Longden Parish Council

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Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of Longden Parish Council

Held on Wednesday 24th November 2026 at 2:00pm in Longden Village Hall

Councilors present:

Cllr. C Roberts – Chairman	Cllr P Carter	Cllr D Morgan
Cllr N Evans		

Also present: Caroline Higgins, Clerk,

FC 1/2026 Election of Chair – Cllr C Roberts was proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Morgan and unanimously elected to serve as Chair until the next Annual Meeting of the Council

FC 2/2026 Public Participation – There were no members of the public present

FC 3/2026 Apologies for Absence – Cllr R Evans, Ill health

FC 4/2026 Declarations of Interest – None

FC 5/2026 Minutes - The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 19th November 2025 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

FC 6/2026 Budget Review, 2026-27 - The committee reviewed the forecasted outturn against the current budget to identify any lines requiring adjustment in the new year.

FC 6.1 Code 45 - Neighbourhood plan administration required additional staff hours. Increased hours reflected in increased budget for 2027/28.

FC 6.2 Code 19 - The overspend on noticeboard repairs is covered by CIL Neighbourhood fund Earmarked Reserve, (EMR).

FC 6.3 Code 18 - Overspend on play equipment is covered by Annscroft play area improvement EMR.

FC 6.4 Code 54 - Unbudgeted streetlight column replacements covered by Column Replacement EMR.

Signed _____ Date _____

FC 6.5 Projected underspend on Village Maintenance as devolution of services deferred to 2027/28. Recommended unspent budget be transferred to new earmarked reserve for Devolved Services in 2027/28.

FC 6.6 Recommended unspent budget for Traffic Management be moved to Devolved Services EMR in 2027/28

FC 7/2026 Reserves Review

FC 7.1 Recommend Traffic Management EMR be capped at £20,000 pending approval of a scheme that can be implemented by Shropshire Council.

FC7.2 Recommend creation of new Earmarked Reserve for Devolved Services in 2027/28

FC 7.3 Recommend unspent budget up to £250 from community grants (code 28) be transferred to Contingency Fund / Grant Aid EMR and that EMR be renamed Community Grants EMR and capped at £1,000.

FC 7.4 Recommend unspent funds from Relocation of Longden VAS be reallocated to CIL Neighbourhood Fund EMR at year end.

FC7.5 Recommend rename Bus Shelter Repairs EMR to Street Furniture Repairs EMR

FC7.6 Recommend close the earmarked reserves for Annscroft play area development, relocation of Longden VAS and streetlight column replacements following completion of each project.

FC 7.7 Recommend unlink Neighbourhood Plan expenditure code from neighbourhood plan EMR to use budget before reserve. Retain EMR for printing of draft Neighbourhood Plan and community consultation. Transfer any unspent budget from code 46 to Neighbourhood Plan EMR at year end.

FC 7.8 Recommend create new EMR for 5 yearly electrical testing of streetlights

FC 7.9 Annual Allocations – Recommend allocate £200 to Elections EMR, £100 to Computer Equipment EMR and £100 to electrical testing of streetlights EMR in 2027/28

Signed _____ Date _____

FC 8/2026 2027-28 Budget – The draft budget prepared by the Clerk was considered and the following amendments were agreed:

FC 8.1 Code 7 Insurance – Increase budget by £50 to £750 to cover additional play equipment

FC 8.2 Code 29 – Reinstate annual allocation of £200 for transfer to elections EMR

FC 8.3 Code 46 – Review budget for Neighbourhood Plan consultant costs following review of Neighbourhood Plan timetable and budget projections

FC 8.4 Code 28 Community Grant Fund – Reduce allocation to £200

FC 8.5 Create new cost code for Nature Recovery in Highways and Traffic Cost Centre- £300

FC 8.6 Create new cost code for Devolved Services in Highways and Traffic Cost Centre - £4,000. Re-allocate projected income for Village Maintenance to new cost code for Devolved Services (£2,125)

FC 8.7 Code 38 Environmental Maintenance Grant – It is understood that Shropshire Council are reviewing the maximum EMG (currently £1,000). It may be increased to support devolved services. Receipt code moved to Highways and Traffic Cost Centre to offset additional costs (if services taken on by Longden parish)

FC 8.8 Code 26 Village Maintenance - Reduce to £1,000

FC 8.9 Code 16 Grounds Maintenance – Increase budget by £20 to £1,300

FC 8.10 Codes 15, 19 and 33 to be combined in joint budget for Code 41, Street furniture repairs - £500 total.

FC 8.11 Code 11 Street light inspections – Increase budget by £41 to £541, to allow for annual allocation of £100 to new EMR for electrical testing every 5 years

FC 9/2026 Provisional Precept calculation

£49,665 expenditure
(£6,725) income
£42,940 required Precept (Previous Precept £40,836)

Signed _____ Date _____

It was noted that the costs of devolved service provision have not yet been fully assessed nor any commitment made to take them on. It was recommended that no decision on the Budget or Precept be made until negotiations with Shropshire Council have concluded.

FC 10/2026 Tax Base Provisional Calculation - The provisional precept requirement divided by the previous tax base of 550.31 Band D properties would give an annual charge of £78.03 (£1.50/week). This would be an annual increase of £3.82 above the previous Band D equivalent of £74.21, representing an increase of 5.14%

It was noted that the Tax Base for 2027-28 has not yet been published and may be impacted by a decision to disregard child benefit as income when calculating council tax support for working aged people, resulting in a lower tax base and consequently an increased cost to a band D property.

FC11/2026 Date of next meeting – Full Council meeting, Wednesday 2nd December 2026, 7pm

Meeting closed at 4:15pm

Signed _____ Date _____