

Longton Parish Council

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on

Tuesday the 14th January 2025 at **New Longton Village Hall** which commenced at 7.30pm.

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

There was one member of the public present

01/25 To receive apologies

Cllrs Molder and Barnes

02/25 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3rd December 2024

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2024 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

03/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

None

04/25 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation

A concern about speeding traffic on Hugh Barn Lane was raised, suggesting that measures should be taken to reduce speed. The Chairman (LCC Cabinet Member) suggested that there was no justification for any action to be taken.

A complaint was made that recent housing developments did not have appropriate footpaths. The gentleman concerned was advised to contact SRBC planning depot to check the planning permission details as to what was required and ask the enforcement officer to act if the permission was not being followed.

05/25 To consider the following planning applications:

None

06/25 To approve the following payments:

25/11/2024	P HEISE LENGTHSMAN INVOICE 7	36	1113.60
25/11/2024	WHITEHILL DIRECT NEW NOTICE BOARDS	37	1197.60
28/11/2024	P HEISE LENGTHSMAN INVOICE 8	38	1113.60
28/11/2024	JPP MEDIA NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION	39	360.00
28/11/2024	NLVH ROOM HIRE	40	80.00
28/11/2024	NEWGATE NURSERIES AUTUMN PLANTING	41	193.20
30/11/2024	BANK CHARGES	42	6.00

It was resolved that the payments referred to above should be approved

07/25 To appoint Sandra Wiseman as the internal auditor for 2024/25 at a fee of £135.00 and approve the Terms of Reference and Internal Control / Suggested Testing Methodology the relative documents having already been circulated

It was resolved that Sandra Wiseman should once again be appointed as the Internal Auditor and that the documentation referred to above should be approved.

08/25 To consider and approve the following documents which have already been circulated

- The Councils Risk Management Policy Statement 2025
- The Councils Risk Management Register 2025
- The Councils Asset Register 2025
- The Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Internal Control 2025

It was resolved that the above-mentioned documentation should be approved

09/25 To consider in principle a suggestion to replace the Longton and New Longton Information Boards at an estimated cost of approx £4000 plus installation costs.

The latest BKVC report commented that the NL board map 'was useful and clearly shows New Longton's main village features'

There were no comments in the Longton report.

The existing maps are out of date and would require new ones to be produced as part of the cost indicated above.

It is suggested members view the boards prior to the meeting and also consider whether new maps themselves will soon be out of date due to building development.

It was resolved that whilst agreeing that the existing maps might now be out of date and somewhat difficult to read it was felt that this type of communication was somewhat out of date and served little purpose for what is a non-tourist area since detailed information was readily available online and that rather than replace them the existing information boards should be removed.

10/25 To exclude the Public and Press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that the matters to be discussed may be considered confidential

It was resolved that members of the public should now be excluded from the meeting for the reason outlined above

11/25 To consider the following requests from Longton VM Sports and Social Club to assist with funding for their planned improvements programme for the Club in 2025/6.

- To submit on behalf of the Sports and Social Club their application for funding from the Parish Council LCC Champion Grant Fund a copy of which has already been circulated.
- To issue an appropriate letter of support for use by the Club including an explanation of land ownership and the annual levy of the land on which the Club is situate which is LVMRG Trust land (the Parish Council being the Trustee)
- To fund the following specific expenditure.

£2000 LED Floodlight bulbs (quotation enclosed)

£2457 Replacement of 4 Radiators (quotation enclosed)

The above is exclusive of Vat – should the request be agreed then the Parish Council would pay for the works and re-claim the Vat.

It was resolved that each of the above items should be dealt with as follows:

- That it was inappropriate to submit the Parish Council LCC Grant Fund application since the Club rules which have to be submitted with it are out of line with the LVMRG Trustee Rules and that the application would therefore be misleading. It was further resolved that the consideration of submission should therefore be deferred until such time as the Club rules had been properly and formally amended.***

- b) *That it was inappropriate to consider the issue any letter of support until the discrepancy between the Club Rules and the LVMRG Trustee Rules had been resolved and made public.*
- c) *That consideration of any funding support should be deferred until such time as further responses have been obtained from the Club concerning the proposed expenditure.*

(1) LED Floodlight Bulbs

What type of bulbs are in use at the present time ?

Are the bulbs simply replacements and what additional energy savings are expected as a result?

An alternative quotation is obtained so that the Council can exhibit 'best value'

(2) Replacement of Radiators

Why do the radiators need replacement and what benefit will be gained in doing so?

An alternative quotation is obtained giving details of the type, specifications and fitting costs so that the Council can exhibit 'best value'

12/25 To note that the next meeting is provisionally scheduled for the 25th February 2025

It was noted that the date of the next meeting is scheduled for the 25th February 2025