

Longton Parish Council

7 Bilborough Meadow

Lea

Preston

PR2 1YY

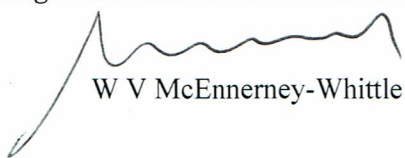
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26th March 2025

NEXT MEETING

Members of the Council are summoned to the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** to be held on Tuesday the 1st April 2025 at **New Longton Village Hall** which will commence at 7.30pm.



W V McEnerney-Whittle – Clerk and RFO

A G E N D A

1. To receive apologies
2. To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 25th February 2025 (enclosed)
3. To receive Declarations of Interest
4. To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation

Please note that no decisions can be lawfully made on any matter raised during this time.

It is expected that a presentation will be received in support of the Grant Request detailed at item 10 on the agenda.

5. To consider the following planning applications:

07/2025/00153/PIP – Stage 1 Permission in Principle for erection up to one dwelling and associate infrastructure @ 79 Royalty Lane New Longton PR4 4JE

6. To approve the following payments:

04/02/2025	NEWGATE NURSERIES XMAS TREES	55	408.00
04/02/2025	P HESIE LENGTHSMAN	56	1113.60
28/02/2025	BANK CHARGES	57	6.00

7. To consider whether this Council wishes to make any comment in response to the Central Lancashire Local Plan Consultation (details of which have already been circulated to members)

The Plan shows that there is only one Key Development Area allocated to Longton Parish Council comprising 270 dwellings behind Chapel Lane Longton (HS3.3) a significant part of which is already allocated in the existing Local Plan. The additional area was considered by this Council during the Preferred Site Allocations Consultation in 2023 and no objections were made to its inclusion. There are three other smaller sites comprising 23 dwellings in total. See page 58 and 226/227 of the Consultation - Local Plan.

8. To approve the enclosed Financial Statement as at 31st December 2024

9. To approve that the 2025/6 fees for the use of the New Longton football pitch should be set at the same figure as those applied to LVMRG football pitch being proposed at £446.00 which is a rise of 3.4% in line with the Retail Price Index published 25/3/2025
10. To consider 'In Principle' the enclosed Grant Request from the Longton Carnival Committee for £5K for the purchase of Christmas Steet Column Lights to be used during the proposed Longton Christmas Event for 2025 and potentially in future years.

This is an 'In Principle' consideration which if agreed would require formal quotations to be obtained in the name of the Parish Council, detailed specifications of the equipment to be purchased to be provided with photographs for members to see and approve plus final invoicing to the Parish Council who will then reclaim Vat and gift the equipment to the Carnival Committee who would then take full ownership and responsibility.

11. To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 13th May 2025

Longton Parish Council

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on
Tuesday the 25th February 2025 at Longton Library which commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs Gooch, Alsop, Fox, Welch, Sumner, Turner, Garside, Riley, Porter,
Mather, Molder and Barnes

There were three members of the public present

13/25 To receive apologies

None

14/25 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th January 2025 (enclosed)

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th January 2025 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

15/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

None

16/25 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation

There were no representations from the public present.

17/25 To consider the following planning applications:

None

18/25 To approve the following payments:

02/12/2025	POPPY WREATH	43	100.00
02/12/2025	LCC ROOM HIRE	44	60.00
10/12/2025	MARMAX BENCH NEW LONGTON	45	541.20
11/12/2025	C & W BERRY LENGTHSMAN MATERIALS	46	14.02
11/12/2025	P HEISE LENGTHSMAN	47	1113.60
11/12/2025	FOX TIMBER REPLACE GATE (to be reimbursed by LVMRG Trustee)	48	216.48
11/12/2025	SLCC 1/3RD SUBSCRIPTION	49	120.00
30/12/2025	W V MCWHITTLE SALARY 3RD QTR	50	2215.83
30/12/2025	HMRC 3RD QTR	51	1526.44
31/12/2025	BANK CHARGES	52	6.00
21/01/2025	P HEISE LENGTHSMAN	53	556.80
31/01/2025	BANK CHARGES	54	6.00

19/25 To consider the following report and agree how to proceed.

The Clerk has had a conversation with SRBC who appear agreeable to the Parish Council paying for replacement bus shelters should a decision be made to do so.

We have obtained a list of the shelters in the Parish (enclosed)

The ones they have marked as poor are part of a wider scheme across the Borough for which they are currently looking to obtain a funding allocation. Once this has been achieved, they will themselves undertake replacement.

No action will be taken by SRBC on those they consider satisfactory, despite our own list would suggest that some are in need of replacement (see enclosed)

The arrangements would be (if agreed by Council) for SRBC to follow their own procurement protocols and undertake the purchase and installation of new shelters with the Parish Council simply paying from CIL funds - this is the way that Lea and Cottam and Hutton deal with similar type projects. It is simple and straightforward in that they undertake all the purchases, and we are not involved in the administration. The bus shelters would belong to SRBC therefore we would not have any ongoing maintenance costs.

