

LONGDEN PARISH ANNUAL MEETING- 2025

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Longden Parish Electors held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 6:30 pm at Longden Parish Hall.

Chairman: Cllr P. Carter – Chairman of Longden Parish Council

In attendance: Caroline Higgins, Parish Clerk; R Evans, Shropshire Councillor and fifteen parishioners

1/2025 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman of Longden Parish Council took the chair and welcomed all attending.

2/2025 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd April 2024

The minutes, having been published on the Parish Council website were proposed by C Rigby, seconded by K Lovegrove and approved as a true record.

3/2025 Matters Arising

None

4/2025 Parish Council Report – Councillor Paul Carter

The Chairman presented a report on the activities of Longden Parish Council since the last Annual Parish Meeting. His report detailed improvements to noticeboards and provision of defibrillators, continuing financial support for the upkeep of Lyth Hill, ongoing lobbying of Shropshire Council to address road safety issues and representation on planning applications and policy proposals.

The Council also responded to the threatened closure of the shop and pub in Longden by calling a public meeting which was well attended and resulted in a fantastic community effort, led and supported by a local resident to save the shop and re-furbish the pub.

The Council is also developing a Neighbourhood Plan which will help to ensure that future developments are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the parish.

The Chairman finished by thanking Chris Rigby for his service as a councillor, having decided to stand down at the forthcoming election.

The Chairman's full report is published on the Parish Council website for information.

5/2024 Future of Longden Village Hall – Rowan Fielden-Gray

The Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee summarised the legal position of the village hall trust deed, which in 1955 vested the village hall land with family trustees for the benefit of the parish. Although the land is unregistered, it does not affect the ownership of the land which cannot be disposed of or retracted. The parish does not own the land. The Village Hall Management Committee had been wrongly advised, resulting in them drafting a new governance document which is not lawful. The original deed has been destroyed but would have been out of date so a new deed is being prepared that will enable the Management Committee to manage the site lawfully.

Should the committee need to demonstrate ownership to apply for grants or loans, the trustees are willing to issue a lease on a peppercorn rent and this could be arranged at short notice although this would only be signed if required. Registration of the land would be unlawful. A meeting with

Signature of Chairman _____ Date of Signature _____

the Charity Commission has been arranged and the outcome will be reported to the AGM of the Village Hall Committee on 30th April 2025. She gave assurances that nothing would happen before the AGM and that new committee members would need to be elected due to recent resignations.

6/2025 Police Report

Deferred, pending arrival of police officers

7/2025 The future of the Tankerville Arms – Patrick Woodhall

Patrick Woodhall explained that following the threatened closure of the shop he had acquired the assets of the shop and Tankerville Arms for the benefit of the community. Since then, the shop has traded for 8 months with the immense support of volunteers and has exceeded the turnover of the previous 12 months which had resulted in a small surplus. Following consultation with the community he has been working to completely refurbish the Tankerville Arms with a view to reopening the building with a bar and dining area linked to the shop in May. He announced a meeting on 9th April to explain the plan to launch a Community Interest Company as he does not wish to continue to own the businesses. All are welcome to attend. It will be handed over as a profitable enterprise and any profits will subsequently be reinvested in the businesses.

The Chairman then led the meeting in a vote of thanks for his considerable financial investment and guidance in protecting these essential services for the community.

8/2025 Shropshire Councillor's Report – Councillor Roger Evans

Cllr Roger Evans reported on the ongoing financial challenges facing Shropshire Council.

He reported that the deadline to register for green bin collections has been extended to the end of April.

His full report is available from the parish council website.

9/2025 Longden CE School & Nursery – Roger Evans

The report prepared by the head teacher was presented by R Evans as a school governor. The school has 125 children and 18 in nursery enjoying a diverse curriculum including Forest School.

The school roof has been repaired and some older windows have been replaced with the financial support of the Diocese of Hereford, meaning the school is now weatherproof. The school is now working with Shropshire Council to ensure that its boundaries are secure and reviewing the risks associated with the footpath that crosses the sports field. Once guidance has been received they would welcome the opportunity to discuss how children can be kept safe whilst ensuring the public can continue to enjoy the valuable space.

R Evans added that the school has a shortage of church governors at present and encouraged anybody wishing to be considered to contact the head teacher.

The full report is available from the Parish Council website.

10/2025 Local Nature Recovery Strategy – David Morgan

David Morgan described the work being done by Shropshire Council to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Shropshire and Longden Parish Council's commitment to developing local projects to protect and enhance wildlife. Good quality natural habitats will be identified and he proposed to work with neighbouring communities to link and protect these habitats to create a wildlife corridor from Shrewsbury to the south Shropshire Hills. He encouraged residents to

Signature of Chairman _____ Date of Signature _____

complete a survey on the parish council website recording what they are already doing to support nature recovery and if they wished, to sign up to volunteer for further projects.

11/2025 Questions and discussions

Cllr R Evans reported that there had been a spate of break-ins in the parish and residents had been kept awake by police activities to disrupt unwelcome activities. He was disappointed that the police had not attended the meeting as promised.

K Lovegrove stated she had created a community whatsapp group called 'Heads up' to alert neighbours of suspicious behaviour or security issues. She invited the residents to join the group.

The meeting closed at 7:30pm

Signature of Chairman _____ Date of Signature _____