**Longton Parish Council**

#

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

Tuesday the 13th May 2025 at **Longton Library** which commenced immediately

after the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING which started at 7.30pm.

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

There were three members of the public present

 33/25 To elect a Chairman for the following 12 months who will then be required to sign the Acceptance of Office form

 ***Cllr Gooch was elected as Chairman for the following 12 months – he then signed the Acceptance of Office form***

 34/25 To elect a Vice Chairman for the following 12 months

 ***Cllr Fox was elected as Vice Chairman for the following 12 months.***

 35/25 To receive apologies

 ***Cllrs Garside, Mather and Riley***

36/25 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1st April 2025 (enclosed)

***It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st April 2025 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.***

37/25 To receive Declarations of Interest

***Cllr Fox declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 07/2025/00162/HOH since she had already predetermined her position by making an objection. She left the room and did not take part in the debate or voting on this item.***

 38/25 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation

 *The meeting was adjourned*

*The Chairman of NLVH was present and presented the Parish Council with one red rose, being the annual rent under the terms of their lease of land owned by the Parish Council on which the Village Hall was situated. He later explained that it was the intention to undertake some improvements to the garden areas of the VH, that some funding had been obtained from SRBC and that he would write to the Clerk with full details shortly. He also mentioned that their Committee was short of members, he thanked the Parish Council representative for his assistance over the last few years and the Parish Council for allowing an article to be inserted in their next newsletter due out shortly aimed at recruiting new volunteers.*

*A resident who has been trying to organise a group to help remove Himalayan Balsam in the area advised that she had received a positive response to the article that was placed in the last Parish Council newsletter – she thanked the Parish Council for allowing her article to be published. She went on to say that she now had 5/6 volunteers and that she had drawn up a risk assessment and documentation for them to sign before any work was undertaken. It was pointed out that since the Parish Council were not involved in any way with this group, it was unnecessary for the Parish Council to have a copy of such documentation as the group organiser had full responsibility for any actions undertaken. The Clerk confirmed his previous verbal advice that the group should form a properly constituted group, obtain appropriate permissions and consider how to mitigate their risks before any work was undertaken.*

 *The meeting was reconvened*

 39/25 To consider the following planning applications:

 07/2025/00162/HOH – Construction of detached residential outbuilding @ Newlands Marsh Lane Longton PR4 5LA

 ***It was resolved that no representation should be made***

 40/25 To approve the following payments:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 06/03/2025 | P HEISE LENGTHSMAN |  | 58 | 1113.60 |
| 06/03/2025 | CPRE SUBSCRIPTION |  | 59 | 60.00 |
| 06/03/2025 | C W BERRY MATERIALS |  | 60 | 7.04 |
| 14/03/2025 | C W BERRY MATERIALS |  | 61 | 254.62 |
| 14/03/2025 | G GOOCH CHAIRMANS ALLOWANCE |  | 62 | 40.00 |
| 14/03/2025 | ENTRY FEE LBKVC |  | 63 | 50.00 |
| 28/03/2025 | HMRC 4TH QTR |  | 64 | 1374.36 |
| 28/03/2025 | RICHERSOUNDS ST OSWALDS GRANT CIL |  | 65 | 1098.00 |
| 28/03/2025 | TREE CHECK LTD CIL |  | 66 | 768.00 |
| 28/03/2025 | W V MCWHITTLE 4TH QTR SALARY |  | 67 | 1952.57 |
| 28/03/2025 | CATERBAY ST OSWALDS GRANT CIL |  | 68 | 1260.00 |
| 28/03/2025 | P HEISE LENGTHSMAN |  | 69 | 1113.60 |
| 28/03/2025 | ASHTON DOMESTICS ST OSWALDS GRANT CIL |  | 70 | 500.00 |
| 31/03/2025 | BANK CHARGES |  | 71 | 6.00 |

 ***It was resolved that the payments listed above should be approved***

 41/25 To approve the enclosed Financial Statement as at 31st March 2025

 ***It was resolved that the Financial Statement as at 31st March 2025 should be approved***

 42/25 To receive and note the enclosed Internal Auditors Report for the year 2024/25

 ***It was resolved that the Internal Auditors Report for the year 2024/5 should be noted***

 43/25 To approve Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and Section 2 Accounting Statements 2024/25 (enclosed) being part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 and authorise the Chairman and Clerk/RFO to sign them on behalf of this Council.

 ***It was resolved that Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and Section 2 Accounting Statements 2024/25 being part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 should be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk/RFO on behalf of this Council***

 44/25 To consider the enclosed quotation which has now been received to replace the bus shelter at Hall Lane Longton as per minute 19/25 at a cost of £8471.00 which also includes the removal of existing. The expenditure, if agreed, will come from CIL funds, the ownership will remain with SRBC going forward and installation management will also be undertaken by SRBC.

 ***It was resolved that this Council should request SRBC to replace the bus shelter referred to above and that the Parish Council would pay for the replacement up to the figures provided in the quotations received as detailed above from CIL funds available. It was confirmed that once this work had been undertaken to the satisfaction of the Parish Council it would then seek further quotations to replace a further three shelters as previously identified and recorded at earlier Council meetings.***

 46/25 To consider the enclosed documentation in respect of a grant request from Longton VM Sports and Social Club of £8449.62 which will be used for the replacement of radiators and the purchase/installation of new floodlighting units for the bowling greens utilising CIL funds.

Members will recall that a previous request was submitted earlier this year, minute 11/25 and the following resolution was passed.

*a) 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 want 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’*

The enclosed documentation shows that the Club rules have been amended as required, that alternative quotes have been obtained, and reasons have been given for the need to replace the items suggested.

***It was resolved that this Council should contribute to the further enhancement works proposed for the Sports and Social Club by paying for the replacement radiators and LED Floodlight Lighting Units at a cost of £8449.62 which should be taken from the CIL funds available.***

 47/25 To consider a suggestion that since SRBC have not yet decided whether to replace the information board upon which it was decided to place the 2024 BKVC plaque and it seems unlikely that they will replace like with like, the 2024 plaque should be erected, subject to permission on the wall adjacent to our noticeboard located by the shops on Liverpool Road.

***It was resolved that the 2024 plaque should be located as outlined above, permission having already been received from the property owner.***

 48/25 To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 8th July 2025

***It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 8th July 2025***