

LONGHOPE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Longhope Parish Council held at The Latchen Room, Longhope on Monday 17th August at 7.00pm.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **ATTENDANCE** – Council recorded attendance as Councillors Barker, McCoy, Williams, Noble and Francis, District Councillor Tradgett, County Councillor Graham and 10 members of the public.
3. **APOLOGIES** – None
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS** – None
5. **PUBLIC SESSION-** County Councillor Graham reported changes to the planning laws which will come in effect in October 2026. This will mean that District Councillors will have no input into the FoDDC planning committee for any planning applications for developments up to 500 houses. If the planning application is refused, and it goes to appeal and the appeal is upheld, FoDDC planning will move into special measures, at which point Government take over the planning decisions. The decision regarding the sale of Townsend House has been revoked, and a local charity now has ownership. Cllr Graham may not be able to attend every council meeting but it available via email.

District Councillor Tradgett reported that FoDDC owned land, such as verges, will not be cut to help biodiversity. There will be consultation with GCC Highways to ensure that uncut verges do not obstruct visibility for pedestrians and vehicles. Under LGR, ownership of these verges will pass to Town or Parish Councils. Work has restarted on the FoDDC Local Plan with a draft expected by 2028. A strategy and vision are currently being worked on.

District Councillor Francis reported that as part of the strategy work for the Local Plan, an analysis of the number of houses required with FoD is being undertaken. Recent NPPF changes introduced a presumption of development for land near train stations, and for land within (infill) or attached to an existing settlement.
6. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Council resolved that the minutes of meeting held on 20th July 2026 form an accurate record of the events.
7. **LEAD MEMBER REPORTS**
 - a. **ALLOTMENTS** –

- i. **REPLACEMENT TAP** – Council resolved to upgrade the single water tap to a 3-tap system.
 - ii. **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT** – Council resolved, by majority vote, to adopt Scribe’s allotment management application.
 - b. **TREES** – Work is scheduled for the autumn after the nesting season is over.
 - c. **RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE REP** – Cllr Williams reported that the committee wish to tarmac the pathway around the ground. Concerns were raised about drainage and disabled access. Other plans include installing an automatic door to the changing rooms and automatic sensors on outside lights.
 - d. **LATCHEN ROOMS REP** – Cllr Barker reported that investigations continue regarding the installation of solar panels. The hedge will need cutting to allow access for the contractors and the guttering needs replacing as it is under specification. The guttering may be the cause of the flooding in the Latchen.
 - e. **DEFIBRILLATOR** – Cllr McCoy reported that the defibrillators had not been deployed this month and are ready for use.
8. **ACTIONS** – Council to receive updates on previous actions.
- a. **Bank Account** Number 478 to be closed. Funds will remain earmarked for the play area loan payments. Ongoing
 - b. **Grass Cutting contract** – Tender has been issued.
 - c. **Solar Panels on Latchen Rooms** – Clerk to engage a solicitor to review the lease. Ongoing
 - d. **Tree Maintenance** – Request for quotes has been issued to suppliers.
 - e. **Allotments** - Clerk to email allotment holders requesting they take home their green waste. Ongoing
 - f. **Defibrillator** – Clerk to issue a letter of thanks to Don Rose Price for all his hard work, Ongoing.
 - g. **Trees** – Clerk to write to the owners of Preecemore Farm and thank for them for the tree removal. Ongoing
 - h. **Common Land** – Council has engaged Land and Property Management, and an initial meeting has been held. Further meeting planned for September.
 - i. **Legionella** - Clerk to engage a specialist contractor to conduct a Legionella risk assessment for the Allotments and Latchen Room. Initial quote has been received.

