

Longdon Parish Council

Minutes of Council Meeting of Longdon Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 7pm at W I Hall Ford Lane Longdon

Present: Chairman: Trevor Johnson (Chairman)
Parish Councillors: Brendan Cooper, Louise Cotter, Gladys Crowe, Tony Howarth,
Other Councillors:
Clerk: C E Gracey
Public Attendees: None
Councillor Apologies: Richard Cox, Rob Strachan and Craig Stevens

The Chairman Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Chairman) opened the meeting and welcomed Members and our new Councillor Tony Howarth to this month's meeting.

Min No.	Item	Action
144	Apologies & Acceptance of Absence	
144.1	Cllrs. Richard Cox, Rob Strachan and Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman) submitted apologies for tonight's meeting.	
145	Declarations of Interest	
145.1	None	
146	Chairman to close the meeting for the public session – this will be limited to 15 minutes (5 minutes per speaker)	
146.1	None present.	
147	Council Minutes: To confirm as a correct record Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10th October 2023	
147.1	Resolved that the minutes of the monthly Full Council Meeting held on 10 th October 2023 were approved proposed by Cllr. Gladys Crowe seconded by Cllr. Louise Cotter and carried.	
148	Matters Arising	
148.1	126.1 The Brook on Lysways Lane, the Chairman reported that Staffordshire County Council periodically check county roads but this appears to be an exercise designed more to protect against any claims than improving their condition.	
148.2	131.1 The minute should read Sir not St. the clerk will amend accordingly.	
149	County Councillor's Report	
149.1	No report received	
150	District Councillor's Report.	
150.1	<p><u>Planning</u> - I am not aware of any new planning matters within the parish requiring my attention or intervention.</p> <p><u>Planning Enforcement</u> - Cherry Orchard – I have seen no update from the planning inspectorate however would anticipate this over the coming week. As soon as I can offer an update I will do.</p> <p>Sandmart Farm, Hay Lane – members of the parish Council are well aware of the disgraceful enforcement history in this case. The delays have been compounded by the enforcement officer taking leave and there has been no suitable alternative</p>	

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provision. I am advised that a site visit is imminent, and that enforcement are seeking further legal advice on the various planning and environmental health breaches. I have been clear with the enforcement team that I am strongly opposed to any attempt to regularise the planning situation given that there are three planning inspectorate judgments refusing it which are now of some age. I take the view that there has been a necessity to enforce this for some considerable period of time, and this view is shared by Mr Barnes, the local resident who I anticipate may be at the meeting.

Land at Wishing Well, Upper Longdon – after unauthorised development began on land by the Wishing Well in Upper Longdon, LDC served a stop notice preventing any further development. This has not been complied with and LDC are now seeking an injunction with an application in Court this week. The ongoing breach has been referred to Staffordshire Police, with parallel enforcement activity being taken.

Inhabited Bus – Cleat Hill Layby – Both LDC and SCC are aware of a bus parked in Cleat Hill layby which appears to be being treated as a home. The bus is known to both authorities as it was parked in Whittington for some months earlier this year. At least one of the occupants apparently suffers from significant health difficulties and efforts are being made by LDC to provide more appropriate accommodation. To date, offers of assistance have been rebuffed however it is the view of both Councils that it is not appropriate for it to remain there and should assistance not be accepted, or compliance secured, other routes of enforcement will need to be taken.

Planning Policy - There are no outstanding matters of planning policy to bring to your attention. You will be aware that LDC's Local Plan has formally been withdrawn and the evidential base for a new plan is being reviewed. This is being done with all speed, and is anticipated to be complete in mid-late 2025. The parish Council may wish to hold off on reviewing your own parish plan until the District's plan is well advanced – although I am sure that SPCA will also provide advice if necessary.

Ongoing Consultations - Consultations are open on the Strategic Objectives for LDC from 2023 – 2050, and on the Council's Budget. The Budget consultation closes on 12/12/2023, and invites respondents to adjust council spending priorities while still maintaining a balanced budget to illustrate the process that I and my officers are undertaking.

I would hope that this can be an informative process which engages all our residents and helps recognise that if I spend extra in one place, I have to cut somewhere else, and have a budget deficit of £1.1m over four years which is only growing as inflation bites.

The LDC 2050 strategy has no close date and is open to all submissions.

[Open Consultations \(lichfielddc.gov.uk\)](http://lichfielddc.gov.uk)

Other matters

You raised ongoing issues around street cleansing and clearing and I understand that these concerns are echoed across the District. LDC officers have been requested to provide a comprehensive list of streets and schedules from daily cleanse down to less than annual ones. This has not yet been forthcoming in any usable format, so I am making efforts to ensure that streets that we believe are being missed can be incorporated into the cleaning schedule.

