

Longdon Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly held 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th April 2026 at Longdon Village Hall Brook End Longdon.

Present: **Parish Councillors:** Brendan Cooper(Chairman) T.Johnson (Vice-chairman) Gladys Crowe, Louise Cotter, Tony Howarth, Denise Barnicle, Peter Matthews.
Other Councillors: None
Clerk: C Gracey
Public Attendees: 12 residents
Apologies: 3

Min No.	Item
1.	Welcome -The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed residents to the annual assembly.
2.	The Chairman introduced the serving councillors and the clerk to the meeting.
3.	The Chairman went through the year 2025-26 with slides showing the newly created communication with the residents, to improve the way the parish council liaise with the community. It began with the Community Survey, which was mainly carried out online with 100 households completing the form, 5 copies were paper which proves that some people prefer a paper copy. The slides showed the introduction of the Longdon Letter a 3 monthly journal outlining what was happening in the parish and any proposals for the future. Anything that groups or individuals wish to advertise, events, membership, location and availability can be included if you wish, please contact either the Chairman or the clerk with the details and we will endeavor to include it in the next edition. The Chairman continued to cover most of the projects the council have undertaken and who was the Lead in each work. He also mentioned future projects for 2026-27.
4.	The Chairman Cllr. Brendan Cooper outlined his annual parish report, Members received a copy of the report to read: <u>Overview</u> The goals for the year were to (i) improve communication with residents, address the main problems of (ii) flooding (iii) speeding traffic, and improve the look of the village as well as improve working together with other parish organisations. <u>Communication</u> We appointed Councillor Matthews as our Communications Officer. We successfully conducted our second on-line Parish Survey to find out what residents wanted from the Council and what were the priorities that they wish us to address. We got 71 responses (about 17%) and some great new ideas. Much of the work we have undertaken is exactly what residents wanted. The Survey Report will be delivered to every residential address in our parish and presented at the Annual Parish Meeting. We launched "Longdon Letter" in Spring 2025 which is to pass on key information and plan to deliver this 4 times a year. We re-launched the Longdon PC Facebook Page and regularly send information to other local village Facebook pages. <u>Flooding</u> Led by Councillor Trevor Johnson, we have spent Parish funds and PC effort

Date:.....

	on SCC duties to repair the flooding "hot spots" of Stockings Lane, Borough Lane, Smithy Lane and Lysways Lane. Most are vastly improved and much praise has been received from residents. We plan to expand this programme with preventative maintenance next year. We worked closely with Councillor Richrd Cox to alleviate problems with flooding on A51 throughout the winter. <u>Speeding</u> We have been using the SIDS in Upper Longdon and Gentleshaw, but still haven't found a second SIDS site on Startley Lane. The current SIDS make a difference, but more speeding traffic measures are needed. Pot holes have slowed traffic inadvertently on many roads, but they are a hazard to residents. <u>Environment</u> We have continued a programme of grass-cutting, hedge-trimming and generally tidying areas of the parish and encouraging residents/landowners to be responsible for trees and hedges. The PC has bought its own electric strimmer to keep footpaths clear and tidy overgrown areas and has instigated tidying teams in the villages. We have planted 2 Sakura Trees donated by the Japanese Embassy. Councillor Crowe, coordinates the Litter Picking Teams and there is a plan to litter picking events across the parish through the year. We are committed to the problem of dog litter in various areas of the parish and urge residents to clean up after their dog and use the many dog bins in the parish to dispose of the litter responsibly. We continue to pursue Planning issues and property eyesores together with Lichfield District Council. <u>Working Together</u> The PC has paid for and taken responsibility for Wi-Fi in the Longdon Village Hall with coverage in the WI Building so it can be used at PC meetings. We have met and engaged with many other parish groups to help bring them together and build events and a sense of community where we overlap to deliver events together. We are committed to <u>Parish Council Structure & Meetings</u> We have the "duties matrix" making councillors responsible for specific areas. This means councillors now report their area into PC meetings and drive forward change and improvement. We also use an LED projector and the internet for PC meeting to share documents, maps and information. We've introduced 1 new Councillor - Jayne Shardlow this year. There are still 1 or 2 vacancies on the PC. <u>Finance Report</u> The Financial Report is available and shows a healthy balance which we intend to spend of ideas and priorities generated in the Annual Parish Survey. The increase in the precept for 2026-27 4.5% overall and allows for inflation. <u>Moving on</u> The council is continually looking at the possibility of proving a playarea in the parish and would urge residents to consider any open space and suggestions to council members. The Chairman read out a report from District Cllr. Rob Strachan who unfortunately could not attend the assembly.
5.	Apologies & Acceptance of Absence Cllrs. Janet Higgins, Rob Strachan and Irene Kemp submitted apologies for the assembly.
6.	Minutes of the Assembly 27th May 2025 – proposed by Cllr. Trevor Johnson (Vice-chairman) seconded by Cllr. Gladys Crowe and carried.
7.	Finance The Chairman covered the year end accounts to 31st March 2025 on a slide and reported on our year end report from the Internal Auditor. All documents will be uploaded to the website for viewing.

Date:.....

8.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.50pm

The date of the next Assembly to be agreed.

.....

Date:.....