



## Minutes of the Meeting of Longden Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7:30pm in Longden Village Hall

### Councillors present:

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

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

**145/2025 Apologies for Absence** – Cllr P Arnold, ill health

**146/2025 Declarations of Interest** – None

**147/2025 Minutes of Previous Meeting** – It was proposed by Cllr R Evans and unanimously **RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 be approved as a true record.

**148/2025 Public Participation** – A resident spoke in opposition to the planning application to build an additional poultry shed at The Vinnals farm, citing the likely increase in vehicle movements and subsequent damage to narrow lanes. He stated drivers were failing to follow the approved route for vehicles agreed under previous planning permissions and causing disruption and nuisance to residents. He observed that the application did not provide information on the location of the digester or information on noise or type of ground source heat pump required and questioned the capacity for the stocking levels proposed.

*The public session closed at 7:40pm and the resident left the meeting.*

### 149/2025 Planning

**149.1 Planning Applications** – The Council considered the following planning applications

**149.1.1** 26/00288/FUL – **Bulenda, Plealey Lane, Longden**; Single storey rear and side extension and replacement porch. The Council **RESOLVED**, to make **no comment** on the proposals.





from the Highways budget to supply and install a post, providing the church agrees and the shop provides a mirror. The proposal was **RESOLVED**.

**150.2 Annscroft trees** – The trees planted on Annscroft bank under the guidance of former Councillor M Whittall are now mature. Recent storms have caused damage and Shropshire Council has declined to manage them. It was proposed by the Chairman that requests by residents to maintain the trees adjacent to their properties should be looked upon favourably providing they undertake the work at their own cost and responsibility. This was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

### **150.3 Planned highway works**

**150.3.1 Highway resurfacing – A488, Hanwood – Pontesford Road** – Cllr R Evans reported this work will involve periodic closures at which time the traffic is likely to use local diversions through Longden.

**150.3.2 National Grid 33kV Cable** – This work will be routed through Exfords Green and may cause disruption. A meeting has been arranged to try to minimise disruption.

**150.3.3 Hills Ford Rally – 19/20<sup>th</sup> September 2026** – The route between planned stages will bring rally traffic through Exfords Green, although vehicles will not be racing at this point. The Clerk to seek further information as Longden will not be consulted on the impact.

### **151/2025 Play Areas**

#### **151.1 Annscroft play area development –**

**151.1.1** Cllr C Roberts reported 5 suppliers had visited the site. The deadline for submissions had been extended by one week for all, as some had not received the Invitation to Tender.

**151.1.2 Assessment criteria** – Cllr C Roberts to seek guidance from Shrewsbury TC.

**151.2 Play area inspections and maintenance** – No issues

### **152/2025 Environmental Maintenance**



**152.1 Hook-a-gate Village Signs** – There was no progress on replacing the village signs, but Cllr K Roberts offered to pressure wash the village gates, which are getting very dirty.

**152.2 Redhill Bin** – It was **RESOLVED** to refix the bin in a new location within the layby and accept the quotation of £75 from A Roberts to undertake the work

**153/2025 Review and adoption of revised IT Policy** – It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the revised IT policy be adopted by the Council. It was noted that Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) will be applied to all Council accounts before the next meeting.

**154/2025 Consultations and Correspondence** – It was noted that the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework would end on 12<sup>th</sup> March and that members should make individual responses as they saw fit.

#### **155/2025 Finance**

**155.1 Payments for approval** – The Council approved the following payments

Staff costs – Confidential	£1,359.53
Bank Charges - Lloyds Bank	£4.25
Mileage/Travel - ANPRcheQ	£125.28
Office Expenses - SLCC Subscription	£313.00
IT support & licenses - Cloudy Group Ltd	£123.54
Room hire - Longden Village Hall	£321.00
Election expenses - Shropshire Council	£250.00
Neighbourhood Plan support - UVE Planning Ltd	£1,387.20
Neighbourhood Plan, Meeting room hire - Longden Village Hall	£216.00
Litter bins installations - Andy Roberts	£795.00
Tree maintenance - ivy removal - Boyd's Groundcare	£235.00
Work from home allowance – Employee	£26.00
Mileage – Employee	£13.50

**155.2 Bank reconciliation** – The Council approved a bank reconciliation showing an adjusted balance of £123,360.21

**155.3 Internal Controls** – The Council noted and approved the written report following a check of financial transactions undertaken on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**156/2025 Reserves Balance** – The Council noted that some reserves were shown as overdrawn. This was explained by the accounting package automatically drawing down from the reserve before using the current budget.



The Council noted that the exhausted reserves will be adjusted to zero and closed at the yearend via transfers from the general reserve which will be reported to the next meeting.

## **157/2025 Reports**

**157.1 Chair's Report** – Cllr P Carter reported he had attended the funeral of former Councillor M Whittall. He had also taken part in working party meetings to revise the proposed IT policy and attended site visits with play area suppliers.

**157.2 Shropshire Councillor's Report** – Cllr R Evans confirmed Shropshire Council had received borrowing permission to cover their budget shortfall but would still need to increase the Council tax by 8.99%. Period 10 finances have improved by £800K, reducing the predicted overspend but the Council will borrow £71M this year and £127M next year.

The North-west Relief Road has been cancelled. If the government requires repayment of the original funding it can be met from the £71M it can borrow this year. The Oxon Link Road is still under consideration by the Cabinet.

Cllr R Evans has contacted the Cabinet member responsible for the 20mph school zone but is awaiting an update.

Shropshire Council is unable to implement the separate collection of food waste required by 1 April.

Shropshire Council has received £2M for electric vehicle infrastructure, which will enable them to install pavement charging stations for people without off street parking.

Shropshire Council has approved a simplified Asset Transfer policy for town and parish councils to enable services and assets to be transferred if wanted.

## **157.3 Councillors' Reports**

**157.3.1 Cllr N Ingham** reported dangerous potholes at Exfords Green

**157.3.2 Cllr D Morgan** reported degradation of 'Quiet Lane' sign at bottom of Lyth Bank.

**157.3.3 Cllr N Evans** reported as community governor of Longden school, that a recent OFSTED inspection had been conducted and staff were happy with



the outcome, which will be published in due course. Falling pupil numbers are putting pressure on budgets.

**157.3.4 Cllr K Roberts** reported he had removed the cage from the Queen's Green Canopy tree planted at Annscroft, leaving a short length for protection from rabbits. He recommended ordering bulbs for the autumn from Shrewsbury TC, who can secure cheaper rates due to bulk ordering. He was asked to find out what the costs would be for crocus bulbs for Annscroft play area.

**157.3.5 Cllr P Carter** reported an uneven drain cover at Annscroft

**157.4 Clerk's Report** – The written report circulated with the agenda was noted.

**158/2025 Date of Next Meetings** – The Council approved the following meetings

Full Council Meeting – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at Longden Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026, Annscroft Church Vestry – Drop in from 3pm, 6pm Play area consultation, 7pm Parish Meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to allow a budget of £100 for light refreshments, which Cllrs Roberts will obtain and arrange. It was further agreed that a rota for attendance at the consultation would be arranged to avoid the need for anybody to be there for the whole time.

*Meeting closed at 9:33pm*