

Minutes of the meeting of Longden Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 4th June 2025 at Longden Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Paul Arnold	Cllr P Carter	Cllr N Evans
Cllr R Evans	Cllr N Ingham	Cllr K Lovegrove
Cllr D Morgan	Cllr C Roberts	Cllr K Roberts

Also present: Caroline Higgins, Clerk and two police community support officers

24/2025 Apologies – None, all present

25/2025 Declarations of Interest – No declarations of interest were declared with respect to the business on the agenda.

26/2025 Minutes - The draft minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 14th May 2025 were unanimously approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

27/20205 Public Participation – Two community support officers reported on their activities in the parish. Crime figures were unavailable, but they reported several speed checks had been carried out, both covertly and overtly. Drivers had been very well behaved on those occasions. The council requested speed checks at Longden Common and a visit to Longden to address the ongoing issue of obstructive parking at the crossroads at the end of Plealey Lane. They were alerted to an ongoing issue of anti-social behaviour at Lyth Hill Country Park, possibly relating to drug dealing and asked to increase patrols in the area. Residents were urged to note vehicle registration numbers if thought to be dealing drugs. The adjustment of hours after 8pm was greeted with concern as it would be very difficult for officers to attend parish council meetings.

The officers gave reassurance that they were not aware of any thefts of defibrillators.

The public session closed at 8pm and the officers left the meeting.

28//2025 Planning –

28.1 The Council considered two planning applications that had been validated since the publication of the agenda.

28.1.1 25/01877/FUL: Sunnyside, Plealey Lane, Longden: Replacement porch – The Council resolved to make *no comments*.

28.1.2 25/01863/FUL: 1 Highfields, Hook-a-gate, Shrewsbury: Conversion of loft (retrospective) – The Council resolved to *object to the increased size of the house which no longer reflects the aspirations of the community to support smaller, more affordable houses.*

Should the planning officers decide to approve the retrospective application it recommends that the property be referred to the valuations officer for a review of the rateable value.

28.2 There were no planning decisions.

29/2025 Neighbourhood Planning – Cllr Arnold gave an update on progress, including a summary of the meeting held on 2nd June at which the updated criteria for housing site assessments were agreed. These will be published together with a call for sites with a closing date for submissions at the end of August.

30/2025 Play Areas

30.1 Annscroft Path – Cllr P Carter reported that the fundraising target of £4,741 had been reached with a contribution from the parish council of £1,009. Donations and any further funds will be paid directly to the parish council after deduction of agreed fees by Spacehive.

Cllr Carter proposed that the proposed path be extended to the top gate to help protect the proposed wildflower area and he suggested a high-quality specification with suitable protection to prevent grass and weeds overgrowing and obscuring the path in the future.

Following a short discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to delegate responsibility to a working group to develop a suitable specification and obtain three fixed price quotations for an extended path with a minimum width of 1.5m. Cllrs K Roberts, N Ingram, P Carter and Cllr N Evans were appointed to the working party, which agreed to meet within the next two weeks with a view to bringing quotes to the next meeting.

31/2025 Local Nature Recovery – The Council considered a proposal that it works collaboratively with neighbouring parish councils and the Middle Marches Community Land Trust, as a cluster, to share volunteers, resources, problem solving and grant applications. This was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**. Two clusters have been proposed to develop wildlife corridors and simple bespoke nature recovery plans to present to a conference in October. Longden deferred a decision on which cluster to join as the parishes may decide to join as a single, larger cluster.

Cllr D Morgan reported that he had responded to a woodland management plan proposed by a local arborist for an area of woodland in Longden Common suggesting a number of nature recovery strategies which had been well received.

32/2025 Environmental Maintenance – A proposal that the parish council takes on responsibility for some highway grass cutting in the parish was deferred as insufficient information was available.

33/2025 Review of Standing Orders – The Chairman proposed that the draft model Standing Orders, adapted for the parish council and circulated with the agenda, be adopted. It was **resolved, with two abstentions to adopt the document as drafted**.

34/2025 Review of Financial Regulations – The Chairman proposed, and it was resolved, with one abstention to adopt the revised document, as drafted.

35/2025 Review of Scheme of Delegation – The Chairman proposed, and it was unanimously resolved to adopt the revised policy, as drafted.

36/2025 Finance –

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

Supplier	Description	Amount £	Comment
Staff payments	Confidential	1,341.42	June
Cloudy IT	IT support	89.28	
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	4.25	d/debit
SSE	Streetlight electricity	134.82	d/debit
Spacehive	Contribution for Annscroft path fundraising	1,009.00	Funding target reached – received total of 4,345.63
Parish Online	Mapping software	96.00	
Clerk	Office expenses	30.70	
Spark Agency	Logo stickers for noticeboards	45.00	
Public Works Loans Board	Streetlight loan repayment	676.39	d/debit

36.2 Bank Reconciliation – The Council noted and approved a bank reconciliation totalling £163,514.62, as of 21st May.

36.3 Electronic Payments – The Council reviewed and approved the collection of the following payments by direct debit for the next two years

Supplier	Description	Amount £	Frequency
Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	4.50	Monthly
SSE	Streetlight electricity	Variable	Monthly until Sept 25
PWLB	Streetlight loan repayments	676.39	Twice yearly until December 2026

36.4 Staff membership subscription – The Council unanimously approved the payment of the Clerk's subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks on alternative years (last payment made 2024, next payment due January 2026).

37/2025 Reports – For information and noting only.

37.1 Chair's report – The Chairman read a letter from the newly appointed Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, who proposed a reset of the relationship with town and parish councils and asked for recent experiences of working with Shropshire Council. He reported on a recent meeting with the neighbourhood planning consultant, which had been very valuable and enabled the group to make progress on site assessment. He had taken part in a Speedwatch session and checked the defibrillator at Longden Common.

37.2 Shropshire Councillor's Report – Cllr R Evans reported that Shropshire Council Cabinet will consider the Council finances in June but they were already predicting a very tight budget. He stated he had received reports of near misses at Annscroft crossroads,

where the give way markings have worn away and suggested the parish council writes to Shropshire Council.

37.3 Clerk's Report – The Council noted the Clerk's written report covering neighbourhood planning, local nature recovery, the Annscroft path fundraising and other finance and statutory business that had been circulated to members. The Council noted that SSE had yet to collect the large bill for outstanding electricity charges (amounting to £1,513.96) despite stating this would be collected by direct debit.

37.4 Councillor's Reports

37.4.1 Cllr K Roberts agreed to check with landowners in Hook-a-gate for permission to remove ivy from the telegraph poles supporting the parish lights.

He reported that one of the fruit trees planted at Annscroft Play Area had died and this had been reported to the grant funding body.

He reported that a poorly constructed footpath outside Redhill Mill had broken up and was overgrown with weeds and regularly flooded.

37.4.2 Cllr C Roberts reported that the planning permission for the Cygnets site was approved over three years ago so may have expired. It was unclear whether the minor works undertaken recently were adequate to maintain the permission.

37.4.3 Cllr N Ingham reported a damage road sign near Cobham Villas.

37.4.4 Cllr P Arnold suggested relocating the Longden defibrillator to outside the Tankerville Arms. Cllr Carter offered to ask permission of the landowner.

37.4.5 Cllr R Evans reported that the resurfacing of Manor Lane is listed as scheduled for repair but no date has been given.

38/2025 Date of next meeting – The Council confirmed the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at Longden Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm