

LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

longhopeparishcouncil.org.uk

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
IN THE LATCHEN ROOMS, LONGHOPE ON 20th JANUARY 2025 AT 19:00

[These minutes remain in draft form until approved at a subsequent meeting of the Council]

Abbreviations used

FODDC: Forest of Dean District Council
GAPTC: Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils
GCC (RoW): Gloucestershire County Council (Rights of Way)
GH: Gloucestershire Highways
ICO: Information Commissioners Office
LAHM: Local Area Highways Manager
NALC: National Association of Local Council Clerks.

PRESENT

Ms K Hearne, Clerk & RFO
Cllr Phelps, Cllr Barker, Cllr Wyman, Cllr Booth, Cllr Dangerfield-Booth and Cllr McCoy
District Cllr Tradgett
Eleven members of the public.

1 DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

1.1 Cllrs Rod Booth and Lou Dangerfield-Booth were co-opted onto the Council.

2 APOLOGIES

Cllr Farman
County Cllr Robinson (GCC)
District Cllr Francis (FODDC)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4 DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 18 NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes needed amendment so will be approved at a later date.

6 MATTERS ARISING

None

7 FENCING AROUND PLAY AREA

7.1 Cllr Barker advised she has now received three quotes, one of which was expensive and two came out at similar prices. One was in Gloucester and one was more local. This was discussed and it was decided to go with Adam Batten who is local and recommended. This will cost £1655. We will ask him to put the other playpark sign up on the fence once erected, exact location to be determined. Clerk to contact him to arrange.

8 PLAYPARK INSPECTIONS

8.1 The inspection took place in November. We have received a report with recommendations for repairs and these will be undertaken shortly.

8.2 Cllr Wyman keeps an eye on the playpark generally but was also present when the inspection took place. The inspector was looking at the skirt of the horse, but this hasn't been mentioned in the report. Clerk will contact Playdales to clarify this.

9 BUDGET 2025/26

9.1 Clerk read through the budget with actual spend and expectation justifications, the increase from the previous year being only £971. This was to reflect the fact that projects are yet to be completed and money is unspent due to difficulties recently faced.

9.2 A member of the public asked about the insurance for the recreation ground. Advised this will eventually be the same as with the Latchen who have a lease with LPC.

9.3 Another member of the public asked about reclaiming VAT, the Clerk will action this.

9.4 Another member of the public advised the water rates for the allotments may go up next year. Advised we will keep the budget as it is for now but keep an eye on this for the following budget.

9.5 Cllr Barker reminded the Clerk that monies unspent need to go into reserves. Clerk reminded that this account was still frozen. Clerk to open a new reserves account.

9.6 A member of the public reminded LPC that they are due a reimbursement of £200, this will be actioned once the accounts are unfrozen.

10 MAY HILL TREES

10.1 The Clerk met with someone from Chapel Tree Services at May Hill before Christmas to discuss the trees. He is not concerned the diseased and damaged trees pose an immediate threat. The Clerk will now get three quotes for appropriate treatment of these trees. The last report was undertaken in November 2022 and this should be done every three years, so this is still in date and the next will be due in November 2025. In the meanwhile, Cllr Phelps will remove the branches that have already fallen.

10.2 A member of the public asked about the tree across the brook – Councillors are aware. Cllr Wyman will talk to owner of the land.

11 PARKING BY THE CHURCH

11.1 It was asked why this car park is not being used as the parking on the road is getting out of hand (particularly on Sundays), as the volume of cars parked on the road makes it difficult for traffic coming past and getting out of the junction with School Lane. It was advised that the car park belongs to the dioceses. A tree survey has been done recently and they are currently obtaining quotes to remove branches.

12 CHARITIES

12.1 New nominated trustees are needed. There was some discussion and suggestions, and two members of the public volunteered in particular for the Rose Barton and Margaret Skelton charity. However, this would be only once the outstanding annual return has been filed. The Clerk will take over both charities in the meantime and also open new bank accounts for dividends to be paid in to.

13 PUBLIC ISSUES

13.1 A member of the public raised the issue to Cllr Dave Tradgett about the pebbles and debris that are on the road by the shop and the corner of Station Lane which has come down from the top of Hobbs Lane. Cllr Wyman has contacted Highways who said a road sweeper wasn't able to tackle the problem. She has a reference number and this is ongoing. There are also potholes on Hobbs Lane and the footpath at the top needs attention. This will also be taken up with Highways. Cllr Tradgett will ask Cllr Robinson why GCC aren't responding sufficiently.

13.2 A member of the public raised the issue of a pothole at Nupend Gardens. This will be raised with Highways. Clerk to action.

13.3 A member of the public advised the middle panel of the Recreation Ground noticeboard has water damage and a replacement is needed. Cllr Phelps will look at this.

