

Clerk's Report to Longden Parish Council, 4th November 2026

Spring bulb planting and play area opening event

On 27th October the council held a successful community event at which over 300 bulbs were planted by volunteers, councillors and children. A small number of children took part in the fancy-dress parade, so all were given prizes. Their carers agreed that they could be photographed, and a press release has been submitted to the Shropshire Star via the YourWorld online submission platform. The article and photos will be uploaded to the parish council website.

Devolution of services

At a meeting of Clerks to neighbouring parishes, it became apparent that slightly different information was being given to each parish. It has been suggested that the parishes around Shrewsbury all meet with Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council to seek clarity on the offer and gauge interest in joint working.

Communications

A WhatsApp group has been suggested for the sharing of informal arrangements and information between meetings, (agenda item 12). It should be noted that any communications routed through the platform will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, Section 3(2)(b) as it is considered as information held by another person on behalf of the authority. It is recommended that any such use is incorporated into the IT policy adopted in March 2026 and that the platform cannot be used to make any decisions on behalf of the Council.

Streetlight column replacements

The remaining two columns on Well Mead Lane, Longden are programmed for replacement on 13th November 2026. The contractor has requested cones be placed next to the columns to prevent parking and for the bush to be cut back o/s 18 (if not already done). (If cones are unavailable, perhaps wheelie bins could be used as an alternative).

Planning briefing note

Shropshire Council has issued a briefing note explaining the impact of the National Scheme of Delegation and Committee Referral Gateway, which requires most planning decisions be made by officers. Parish Councils are urged to make their comments as early as possible in the consultation process and to continue to refer to material planning issues. These comments will be considered in the same way as previously.

Dog fouling briefing note

Shropshire council has asked parish councils to identify dog fouling 'hot spots' to enable them to focus their enforcement efforts more effectively.