On a final note, I offer my sincere condolences after the death of your late colleague Alan Juxon. I had the joy of working closely with Alan for many years both within the

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	Council and the local Conservative Party and always found him a committed, compassionate and eloquent gentleman. His efforts for the village over a significant period of time were impressive and his legacy will live long. I offer him my affectionate thanks and pass my condolences to Ann and the whole family.																																																																																
151	Planning																																																																																
151.1	23/01037/CLE(Certificate of lawfulness-existing) Lodge Farm Stockings Lane Longdon - Certificate of Lawfulness(Existing):Commercial livery use(equestrian) - no objections																																																																																
151.2	23/01214/FUH Erection of rear extension and front porch at 4 The Grange Upper Longdon - no objections																																																																																
151.3	23/01240/FUH First floor side and single storey rear extension (resubmission of planning application ref: 23/00160/FUH approved April 2023) - deferred																																																																																
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153	Environment Issues																																																																																
153.1	<p>The Brook at Lysways Lane -no work carried out, will be followed up with SCC.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way- stiles - no work carried out, the location for the proposed installation of a kissing gate is to be agreed and at present is being stored. The public footpath reported by a resident is deferred until further notice</p>																																																																																
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	Accounts for payment during November – proposed by Cllr. Louise Cotter seconded by Cllr. Gladys Crowe and carried.																					
154.2	<p>Receipt & Payments 1st April to 31st October 2023 and copy of the bank statement for October proposed by Cllr. Gladys Crowe seconded by Cllr. Brendan Cooper and carried.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Bank Reconciliation</td> <td></td> <td>Cash Book Reconciliation,</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Account @ 31/10/23</td> <td>£ 69,972.55</td> <td>C/FWD</td> <td>£ 54,178.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Less unrepresented cheques</td> <td>£ 400.00</td> <td>Receipt</td> <td>£ 33,510.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Payments</td> <td>£ 18,116.13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance @ 31/10/2023</td> <td><u>£ 69,572.55</u></td> <td>Bal @ 31/10/23</td> <td><u>£ 69,572.55</u></td> </tr> </table>	Bank Reconciliation		Cash Book Reconciliation,		Current Account @ 31/10/23	£ 69,972.55	C/FWD	£ 54,178.15	Less unrepresented cheques	£ 400.00	Receipt	£ 33,510.53			Payments	£ 18,116.13	Balance @ 31/10/2023	<u>£ 69,572.55</u>	Bal @ 31/10/23	<u>£ 69,572.55</u>	
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154.3	Budget Projections 2023-24 and allocated funds for 2024-25 – The Chairman presented projections of the remaining budget, and proposals for 2024-25 re-locating monies from items not implemented to additional work and projects.																					
154.4	Asset Register – reviewed and updated proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Louise Cotter and carried.																					
154.5	Approve cost of quotes for clearing and cleaning footpaths at four locations, and possibly an amount to cut back hedges proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Louise Cotter and carried.																					
154.6	Cllrs. Tony Howarth, Brendan Cooper and Louise Cotter will be instructed by Cllr. Craig Stevens (Vice-chairman) to use the Land Registry Business Section to determine landownership and responsibility.																					
155	Correspondence Report																					
155.1	<p>To receive a report from the Clerk on Correspondence received and forwarded to Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPCA Bulletin emailed to council 1st November 2023 • Email from resident regarding the public right of way behind the Swan PH, emailed to Council 10th November 2023 • SPCA details of the LGA Pay Award 2023-24 emailed to council 13th November 2023. 																					
156	Speed Indicator Device Upper Way Upper Longdon																					
156.1	Discussion by Members, Cllr. Brendan Cooper will ask his neighbours if one of them will agree to having a new pole located to the front of their property.																					
157	Church Hill – Inconsiderate Parking																					
157.1	No further information.																					
158	Projects – A51 footpath between Longdon Green and Cleats Hill cleared and cleaned. No response from SCC.																					
158.1	Members agreed to fund this work together with the clearance of the A51 pavement between Brook End and Church Hill and the Brereton Hill Lane pavement.																					
159	Documents to review and approve																					
159.1	Standing orders – proposed by Cllr. Brendan Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Chairman) and carried.																					

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	<p>Financial Regulations – proposed by Cllr. Brendan Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Chairman) and carried.</p> <p>Risk Assessment – proposed by Cllr. Brendan Cooper, seconded by Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Chairman) and carried.</p>	
160	Succession Planning – appreciation notices	
160.1	The Chairman commented that he plans to step down from the position of chairman in April 2025 and recommended council should forward plan to enable a smooth handover.	
160.2	Incoming new councillor should be considered for various roles within the council, to ensure all aspects of council business.	
160.3	It was proposed by Cllr. Gladys Crowe seconded by Cllr. Louise Cotter and agreed that any retiring serving councillor will receive a thank you from the council for their service to the community.	
161	Membership Recruitment	
161.1	As discussed in item17.	
162	Dog Issues – Keeping dogs on leads – picking up after your dog	
162.1	The non-clearance and proper disposal of dog litter continues to be a concern. This item will now be removed from the agenda.	
163	Council representative on Almshouse Trust Committee	
163.1	It was agreed that the council would not nominate another person to the committee and the secretary will be informed that they can go ahead and nominate another resident.	
164	Items for future meetings: To consider items for inclusion on future agenda (no decisions will be taken in this item)	
164.1	The Chairman commented on the purchase of plug plants for the summer planting of the tubs, he would purchase the plugs, plant them on and raise them in his greenhouse, and then distribute them to the residents that maintain some of the tubs, this was agreed.	
164.2	It was agreed that the clerk will check the availability of our County and District Councillors and check the hall availability with a view to moving the monthly council meeting to a day when both can attend.	
0165	Date of the Next Planned Council Meeting	
165.1	Tuesday 9 th January 2023 7pm at WI Hall Ford Lane Longdon	
0166	Meeting closed at 8.55pm	

Signed.....Date.....