13.4 A member of the public asked if the agendas and minutes could be put on the website for those who don't have Facebook - Clerk to action.

14 TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT

14.1 Clerk advised she is continuing with CiLCA training, as per her employment contract.

14.2 The bank reconciliation has been completed and was distributed to Councillors.

15 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

15.1 None as apologies given.

16 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

16.1 Cllr Tradgett advised the internal lighting has been replaced with LED's at the Latchen Rooms. They are also exploring the possibility of using the roof for solar panels. Power could be sent back to the grid and money could be made from it. A Gloucestershire company would raise funds but then own the installation for 25 years, after which time costs will be repaid, then ownership will be passed back after 25 years. He asked permission to explore this as LPC own the building. This was agreed. The Clerk will email Cllr Tradgett to confirm this. A survey will be done first to see if this is worth doing/possible.

16.2 Cllr Tradgett advised the government has put out white paper about building regulations and we are expecting more houses to be built - around 12,000 in FODDC which is an increase from about 6,000. It will be argued that a lot of our area is trees where you can't build so these numbers aren't realistic.

16.3 Cllr Tradgett advised there has been another white paper with a proposed local government reorganisation - to have unitary authorities instead of district councils.

17 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

17.1 Cllr McCoy advised he has repaired the vandalised battery connection for the Speed Sign and installed a new battery. Cables have been causing problems and need replacing. Another battery will be purchased. The defibrillators by the Latchen and on Church Road are fully available. The one at the Latchen now has new pads. Both are registered with The Circuit as well as CHT. The Clerk will check if the one at the school is also registered but Cllr McCoy raised the issue that the map is too small to show it. Other Councillors raised concern that this should still be registered regardless. A member of the public will ask the person who made the map if this can be added. Torches are still needed; the Clerk will place an order. Cllr McCoy also raised the issue of the earth that is being moved by the new development and is concerned at the lack of signage. He has contacted them about this.

17.2 Cllr Barker updated us on planning but a lot of this has already been covered: Latchen Room solar panels. At Brookend, building control have inspected and the owner asked to get planning approval. This is still in process as the case is yet to be allocated to an enforcement officer. On 13th December, a site visit to Colman's Wood was undertaken, and development updates will be forthcoming. A new Enforcement Officer started in November so some delays may be expected.

17.3 Cllr Wyman advised work has been done outside her property to clean up silt and has three separate reference numbers which she will pass to the Clerk. Retendering for grass cutting needs to take place in February as the grass cutting starts again in April. Clerk to action.

18 PLANNING

18.1 FODDC – APPLICATIONS APPROVED:

	LPA Ref / applicant	Location	Proposal
18.1.1	P1542/24/FUL Mr M Beard	Longhope: 5 Church Road	Erection of a single storey side extension. No objections.

18.2 Springfield House, Station Lane - to fell two large trees. No objections.

18.3 Old apple yard on napping lane - to reduce willow tree. No objections.

19 FINANCE

19.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - It was **resolved** to settle the following accounts:

Ref	Payee	Inv. No.	Purpose	Method of payment	Net	VAT	Total
24.53	99 Web Ltd		Web management for November	Standing order	25.00	5.00	30.00
24.54	99 Web Ltd		Web management for December	Standing order	25.00	5.00	30.00
24.55	EE		Mobile phone monthly contract - November	DD	27.14	5.43	32.57
24.56	EE		Mobile phone monthly contract	DD	27.14	5.43	32.57

			- December				
24.57	Water Plus		Water for allotments – 14.10.24 - 14.11.24	DD	15.63	0.00	15.63
24.58	Water Plus		Water for allotments – 14.11.24 - 14.12.24	DD	13.48	0.00	13.48
24.59	PFK Littlejohn LLP	SB20241 195	AGAR fee.	Manual payment	210.00	42.00	252.00
24.60	SLCC	QL20631 4-1	CiLCA training	Manual payment	450.00	0.00	450.00
24.61	Playdales	0000058 135	Annual playground inspection	Manual payment	260.00	52.00	312.00
24.62	PATA	24/0059/PPS	July, August, September 24 Payroll	Manual payment	31.05	0.00	31.05
24.63	Pete McCoy		Expenses	Manual payment	98.95	0.00	98.95
24.64	GAPTC	532	In the Hot Seat training	Manual payment	45.00	0.00	45.00
24.65	GAPTC	461	Being a Better Councillor training	Manual payment	270.00	0.00	270.00
				TOTALS:	1,498.39	114.86	1,613.25

20 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND ASSOCIATED TIMETABLE

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
17 Feb	19:00	Monthly Parish Council	Latchen Rooms, Longhope
17 Mar	19:00	Monthly Parish Council	Latchen Rooms, Longhope
21 Apr	19:00	Monthly Parish Council	Latchen Rooms, Longhope

The meeting closed at 20.45.