

Longden Parish Meeting 22nd April 2026

Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to Longden Parish meeting for this year. We have a wide range of interesting speakers and topics this evening and of course you will have chance to ask questions and hopefully we can provide answers!

This has once again been a remarkably busy year starting off with the Longden School 20MPH scheme where we provided help and explanations to those who called in to our drop-in session. Unfortunately, this scheme has stalled due to Shropshire Council being short of the funding needed to compete it! This speed reduction scheme was part of our aim to reduce motorists speed through the villages in the Parish. The redundant Vehicle Activated Sign from Longden is to be re-located to Hook-a-gate where we also have speeding issues, but again we are waiting for SC to move this forward. One of our aims is to try and reduce traffic speeds through the villages and we have investigated Radar Cameras like in Pontesbury and Hanwood, but we felt the very high costs both initially and long term would not be value for money for our Parish and we are looking at other schemes to achieve this aim. We know that many drivers ignore the speed signage and VAS signs but unfortunately the Police do not have the manpower to enforce our speed limits. Excessive speed certainly contributed to one of our lampposts being demolished, along with neighbouring gardens and wall just opposite this church earlier this year!

We have completed our up grading of the litter bins throughout the Parish. The new bins are quite substantial and have lids that prevent them filling with rainwater and also deter passing motorist from dumping their bin bags of rubbish and overloading our bins! The recent overfilling of the bins was caused by a change in contractor responsible for emptying these bins and has been sorted now. Our program of upgrading and modernising the notice boards throughout the Parish is progressing well with new boards at Lower Common, Lyth Hill and Longden Village.

Our part funding of the work on Lyth Hill Country Park has been well monitored, and we feel that the Rangers are doing vital work to maintain and improve this amazing facility. The recently developed wetland, ponds and wildflower meadow certainly widen the habitat for different species and is a valued addition to the park. We have actively supported projects to naturalise and re-wild some verges within the Parish. Native wildflowers being planted and cultivated within those verges and along a proposed green pathway connecting the Long Mynd and Shrewsbury. We have also worked with children from Longden School to build nest boxes that will be installed all across the Parish

The Parish Neighbourhood plan is still ongoing and nearing completion. The call for building sites around Longden for the plan and by Shropshire Council has yielded what we feel are enough areas for development for Longden Village. If you remember Longden was proposed as a hub as part of the now abandoned Shropshire Plan so must expect some planned development there in the future. The Neighbourhood Plan working party are actively framing guidelines and restrictions to ensure that any proposed development will fit into the village both in style and manageable numbers. Hopefully, this will guard against any very large-scale development within our Parish, which we all are strongly against. But everyone knows the Government are pushing for more and more houses to be built and are cracking the whip around County Councils who are not meeting

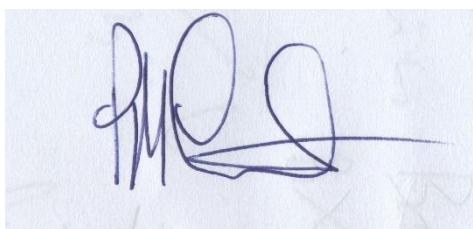
their targets for house building! We shall have to wait and see what the future brings to us in this area I am afraid.

We are actively working to provide facilities for children and young people within the Parish; we started with a large-scale redevelopment and modernisation of Longden play area. We replaced the dangerous and dilapidated play equipment at Annscroft a few years ago and we have recently installed a smooth and level path from one gate to the other at Annscroft. This was part funded by a grant and also by donations from residents. This has enabled wheelchairs and buggies to access the play equipment and games area. We feel the planned additions to the play equipment and the fitness equipment you have seen illustrated here tonight will be an excellent development for children and adults alike, so you can see we have been very active in a whole range of areas for the good of the Parish.

These developments are on top of the many planning permission requests which we have carefully reviewed and commented on. We try to maintain our Parish as it has been in the past, exacting standards in all aspects are expected and we are proud of our achievements in most areas. We plan our budget very carefully and achieve so much for the residents within the precept. We have defibrillators in each of the main villages, these are checked by volunteers, maintained, inspected and parts replaced if they have been used when trying to aid heart attack victims.

All these responsibilities and more are conducted by us volunteers and by our Clerk, who works very hard to carry out all that is needed to maintain our presence in a fast-changing world. We have protocols and procedures that are reviewed regularly and we are anticipating further responsibilities and workload as Shropshire Council devolve their responsibility for local Street Scene maintenance to the Parishes.

A pilot scheme involving four towns within Shropshire who are taking over responsibility for street work maintenance from Shropshire Council who can no longer afford to carry out simple tasks like road sweeping and verge mowing etc. You will have heard how Shrewsbury Town Council have doubled their precept so that they can employ workers to conduct many of the duties that were previously part of Shropshire Council's remit. It is certainly a way forward as local people doing the work, employed by local councils who care and who can monitor the results is certainly a sensible way forward and although you might argue that we are paying twice at least the jobs would be carried out properly, checked and all done by local people not vast companies that don't do a good job and don't care ! But that is one for the future, -we'll just have to wait and see!



Paul Carter. (Chairman of Longden Parish Council)