

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Longham Parish Council held on Monday 17th March 2025, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Susan Douglas (Chair)
Cllr Clare Mitton
Cllr Paul O'Brien

District Cllr Roger Atterwill
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reported on the resignation of Cllr Farrell and thanked him for his help in council matters. Apologies received from Cllrs Donna McLeod and Roddy McLeod were approved. Apologies were also received from District Cllr Duffield.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2025.

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

4. To receive an update regarding the one council vacancy and consider the co-option of a new Council member.

The Chairman reported that there are now two vacancies and it was hoped for a positive response from the flyer due to the circulated with the village appraisal.

5. Meeting open for public participation.

There were no members of the public present.

6. To receive County and District Councillors reports.

D/Cllr Atterwill reported on Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation, which was ongoing. Breckland has put forward their ideas into the consultation, proposing a three unitary system for Norfolk. Elections for a Norfolk/Suffolk mayor will take place in May 2026, with the county council elections cancelled for this year.

The Local Plan review has resumed and there is now a requirement to build 903 houses per annum, with much of the shortfall having to be made up in the villages. Parish Councils will be consulted in due course.

Problems have arisen in respect of land searches for house purchasers, which has slowed the process down. The problem is in the software system which wasn't fully tested before implementation and staff are working hard to resolve the issue.

Barnham Broom Hotel and Golf Club has now been sold.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that no additional funding was available for the local government reorganisation but it is likely to bring savings. The boundary review for Breckland is ongoing but a new review is likely to be required due to the reorganisation.

The Chairman thanked both Councillors.

7. Planning Matters.

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no applications for consideration.

b) Decisions to note.

Council noted the following application continued to be delayed due to nutrient neutrality issues and it was understood the land was now for sale.

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

8. Highway Matters - to receive updates on any matters previously reported and to consider any new highway issues.

Council noted that some pothole repairs have recently been carried out.

9. To receive a report in respect of the Playing Field and Play Area, including an update regarding matters raised in the annual inspection.

Cllr O'Brien reported that painting works on the railings and bus shelter are due to start this week. A quote of £540.48 for the repairs advised in the recent inspection report had been obtained and Cllr O'Brien proposed approval, this was seconded by Cllr Douglas and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

Cllr O'Brien reported that the next volunteers day would be on the 1st April. He continues to look for further sources of funding.

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

Cllr O'Brien reported that printing works have caused delays but it was hoped the appraisal will be circulated to all properties in the village over the next week or so.

12. To receive an update in respect of the Village Defibrillator.

Cllr O'Brien reported that regular checks continue and all is currently in order.

13. To receive an update regarding additional dog bins on New Road and Hoe Road.

Council noted the new bin was in place on New Road but Highways had refused permission for a bin attached to a speed sign on Hoe Road. Alternative locations will continue to be sought.

14. To receive a report regarding Community Resilience – Emergency & Civil Contingencies.

Cllr Mitton reported that she had attended a webinar and local councils are being encouraged by Breckland to identify risks, such as crop fires, floods, snow etc, and identify sources of local help. Cllr Mitton will continue to take this matter forward.

15. To note the meeting dates for 2025.

The meeting dates were noted.

- Monday 19th May (Annual Parish and Annual Council Meetings)
- Monday 21st July
- Monday 15th September
- Monday 17th November

16. Finance and Governance

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

The financial report (attached) was noted.

Cllr Douglas reported that the Old School House at the Village Hall will not now be sold and the money set aside by the Parish Council to assist with legal fees will not be required. That being the case she proposed that the £1,700 be used to help renovate the two ground floor rooms and bring them back into use, thereby bringing in an income and saving on insurance costs. A question was raised in regard to the 'promises' of donations from local residents made at the Village Hall meeting and these will be followed up and parish council funding will only be used if required. It was also queried as to whether this will be money wasted if the rooms are not well used but noted that this was the way forward wanted by the village and there was no other alternative at the present time. That being the case, Cllr O'Brien seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed by Council.

b) To consider any charity requests received.

Cllr O'Brien proposed a £50 donation to Marie Curie, with the Dereham Meeting Point decision deferred to the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Douglas and unanimously agreed by Council.

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

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

PAYMENTS

P33	Clerk – Salary/Allowance (Feb)	£147.92 (SO)
P33	HMRC – PAYE	£34.00
P33A	Bank Charges (February)	£6.00
P34	Clerk – Salary/Allowance (March)	£147.52 (SO)
P34	HMRC PAYE	£34.40
P35	ICO – Data Protection	£47.00 (DD)
P36	Clerk – Expenses	£16.20
P37	Bank Charges (March)	£6.00
Financial Year 2025/26		
P1	Norfolk Parish Training & Support Subscription	£75.00
P2	Website Annual Renewal – Refund to Clerk	£142.06

17. Correspondence for circulation

Regener8 Solar Farm – Council noted the proposed solar farm site between Beeston and Longham and the company will be invited to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 19th May.

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

19. To note the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 19th May 2025, following the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Council noted the meeting date of the Annual Parish and the Annual Council meetings and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

LONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025
FINANCIAL REPORT - MARCH 2025

BUDGET UPDATE	Budget 2024/25	To date	% Spend
PAYMENTS*			
Admin	1,225	964	79%
Salary	2,095	2,063	98%
Open Spaces	2,565	2,105	82%
Donations	1,025	1,025	100%
Defibrillator	50	-	0
Dog Bin	-	190	
TOTAL	6,960	6,157	88%
RECEIPTS			
Precept	7,500	7,500	100%
Bank Interest	100	172	
Wayleaves	-	-	
Salary/HMRC	-	0	
Recycling	150	263	176%
TOTAL	7,750	7,936	102%
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	790	1,778	

*includes payments as listed on agenda.

Balance at 01.04.2023	9535.39
Plus Receipts at 28.02.2025	8243.43
Less Payments at 28.02.2025	7,918.46
TOTAL	9,860.36
Bank Balance at 28.02.2025	
Unity Trust Current Account	1,123.05
Unity Trust Instant Access	8,771.71
TOTAL	9,894.76
Less outstanding payments	34.40
Plus outstanding receipts	0.00
TOTAL	9,860.36
TOTAL	10,510.40
including:	
Clay Pits Reserve	573.33
Village Hall Reserve	1,700.00
General Reserve	8,237.07