You may have noticed that the new shelter in New Longton is brushed steel which requires little ongoing maintenance such as repainting as also is the one recently erected in Hutton. SRBC would be looking to replace with this sort of shelter based on the specifications of the existing. A ballpark average figure I have been informed is around £5000, although I know that the one in NL cost with installation just over £6.5K so I am assuming £5K to be shelter cost only.

It has been indicated (as per enclosed schedule) that 4 shelters should be replaced, over and above the two being dealt with by SRBC which they classed as poor. This could involve around 30K, a significant amount despite we have over £100K in CIL monies available.

The Council are asked to agree in principle that we replace one shelter initially so as to ensure that we know exactly what we are getting and can make sure that the arrangements work to our satisfaction. If we are then content, we could move forward with the other three as appropriate.

The enclosed schedule referred to above has ranked the 4 identified for replacement by the Parish Council in order of priority.

It was resolved that this Council agree in principle to replace the 4 shelters referred to above however it was agreed that initially only the priority one shelter at Hall Lane Longton should be replaced so as to ensure that this Council knows exactly what it is getting and can make sure that the arrangements work to its satisfaction before moving forward with the remaining three.

19/25 To consider entry into the 2025 Best Kept Village Competition and nominate such OUTSTANDING Merit entries as appropriate. (last year outstanding nominations were LVMRG Sports and Social Club, Longton Tennis Club, New Longton Cricket Club, The Black Bull Pub Longton and Blundells Hardware Shop Longton)

It was resolved that this Council should once again enter the competition referred to above and agreed that the following entries should be nominated as outstanding merit entries:

Longton:

St Andrews Church, LVMRG Sports and Social Club, Children's Play Area School Lane, Longton Tennis Club, Black Bull, Blundells and Brickcroft.

New Longton:

All Saints Primary School, Village Pharmacy, New Longton Cricket Club, Children's Play Area, Progress Sheltered Housing Boundary Close.

20/25 To approve that the Lengthsman's hourly rate be increased by the latest CPI figure to be published on the 19th February 2025.

It was resolved that the Lengthsman's hourly rate should be increased by 3% to a figure of £17.92

21/25 To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 1st April 2025

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 1st April 2025



6th March 2025

To The Clerk

Longton Parish Council

Subject: Grant request for the Longton Parish Christmas event

Dear Bill Whittle

I hope this letter finds you well.

You may recall back in December 2024, we lightly discussed the possibility of wanting to make a formal grant request to the Parish Council, to support our new community committee. At the time we were in the initial stages of setting up a committee and were looking for advice on potential funding options. Since our discussion we have made good progress, have grown our committee membership, evolved and matured our thinking and started developing initiatives that will make a positive contribution for the community of Longton Parish.

When we spoke, we had to wait until we were in a position to formally accept grants by way of having our bank account finalised, before going ahead with submitting any formal requests for grants. I am pleased to inform you that we now have a fully functioning CIC bank account and started to accept donations into our bank account. In addition to that, we have successfully raised the money for the small lottery licence which has been granted for the next 12 months.

Since our last introduction at the December 2024 meeting, we have made significant steps forward in planning events for the community and would like the opportunity to share our updates with you at the April meeting. One of our biggest developments is our latest community project, Longton Parish's Christmas event which we are planning to hold on the 30th of November 2025.

We have identified that villages and other areas surrounding our Parish, take part in community Christmas events, but it appears that this is an area of opportunity to improve for Longton Parish. We have therefore decided to propose this as our first large parish event, in order to start trying to achieve our objectives of bringing our community together and boosting community spirit.

One of the many benefits of a Parish Christmas event is not only to enhance community engagement and community spirit, but also to raise the profile of the committee and raise funds for our Carnival and procession which is, planned for the 16th May 2026. This larger event will be our first Longton Parish Procession, since the late 90s. For more information on our other proposed fundraising events please see appendix 1 (below).

We feel that by way of the Parish council financially supporting the community initiatives set out by the Longton Carnival committee, this will further support the Parish's annual quest to remain strong contenders for the 'Best Kept Village Competition'. We have extracted some pertinent points from their website [In a changing world the roots of tradition, community life and taking responsibility for where we live has never mattered more]. [After 68 years of celebrating Lancashire's villages, the Best Kept Village Competition is evolving! We're

on the lookout for villages / neighbourhoods / communities that are not only well-cared for but are also champions of community spirit.....]