9. **Finance – Council** received the parish accounts, authorised payments as detailed, noted income, spend against budget and reconciliation.
- Council resolved to accept budget for 2026/27.
 - Council reviewed spend to date and accepted the reconciliation.
 - Council resolved to accept the payments list

(a)	Statement of Accounts as of 5TH August 2026		
	Commercial Instant Access Account – ending 305	£	2602.10
	Commercial Instant Access Account- ending 478	£	31830.23
	Community Account – ending 626	£	10381.84
	Community Account – ending 731	£	8364.08
	Community Account – ending 568 Includes reserves of	£	20847.47
(b)	Section 137 of Local Government Act 1972		None
(d)	Payments made between meetings		
	99 Web SO – 1439 email set up	£	30.00
	99 Web SO – 1458 email set up	£	30.00
	99 Web Renewal of gov.uk domain	£	120.00
	Clerks’ salary and HMRC (Jun, Jul)	£	1235.84
	Water Plus DD 6 th June	£	43.11
	Bank Service Charge	£	8.50
	PATA Payroll	£	89.40
	ICO	£	52.00
	FODDC (cost of parish poll)	£	2329.70
(e)	BACS Payments for Approval		
	Clerks’ salary, HMRC (August) and WFH (Jun-Aug)	£	973.82
	Reimburse Clerk for advert	£	103.68
	R&J Contracting	£	480.00
(f)	Income Received – Since last meeting	£	
	Bank Interest 478	£	13.08

10. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS –** Council agreed responses to recent applications, ratified comments made between meetings and noted decisions.
- Received –**

P0745/26/FUL Construction of detached, four bay garage building. (Part Retrospective). Quarry Hill House, Hobbs Lane, Longhope. Council has no objections.

- b. **Responded** – None
 - c. **Dealt with between meetings** - P0792/26/FUL Erection of an external balcony at first floor level above the porch. Quarry Hill House, Hobbs Lane, Longhope. Council has no objections.
 - d. **Decided since last meeting** - P0649/26/FUL Erection of single storey extension with associated works. Old Rectory, School Lane, Longhope. Granted permission.
 - e. **Withdrawn since last meeting** – none.
 - f. **Appeals** – No update
 - g. **Enforcement** – There are 18 enforcements with the FoDDC Enforcement Team, including the property at Brook End. Updates will be provided when received.
- 11. **BROOK END AND LATCHEN BROOK CLEARANCE** – Council resolved to accept the quote for the land clearance in preparation for tree work.
 - 12. **ASSET MANAGEMENT** – Council resolved to adopt the Scribe Civic:ly asset management and mapping application.
 - 13. **SPEED SIGNS** – Council resolved to convert the speed sign to solar power. Clerk to investigate ownership of the speed signs in Little London and on A4136 (near Puffely).
 - 14. **BUS SHELTERS** – Council resolved to repair the Latchen Central Bus Shelter. Clerk to obtain quotes. Due to concerns regarding asbestos, this will be addressed urgently.
 - 15. **ITEMS FOR NEXT OR FUTURE MEETINGS** – Councillors did not propose any items for future agendas.
 - 16. **NEXT MEETING** – An Ordinary meeting of the Council is confirmed for 21st September 2026 at 7pm in The Latchen Room.
 - 17. **FUTURE MEETINGS** : 19th October 2026, 16th November 2026, 21st December 2026, 18th January 2027, 15th February 2027 and 15th March 2027
 - 18. **CLOSE OF MEETING at 19:51**

Part B: Exclusion of the Press and Public

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council resolved that, due to the

confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded for the duration of Part B of the meeting.

B19 GRASS CUTTING

Council resolved to accept the quote from Kilmaha. The Clerk will issue a contract. Full details of the quotes received are recorded in the confidential minutes.

B20 TREE MAINTENANCE

Council resolved, by majority vote, to accept Kilmaha's quote. The Clerk will issue a contract. Full details of the quotes received are recorded in the confidential minutes.

B21 CORRESPONDENCE

Council resolved to allocate funds for legal advice and representation relating to employment matters. Full details are recorded in the confidential minutes.

B22 STAFFING

Council resolved to pay overtime for the Clerks due to the amount of work currently required. Full details are recorded in the confidential minutes.

B23 ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS – None

B24 CLOSE OF MEETING at 20:40

The Clerk keeps a separate confidential minute file. This is not published and is only available to authorised councillors.