

Longton Parish Council

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on
Tuesday the 2nd February 2016 in **NEW LONGTON VILLAGE HALL** at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllrs Gooch, Artis, Fox, Mather, Garside, Barnes, Welch, Alsop and Riley

There were also 130 members of the public present

14/16 To receive Apologies

Cllr Turner, Coulton & Wignall

15/16 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 12th January & 25th January 2016 (enclosed)

It was resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 1^{2th} & 25th January 2016 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record

16/16 To receive Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fox declared a personal and prejudicial interest in planning application 07/2016/0018/FUL since she is a personal friend of the applicant – she left the room during the debate and voting on this item.

17/16 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion.

The meeting was adjourned

Tom Calderbank from Preston Bus announced details of the new bus service which would run from Preston through to New Longton and then onto Longton as part of the deal struck with Longton Parish Council who would be subsidizing the service at least in the first 12 months. The announcement was welcomed by those residents present. Responses were given to a number of questions concerning the route, fares, timetable and use of NOW cards full details of which will be published by Preston Bus shortly. The discussion then moved on to other routes in Lancashire which are under threat from the LCC proposals to withdraw bus subsidies. It was noted that the Preston Park and Ride service was a subsidised service which had now been put out to tender in the hope that an operator will come forward and be able to provide a commercial service.

Concern was also raised in respect of the likely closure of libraries in Lancashire. Whilst it is hoped that Longton Library might remain open the Parish Council were to discuss this as an agenda item later in this meeting. The proposals from LCC divide Lancashire into 34 Service Areas, they are looking to house facilities such as libraries, youth centres and children's centres into one building as part of their cost saving measures but only in each of the 34 Service Areas which would mean a significant number of libraries closing.

The meeting was reconvened

18/16 To consider the list of the planning applications as set out below:

07/2015/1826/HOH – Single storey extension with dormer @ 38 Wham Lane New Longton

07/2015/1837/HOH – Single storey extension to side, bay windows to front and detached garage to rear @ 28 Sheephill Lane New Longton

07/2015/1843/CLD – Application for lawful development certificate for a proposed single storey side extension to existing garage @ 9 Dudley Close Longton
07/2015/1844/HOH – Single storey rear extension @ 9 Dudley Close Longton
07/2015/1853/FUL – Change of use from residential (Class C3) to Financial Services (Class A2) @ 10 Chapel Lane Longton
07/2016/0014/FUL – Erection of one two storey detached dwelling @ Craig Yr Rhos Long Moss Lane New Longton
07/2016/0018/FUL – Retrospective application for a single storey agricultural feed mill building and 8 relocated silos @ Ghyll View Gill Lane Longton

It was resolved that this Council should put forward its concern that the design and materials for the dwelling proposed under 07/2016/0014 were out of keeping with the building type in the area generally.

19/16 To receive any update and consider whether any further action is required at this stage with regard to the funding of the local bus service which was agreed on the 25th January 2016

It was noted that the ‘Contract and SLA’ were due to be received in the next few days for the formal consideration of the Council.

20/16 To authorise payment of the following accounts:

There were no payments to authorise

21/16 To consider renewal of the Lengthsman’s contract for a further 12 months at a rate of £13.00 per hour (last year £12.90) being an increase in line with the latest RPI figures

It was resolved that the Lengthsman’s contract should be renewed for a further 12 months on the basis outlined above

22/16 To appoint Len Slade as the internal auditor for 2015/16 at a fee of £105.00 and approve the Terms of Reference and Internal Control and Suggested Testing Methodology the relative documents having already been circulated

It was resolved that Len Slade should be appointed as this Council’s Internal Auditor for 2015/16

23/16 To consider and approve the following documents which have already been circulated

- The Councils Risk Management Policy Statement 2016
- The Councils Risk Management Register 2016
- The Councils Asset Register 2016
- The Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit and Internal Control 2016

It was resolved that the above mentioned documents should be approved

24/16 To consider and renew adoption of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which have been reviewed and already circulated.

Cllr Mather has suggested that figure inserted which would trigger a formal tender for future contracts should be reduced to a figure of £10000. No amendment to the documents has so far been made.

It was resolved that the Standing Orders and Financial regulations should be renewed as already circulated without any reduction to the formal tender figure for contracts

25/16 To consider the purchase and installation of two bus shelter benches for the bus shelter in Liverpool Road/Franklands and at a suitable (to be agreed) location in New Longton at a cost of £195 per bench and installation at £100 per bench by the suppliers (Ark Welding Chorley) or £150 per bench by SRBC; the costs to be funded from the recent CIL received by this Council.

It was resolved that this item should be deferred to a future meeting so that more information could be obtained in respect of improvement works that LCC / SRBC are expecting to undertake.

26/16 To consider whether this Council should explore strategies to prevent the potential closure of Longton Library, which it is felt is a much used and valued community resource not only in Longton but in other villages of the Western Parishes. (This might include financial assistance and involving other local parish councils in a joint strategy)

It was resolved that this Council write to LCC suggesting that Longton would be an ideal location for a library/hub as outlined in the current proposals for the proposed 34 Service Centres and that a communication should be sent to the other Western Parish local councils asking them to do likewise.

27/16 To consider whether this Council wishes to reverse its decision to withdraw from membership of LALC – figures have already been circulated concerning this year's subscription levels which have received a one off subsidy for this year. (Approx £717 including LALC subsidy of about £71 and NALC subsidy of £31)

It was resolved that this Council should reverse its decision to withdraw from membership of LALC however due to concerns regarding potential future subscription levels notice should be given that the subscription is on the basis of one year only and our notice to withdraw membership should be carried forward to 31st March 2017.