Project overview:

We are planning a community Santa's helper hunt activity to bring together families from across the Parish. The Santa's Helper hunt will involve several venues/local businesses, market stalls and games for children. Finally, we plan to hold a Santa Grotto, which families and children can visit. To date we have identified 12 local businesses as venues and they are supportive of the proposal.

All of the venues we are proposing to be involved, currently sell food and drink and will therefore already have the required licences and food hygiene certificates in place. Each stall holder will need to supply us with a copy of their valid public liability insurance, risk assessment and food hygiene certificate/ alcohol license (if required).

Once the hunt, Santa's grotto and market stalls have been concluded, a section of Liverpool Rd will be closed by a traffic management company called 'Ventbrook'. We then intend to have a community gathering around the village Christmas tree (Owned by the Parish Council) outside of Romano's restaurant, for community participation with Christmas carols, which will also be performed by church and school choirs. We have enlisted the help of KTB music (a local music company) to co-ordinate the musical performance by the variety of choirs taking part. We have also liaised with previous organisers of Blackpool illuminations for strategic and practical advice and guidance.

We are also hoping to invite a well-known celebrity to attend the village countdown and Christmas light switch on. This is something that we have never seen before in our parish, and we would love the opportunity to bring Longton parish to life this Christmas.

We want to boost pride and community spirit and believe this event would provide an opportunity to strengthen the partnership between the two villages, within the Parish.

In order to plan our proposed projects properly, we have already spoken with 2 councillors from South Ribble Borough Council, the licensing and legal team from SRBC, street lighting from Lancashire County Council and liaised with other local committees (Penwortham, Lostock Hall, Kirkham and Leyland) who already have Christmas light events and processions. We are booked on to attend the council's next ESAG meeting on the 31st of March, to present our Christmas event to the room of professionals for scrutiny and assessment of safety.

We strongly believe that this Christmas project, and our Longton Carnival Procession, meet all four of the criteria points set out in the Longton Parish council's grant awarding policy:

- Providing the opportunity for residents to take part in projects and activities
- Enhancing the quality of life of the residents of the parish
- Improving the surroundings and environment
- Promoting Longton or New Longton in a positive way

We feel that this will not only boost community spirit and engagement, but also go a long way to supporting the wellbeing and mental health of the residents from Longton Parish. In particular, the wellbeing of those who may find themselves isolated, by providing opportunities to connect with others through community events such as the proposed Christmas event. This project is the start of many, that aims to evoke a sense of connection and pride for the parish that we all live in. (To quote from one resident 'it is childhood events like these that have made my daughter want to continue living in the village and want to raise her own children in the village)

Based on the positive reception we have received so far from the community and local businesses, we intend to start gathering resident testimonials as to why they feel these events that we are planning are important to them. This will evidence just how important these events are to our community.

We want our children of Longton parish to have the same opportunity to secure fond childhood memories of living and growing up in Longton parish, as their parents did. It is our future generation that we need to win over, to ensure they want to remain in the parish as adults and raise their children here. These events will not only support our current generations but also our future generations.

All local residents, businesses and visitors will benefit from our Christmas, annual Carnival and future projects. It will provide our families with experiences to enjoy in the heart of our own parish, without having to travel out to find such events. It will also bring visitors into the village, boosting our visibility and supporting our hard-working businesses.

Funding request:

We are seeking a one-off grant for £5000 from Longton Parish council, to purchase some better-quality Christmas tree lights and to put towards the cost of the street column Christmas lights.

The exact number of Christmas light motifs we will need to purchase is not yet known, as it will be dependent on how many streetlights we are allowed to use, once Lancashire County Council have completed the relevant safety assessments.

We estimate the Christmas event to cost somewhere in the region of £10,000 - £15,000.

Some of these costs, in particular the purchase of the Christmas lights will be a one-off purchase and will not be required again for some years at subsequent annual Christmas events.

We plan to raise the remaining funds by holding fundraising events throughout the year, in addition to sponsorship from our own local businesses. We have been offered publicity from the Lancashire Evening post to publicise our events and our community initiative, further raising our profile and attraction for additional sponsorship.

SRBC have offered to pay for our printing costs and our banners to advertise our events and another local company have offered to print the carol sheets for the Christmas event, as well as offer sponsorship and several other local businesses have offered to hold fundraising events in aid of Longton Carnival.

We have already started putting out fundraising collection boxes in local businesses and have been meeting directly with businesses to inform them of our community committee and what our aims and objectives are, to try and secure additional sponsorship.

In addition to these funding sources, we also intend to write applications for other grants and sources of funding.

Conclusion:

We appreciate your time and consideration of our request. Although this request is very different to the one that we initially discussed back in December, we hope that you can see the positive progress that we have made as a committee and the positive outcomes that we are aiming to achieve for our community. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide any additional information.

Thank you for your support of community initiatives. We look forward to your positive response.

Your sincerely

Emma Young

Chair of the Longton Carnival committee

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