

**Minutes for the Extraordinary Meeting of
LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL
Held on Tuesday the 25th of April 2023 at 7pm
At The Longhope Recreation Ground Pavilion, Longhope**

Present: Parish Councillors – Cllr Gary Nicholas (Chair), Cllr Richard Gough, Cllr Dave East, Cllr Lee Haines, Cllr Jackie Barker and Cllr Geoff Bick

No members of the public in attendance.

1. Welcome from Chair of Council (including Safety Evacuation Notice)

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Brobyn and Cllr Seabrook

3. Public Forum

No matters raised.

4. Declaration of interest in any agenda items

None

5. To receive requests for Dispensations

None

6. Council to review arrangements for the following contracts:

- **Seasonal grass cutting of Parish Council owned land.**
- **2023/24 annual contract for emptying of Parish Council owned litter bins.**
- *After several attempts (by the Chair and Vice Chair) at communicating with the previously agreed choice of Contractor, which received no reply, the Council has now been notified that the Contractor has refused the offer of the above works contract.
As such the Council unanimously agreed to offer the above grass cutting works to Glebe Contracting, based on their quoted price.
Whilst Glebe is unable to offer a service for the bin emptying, Cllr Haines, Cllr East and Cllr Nicholas will oversee the bin emptying for a period, pending the outcome of item 7.*

7. Council to consider allocating a Budget for the purchase of any necessary estate maintenance equipment.

After various discussions relating to the costs of bin emptying by specialist Contractors, which had long since been established to be a significantly costly option, the proposed purchase of a vehicle was discussed. Several Councillors felt it would be useful to have a vehicle such as a 'groundhog/gator/mule' as this could be used for various tasks such as the emptying of waste bins, delivering of bagged grit to grit bins in winter, for easy access

to the Summit of May Hill as well as many other tasks. It was explained that such a vehicle would be exempt from road tax, would have minimal impact on the Parish Insurance, and would ensure Councillors were not having to use personal vehicles for Council tasks. It was made clear that there were more than sufficient reserves which were not currently earmarked for other purposes.

It was also made clear that such a purchase would likely pay for itself within three years, at which point a net saving to the Council would be likely, this being in addition to the other beneficial uses that the vehicle would offer.

As the question of storage for such an item was raised, item 8 was also discussed alongside this item.

Following considerable discussion, and the fact that the need for a storage container had been previously agreed, the Council agreed to a total budget of £7000 to be allocated, from its reserves, for the purchase of a suitable vehicle and container. Cllr Haines, Cllr East and Cllr Nicholas would explore suitable vehicles and Containers and find a suitable option for the Council to purchase.

8. Council to consider allocating a budget for the purchase of a Storage Container, as previously approved.

As per the above discussion, the Council agreed a joint budget of £7000 for a vehicle and storage container. It was agreed that a 40ft container would likely provide better value than a smaller unit. It was agreed that this would provide sufficient space for all Council owned equipment and tools etc. It was felt that the land at the rear of the Latchen would serve as a suitable location. It was thought that Planning is not likely to be required, however Cllr Nicholas shall liaise with the FOD Planning Department to make sure.

9. Public Forum

No Matters Raised

10. Annual Meeting of Longhope Parish Council – Wednesday 10th of May 2023.

11. Meeting closed at 20:25