



Minutes of the Meeting of Longden Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 7:30pm in Longden Village Hall

Councillors present:

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

Also present: Caroline Higgins, Clerk

Prior to the start of the meeting Cllr N Evans reported the recent death of a former member of the Council, Mike Whittall. He paid tribute to his considerable contribution to the council and community and the council observed a minutes quiet reflection.

130/2025 Apologies for Absence – None, all present

131/2025 Declarations of Interest – None

132/2025 Minutes of Previous Meeting – It was proposed by Cllr R Evans to insert the words ‘preferred option’ after Shirehall site in his report, minute 127.1, paragraph 5. It was further proposed to correct the time the meeting ended to 9:25pm. These were jointly **RESOLVED**, then the amended minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7th January 2026, were unanimously approved as a true record.

133/2025 Public Participation – No public present. No police report had been received.

134/2025 Planning

134.1 Planning Applications – The Council considered the following planning applications

134.1.1 26/00065/OUT – **Proposed dwellings to the west of Hanley House, Hook-a-gate**; Outline application for the erection of two dwellings with access. The Council **RESOLVED, to object** to the proposals as the developments would further exceed the housing guidelines for the parish in the



adopted SAM.Dev Local Plan. The site is a greenfield site, which differs from the recently approved site at Redhill and the indicated size of the larger property fails to address the local need for smaller, affordable housing in the parish.

134.1.2 25/04895/FUL; **Proposed holiday accommodation at Rope Walk, Lyth Hill**; Change of use of land for the stationing of 2No shepherds' huts for holiday purposes; The Council **RESOLVED unanimously to strongly object** on the grounds that the access proposed is from a bridleway which has no right of use for vehicular traffic.

134.1.3 Planning applications validated since the publication of the agenda – 2 planning applications were deferred for consideration at the March meeting to give applicants and residents an opportunity to make any representations.

134.2 Planning Decisions – None

134.3 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Arnold reported that the next meeting of the steering committee would be held on 9th February 2026. The Clerk reported that a Habitats Regulation Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment would need to be prepared as Longden lies within the 15km buffer zones of two European conservation sites.

135/2025 Highways

135.1 ANPR Camera proposal – The Council reviewed the remote demonstration of the live system on 21st January. Whilst impressed with the functionality of the proposed cameras there were concerns expressed over the costs and time commitment of administering the data and the lack of powers to prosecute repeat speeders. It was noted that the system had proved effective in other areas of Shropshire but the road there was much busier than the C150.

The Council discussed alternative, physical speed reduction measures and noted that speed bumps would not be acceptable on the C150 due to use by emergency vehicles. A motion to procure a camera at a cost of £10,000 was proposed by the Chair but was defeated by five votes against with one abstention.

135.2 Convex mirror and post for Longden Shop – The Council noted the quotation from Shropshire Council to either supply and install or supply and deliver the post and mirror for installation by others with appropriate accreditation for working on Highways. It was noted that there is only one location in the



139/2025 Reports

139.1 Chair's Report – Cllr P Carter reported he had visited Annscroft church to inspect the vestry for suitability for the Parish meeting. They have offered us a display board for the play area consultation, but additional boards will be required. He suggested the Council make a donation for the use of the room and the Clerk confirmed there is a budget for room hire upon receipt of an invoice.

He reported that new bins are being installed quickly throughout the parish displaying parish council the logo but the original bin at Redhill needs to be fixed to the ground. It was agreed to seek a quote from the bin installation contractor.

139.2 Shropshire Councillor's Report – Cllr R Evans confirmed Shropshire Council had submitted a bid for additional borrowing permission to cover their budget shortfall, without which the council will be unable to set a legal budget. The Council Tax collection rate had been lower than expected and central government grant smaller than expected, adding additional pressure to the budget.

A recommendation to demolish the Shirehall has been approved as no money can be found to refurbish it.

The Police & Crime Panel grant is lower than expected which may impact on administrative staff as the government wishes to focus on neighbourhood policing.

The numbers of people staying in bed and breakfast accommodation has reduced and the turnover of staff at Shropshire Council has reduced with some additional staff being recruited to key departments.

Cllr R Evans has joined the Friends of the Rea Brook to monitor the impact of housing along the stream from Hanwood through Longden,

139.3 Councillors' Reports

139.3.1 Cllr N Ingham reported standing water at Exfords Green. He will report location on FixMyStreet.

139.3.2 Cllr D Morgan reported on his visit to Longden School to assist with building nest boxes. The children were all very enthusiastic and built 95 nest



boxes. A record of where they have been installed will be made and the school had requested payment of the previously approved grant for the materials used.

