

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held on Monday 16th September 2024, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Susan Douglas (Chair)
Cllr Donna McLeod (Vice Chair)
Cllr Roddy McLeod
Cllr Clare Mitton
Cllr Paul O'Brien

Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from District Cllr Duffield and County Cllr Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2024.

Cllr Douglas proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Mitton and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. To receive an update regarding the one council vacancy.

The vacancy will be advertised in the next newsletter.

5. Meeting open for public participation.

There were no members of public present.

6. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

In the absence of all Councillors, there were no reports, other than to note that the devolution deal had been withdrawn by Government.

7. Planning Matters.

a) Applications for consideration.

Council noted the proposed High Grove Solar Farm but had no comments to submit.

b) Decisions to note.

Council noted that a decision continued to be delayed on the following application due to nutrient neutrality restrictions.

- 3PL/2021/1460/F – Meadow, Hoe Road - change of use of land from Agricultural to residential & the erection of 1No. self-build home and provision of 1 No. Self Build Plot with associated car parking and landscaping.

c) To receive an update re the Breckland Local Plan and consider any action required.

Council noted that the Plan is likely to need review due to an increase in housing requirements by the new Government.

8. Highway Matters.

a) To receive updates on matters previously reported and to consider any new highway issues.

Council noted the following:

- Proposed 50mph speed limit on Litcham Road – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris taking this forward.
- Potholes on Chapel Road will be reported to Highways.

b) To note the Parish Partnership Scheme and to consider any projects for 50/50 grant funding.

Council agreed there was no funding for any new projects.

9. To receive a report in respect of the Playing Field and Play Area and to consider quotes to paint the play area fence, benches and bus shelter.

Cllr O'Brien reported that he had obtained one quote, despite contacting several contractors. Cllr Douglas proposed acceptance of the quote for £1,098 to paint the play area fence, varnish the long bench and treat the wooden bus shelter, this was seconded by Cllr Mitton and unanimously agreed by Council.

The Chairman reported that the football pitch is looking very good and can now be used. It is hoped that the football team will return soon.

10. To receive an update regarding the Clay Pits (a county wildlife site).

Cllr O'Brien reported that another days' work is planned for the 1st October. He thanked the McLeods for the donation of gravel for the site.

Council noted that the RWE Community Fund is due to open at the end of the month.

11. To receive an update in respect of the Village Appraisal.

The final draft is being approved and printing costs are obtained for a decision at the next meeting.

12. To receive an update regarding the Dial-a-Bus scheme.

Council noted Dial-a-Bus are looking into a weekly/fortnightly bus service into Dereham. Council will circulate information to residents as they need to register their interest. It would be a pay service, with a £10 annual membership fee, and the more numbers who register the lower the fare will be. The information will be circulated via the village newsletter.

13. To consider the management of the Village Defibrillator (POB).

Cllr O'Brien reported that the unit was working properly and all is in order.

14. To consider additional dog bin locations and any other action in respect of dog mess.

Council considered two locations for new bins, one on New Road and one on Hoe Road, at the Clay Pits. Permission will first be obtained from Breckland as they will have to empty any new bins.

15. Finance and Governance

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2025.

The financial report (attached) was noted.

b) To appoint an internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2025.

Cllr Douglas proposed the appointment of Mrs Dann as Internal Auditor for a fee of £40, this was seconded by Cllr Donna McLeod and unanimously agreed by Council.

c) To consider approval of Financial Regulations.

Cllr Douglas proposed approval of the updated Financial Regulations, this was seconded by Cllr Donna McLeod and unanimously agreed by Council.

d) To authorise financial payments as set out below and note any receipts.

Cllr Douglas proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Mitton and unanimously agreed by Council.

P14	Clerk – Salary/Allowance (August)	£141.93 (SO)
P14	HMRC – PAYE	£32.80
P15	Removal of Moles from Playing Field	£260.00
P16	Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Sept)	£141.73 (SO)
P16	HMRC PAYE	£33.00
P17	Clerk – Expenses	£30.60
P19	SLCC Annual Membership	£20.68

16. Correspondence for circulation

The Introduction of Car Parking Charges within Breckland – Council hoped that free periods of parking would be available and arrangements made for workers in Dereham, perhaps a permit scheme.

17. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

18. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 18th November 2024, at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Signed:

Date:

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL					
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025					
FINANCIAL REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024					
BUDGET UPDATE	Budget	To	%	Balance at 01.04.2023	9535.39
	2024/25	date	Spend	Balance at 01.04.2023	9535.39
PAYMENTS*				Plus Receipts at 31.08.2024	4,380.37
Admin	1,225	767	63%	Less Payments at 31.08.2024	4,050.11
Salary	2,095	988	47%	TOTAL	9,865.65
Open Spaces	2,565	945	37%	Bank Balance at 31.08.2024	
Donations	1,025	1,025	100%	Unity Trust Current Account	1,740.00
Defibrillator	50	-	0	Unity Trust Instant Access	8,158.65
TOTAL	6,960	3,725	54%	TOTAL	9,898.65
RECEIPTS				Less outstanding payments	33.00
Precept	7,500	3,750	50%	Plus outstanding receipts	0.00
Bank Interest	100	59		TOTAL	9,865.65
Wayleaves	-	-		Clay Pits Reserve	1,703.33
Salary/HMRC	-	-		Village Hall Reserve	1,700.00
Recycling	150	263	176%	General Reserve	6,462.32
TOTAL	7,750	4,072	53%	CLAY PIT PROJECT	Sep-24
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	790	347		Income*	12,100.00
<i>*includes payments as listed on agenda.</i>				Expenditure to 31.03.2024	10,396.67
				Expenditure 2024/25	765.00
				Balance	938.33
				<i>*Income includes £1,000 set aside in 2024/25 budget</i>	