those submitting quotes and to consider the quotations at an extraordinary meeting on 6th August 2025. *Cllrs C & K Roberts declared an interest and gave their apologies for the meeting.*

46.2 Play Area Inspections – Cllr Carter reported that he had relocated the bench, repaired the missing bung and put up the new notice at Annscroft play area. Vandals have since damaged the cradle swing, which has been taken out of use. The Council approved the replacement of the swing part.

The Clerk reported the volunteer inspector had identified a number of issues that may require repair. The Clerk and Chair have arranged to meet with the volunteer to complete a full assessment. Cllr K Lovegrove confirmed she is carrying out visual inspections of the Longden play area and reporting any issues to the Clerk.

It was **resolved** to seek confirmation from Shropshire Council that quarterly mechanical and annual inspections had been arranged.

47/2025 Local Nature Recovery –

47.1 Cllr D Morgan reported that he had met with the headteacher of Longden school, who was keen to work with the parish council and offered to devote a full week to nature recovery. He had made arrangements to meet with the school council to discuss their ideas.

47.2 Management of verges for nature recovery – Cllr D Morgan proposed that the wide verge at the junction of Shrewsbury Road and Plealey Lane, (crossroads) be managed for wildflowers. It had the advantages of being close to houses and accessible for rotary mowing by volunteers. A number of volunteers had come forward to undertake the work and a date in August identified for preparation. He warned that due to the recent dry weather it might only be possible to mow and scatter yellow rattle seed this year with further work to be planned next summer. The Council **resolved unanimously to support the project** and to approve a budget of £250, to include a donation of £50 to the MMG in appreciation of a supply of yellow rattle seed. It was further **resolved** to erect suitable signage to inform residents of the project and to include the parish logo on the sign. Shropshire Council to be informed of the project to prevent mowing at the wrong time. Cllr Lovegrove offered to donate a bag of species rich hay to seed the area.

It was suggested that Annscroft wide verges could be developed for wildflowers following the installation of the proposed cattle underpass.

47.3 Draft nature recovery plan – Cllr Morgan had prepared a draft nature recovery plan which had been shared with members. This would be considered at the next meeting.

47.4 Parish Clusters – It was agreed that Longden continue its work with Bayston Hill, Condover and, Church Pulverbatch but not to join with Pontesbury, Minsterley and Hanwood cluster at this time.

48/2025 Environmental Maintenance – It was noted that Shrewsbury Town Council has offered to undertake grass cutting in surrounding parishes. It was **resolved** to write to express an interest in their offer.

49/2025 Christmas Tree – This item was deferred, pending availability of costs.

50/2025 Defibrillators – The Chairman reported that a local resident had agreed to arrange relocation of the Longden defibrillator by his electrician to the Tankerville Arms. **It was resolved to post a notice at the original location to direct people to the new site.**

51/2025 Consultations and Correspondence –

51.1 Shropshire Council – Call for information - Since receiving an invitation from the Scrutiny Committee to comment on the relationship between parishes and Shropshire Council a conference has been arranged by SALC on the theme of working together. It was **resolved** that the Chairman attend the Conference and completes the response to the consultation by 18th August.

At 9:29pm it was resolved to suspend standing orders to allow the remaining business on the agenda to be addressed.

51.2 Shropshire Council Youth Survey & Community Profiling – The Council approved the draft prepared by the Clerk for submission to Shropshire Council.

52/2025 Finance –

52.1 Approval of Payments - The Council approved the following payments.

Supplier	Description	Amount £	Comment
Staff payments	Confidential	1,259.66	July
Cloudy IT	IT support	89.28	
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	4.25	d/debit
SSE	Streetlight electricity	1,661.60	d/debit (includes backdated charges since March 2024)
Boyd's Groundcare	Grass cutting	116.00	
Sutcliffe Play	Playground spares	45.37	

52.2 Bank Reconciliation – The Council noted and approved a bank reconciliation totalling £164,765.74, as of 23rd June 2025.

53/2025 Reports – For information and noting only.

53.1 Chair's report – The Chairman referred to his previous reports and had nothing to add.

53.2 Shropshire Councillor's Report – Cllr R Evans reported that Shropshire Council finances continued to be very tight. A peer review will be undertaken by another authority and used to strengthen systems. The Northwest Relief Road has been formally paused. The Local Plan will be formally withdrawn at a meeting on 17th July. It has been agreed that Telecare services will now be charged for.

53.3 Clerk's Report – The Clerk updated her written report. The Council noted that the invitation to the MP, Julia Buckley has been deferred due to early cutting of the grass at Exford's Green. The Council noted a request from Connect on Demand bus service had been referred to the Village Hall committee to find a suitable date.

53.4 Councillor's Reports

53.4.1 **Cllr K Roberts** proposed a letter of thanks be sent to the landowners who had removed ivy from the electricity pole that was blocking the parish light. He reported that the pole had seemed unstable and suggested this be reported to Western Power Distribution for investigation.

53.4.2 He had not been able to contact the owner of the Old Mill to request access to clear the vegetation from the post in his land.



- 53.4.3 **Cllr N Evans** reported that the walls at the entrance to the new development at Redhill were marked for reduction to improve motorists' visibility.
- 53.4.4 He had received an enquiry from an Annscroft resident when full fibre cables will be connected to their properties. *Cllr R Evans responded that the contracts were let by central government and Shropshire Council had no control over them.*
- 53.4.5 **Cllr C Roberts** reported that Hook-a-Gate nursery are putting their bins around the defibrillator, making access difficult in an emergency. She offered to speak with the management.
- 53.4.6 **Cllr P Arnold** reported he had cleared overgrown vegetation from the footpath behind the church.
- 53.4.7 He reiterated his view that the noticeboard in Longden is located in the wrong place and should be moved to next to the shop.
- 53.4.8 **Cllr N Ingham** reported some anti-social behaviour in Longden which had required attendance by the police and ambulance service.
- 53.4.9 He reported two dead cherry trees in Longden village that require removal due to their close proximity to the school path.

54/2025 Date of next meeting – The Council confirmed the next full council meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at Longden Village Hall, however an Extraordinary Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th August to discuss quotes for the path at Annscroft. This date will also be used should a planning committee meeting be required.

The meeting closed at 10:00pm