LONGDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance Committee of Longden Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 1:00pm at Longden Parish Hall. The meeting was to review the Budget recommendations for consideration by Full Council.

Caroline Higgins
Parish Clerk

Present: Cllrs P Carter, R Evans, (from 1:20pm), N Evans, D Morgan & C Roberts (Chair)

1. **Election of Chairman -** Cllr Catherine Roberts was unanimously elected to serve as Committee Chair until the next Annual Meeting of the Council

2. **Public Participation Session –** There were no members of the public present.

3. **Apologies for absence –** R Evans had submitted his apologies for late arrival, all members were present from 1:20pm.

4. **Declarations of Interest –** None

5. **Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting -** The minutes of the previous budget meeting, held on 27th November 2024, (which had been confirmed as accurate at the Full Council meeting in December 2024) were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. **Budget Review 2025 – 2026**
   i) To review expenditure to date against the 2025 – 2026 budget and note the projected outturn at the end of March 2026 – The Receipts and Payments Forecasting report showing a projected overspend of £6,538 against the agreed budget was reviewed. It was noted this figure did not take account of expenditure from reserves, which totalled £16,858.21 to date with a further £3,000 to be drawn down from earmarked reserves. An overspend of approx. £1,200 is predicted against the Neighbourhood Plan admin costs, due to additional staff time required to complete the work. *Following adjustment of small errors in the forecasting the predicted overspend (excluding use of reserves) was corrected to £5,853.*

   ii) To note the current reserves position and any committed expenditure - The Reserves Balance Report was tabled and it was noted that the general reserve currently exceeds 12 months Net Revenue Expenditure, however the forecasted spend will reduce this reserve to less than the annual precept.

iii) It was noted that two reserves which are linked to expenditure codes have been overdrawn by small amounts and it was RESOLVED to transfer the following sums from the general reserve to bring them to zero, although it was noted that the training reserve is linked to the training expenditure code from which further expenditure has been approved by the Council;

a. Annscroft Play Area Path reserve – Add £5.20
b. Training reserve – Add £3.68

Cllr R Evans arrived at 1:20pm

iv) To consider the draft **2026 – 2027 budget** and agree recommendations to the Parish Council –

a. Cllr R Evans suggested the receipt and payment budget for the Environmental Maintenance Grant be increased as Shropshire Council is intending to work more closely with parish councils. He suggested the work to tidy the bank at Annscroft might be covered by the grant as might repairs to the Quiet Lane signs. It was RESOLVED to increase the Environmental Maintenance Payment budget to £1,000 and the receipt budget to £500 subject to the scheme being offered by Shropshire Council under similar terms to previous years.
b. ANPR Project –
    i. The Committee noted that no allowance had been made for the introduction of ANPR cameras in the parish as costs had not yet been identified.
    ii. The Clerk warned that should a budget be approved without the ANPR scheme progressing, it would have the result that the general reserve would exceed an acceptable level by the end of the 2026/27 financial year unless the budget was vired to a suitable highway scheme or allocated to an Earmarked Reserve.
    iii. It was noted that CIL Neighbourhood funds and the existing reserve for traffic management could be utilised for the capital works associated with an ANPR scheme but ongoing maintenance of the scheme would be a revenue cost. It was RESOLVED that a provisional sum of £5,000 be added to the budget, for review by full council after the costs are known and the principle of joining the ANPR scheme decided.
c. Following adjustment of the budget to account for these changes, an expenditure budget of **£47,381** less estimated receipts of £4,100 leaves a requirement of £43,281. (£3,445 higher than the previous precept of £39,836)

v) To recommend a Precept sufficient to cover the budget proposed – The committee RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to recommended that the Council use **£2,445** of their projected general reserves to reduce the impact on the Precept. They recommended a Precept increase of £1,000 to **£40,836** be requested for 2026/27, subject to a review of the projected costs of the ANPR project and approval of the Council.

vi) Subject to confirmation of the previous Tax Base of 558.75, this would result in a Band D property annual Precept of £73.08, (an increase of £1.79 per annum for a Band D property (3%)). It was noted that Shropshire Council intended to publish the revised tax base figures the following week.

The meeting closed at 2:45pm

Signed …… (Committee Chair) Date ……