At 9:30pm it was proposed by the Chair that Standing Orders be lifted to permit the remaining business on the agenda to be considered. This was unanimously RESOLVED.

139.3.3 Cllr P Arnold had received a letter from Highways confirming resurfacing of Manor Lane would be included in the capital programme for 2026/27. He had also met with the Severn River Trust Rep and Julia Buckley MP to inspect the flood mitigation pools in Longden which appear to be working well. The promised road works have not yet been programmed so the MP will chase this up with the Council.

139.3.4 Cllr K Roberts has asked a local contractor to assess the work needed to reset the goals at Annscroft but the weather had been too wet to look at during January.

139.3.5 Cllr K Lovegrove reported damage to the Give Way sign at the bottom of Lyth Bank. She also reported that the tankers working in the gateway to Annscroft Church were removing sewage from the pipe to enable Severn Trent to repair the sewer at Hook-a-Gate.

139.4 Clerk's Report – The written report circulated with the agenda was noted together with a recommendation that the Council adopts an IT policy before the end of March. A further report detailing a recent review of data protection and cyber security and recommendations had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The council noted a claim has been registered for replacement of the damaged streetlight and the insurance company will seek to recover the Council's insurance excess from the owner of the vehicle.

140/2025 Finance

140.1 Payments – The Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments.



Longden Parish Council
PAYMENTS (AWAITING AUTHORISATION) LIST

3 February 2026 (2025-2026)

This report includes one or more cost centres that have been marked as confidential. This means that only the totals are shown without any further detail.

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
Staff costs	27/02/2026 - 27/02/2026				Confidential			1,359.53		1,359.53
114 Bank Charges	30/01/2026		CB1 Community Acc		Bank charges	Lloyds Bank	X	4.25		4.25
117 IT support & licenses	04/02/2026		CB1 Community Acc		IT support	Cloudy Group Ltd	S	74.40	14.88	89.28
118 Training	04/02/2026		CB1 Community Acc	Data Protection Pt	Training	SALC	Z	45.00		45.00
116 Street Light Electricity	04/02/2026		CB1 Community Acc	Final invoice	Streetlight electricity	SSE	L	527.49	26.38	553.87
115 Litter bins	04/02/2026	100.1.1	CB1 Community Acc	Replacement bins	Litter bins	Broxap Ltd	S	2,465.55	493.11	2,958.66
119 Work from home allowance	27/02/2026		CB1 Community Acc	February payroll	Clerk's salary	Employee 3	X	26.00		26.00
Total								4,502.22	534.37	5,036.59

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

140.2 Bank Reconciliation – A bank reconciliation showing an adjusted balance of £126,907.56 was noted and approved.

140.3 Internal Controls – The Council appointed Cllr P Arnold to continue as Internal Controls Checker and a date was agreed to review a sample of transactions.

141/2025 Draft IT Policy – The Council considered the draft IT Policy based on the NALC template adapted for the Council. It was proposed by the Chair that the Council appoints a working party to revise the draft further and bring recommendations back to the Council in March. This was RESOLVED and Cllrs Carter, Ingham and N Evans were appointed to the working group.

142/2025 Date of Next Meetings – The Council approved the following meetings

Full Council Meeting - Wednesday 4th March 2026 at Longden Village Hall.

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 1st April 2026 at Longden Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 22nd April 2026, Annscroft Church Vestry – 6pm Play area consultation, 7pm Parish Meeting

143/2025 Exclusion of the press and public – The Council RESOLVED in accordance with the Public Bodies, Admission to Meetings Act (1960) to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the following items may reveal confidential information.

144/2025 Confidential quotations

144.1 Review and renewal of IT support contract – The Council resolved to renew the contract with Cloudy IT for 12 months including Council email



accounts for all members and with the addition of Cyber Pro 24/7. Contract value £1,231.80.

144.2 Renewal of grounds maintenance contract – The Council approved the renewal of the maintenance contract at Annscroft with Boyds Groundcare for the same rates as last year with the addition of an additional £5/cut to maintain the narrow strip of grass beside the path using a different machine. Total contract value £957.

144.3 Removal of ivy from Annscroft play area trees – The Council accepted a quote from Boyds Groundcare to remove ivy from eight trees for a total cost of £235.

Meeting closed at 9:55pm