



Longridge Town Council

Finance Committee Minutes - Draft

Date:	23 September 2026		
Place:	Council Offices, Station Buildings, Berry Lane, Longridge.		
Present:	Councillors: Gornall (Chair), Rogerson and Smith.		
In attendance:	Town Clerk and Cllr. R. Walker		
Meeting started:	18:30	Meeting closed:	19:10

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1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Eccles and Stubbs.

3. DECLARATIONS INTEREST

No declarations of interest were recorded against this agenda.

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 29 JULY 2026.

With one minor change regarding Heritage Centre spelling, the minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There was no public participation.

6. FINANCE REPORT TO 14 SEPTEMBER 2026.

The Clerk presented the finance report. Members noted that the Council's finances were broadly on track. The higher HMRC expenditure included a payment carried forward from the previous financial year. For litter and waste disposal (budget code 570), approximately £1,000 of the £6,500 budget had been spent; a substantial invoice from Ribble Valley Borough Council was expected.

Members noted that the Deputy Clerk, Kat Holmes, had passed the FiLCA exam. A Unity Trust civic account had been established to keep Mayoral Charity Ball income separate from the Council's main budget.

RESOLVED:

The Committee formally approved the finance report and the accounts to date.

7. GRANT REQUESTS

Longridge Parkinson's Group. The Committee considered the £2,860 request for weekly exercise sessions at the Civic Hall. Members discussed the group's connection to Parkinson's UK and the local need indicated by attendance at an initial meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Council fund Civic Hall room hire at £25 per week for up to 40 weeks, to a maximum of £1,000. The Council will pay the venue directly against monthly invoices as costs arise. The Clerk will notify the group of the decision.

Longridge Veterans Breakfast Club. The Committee considered the £221.98 request for a banner and feather flag.

RESOLVED:

That support of up to £221.98 be approved, conditional on the group first approaching the Royal British Legion nationally and providing evidence that its request was declined or received no response. Once the condition is met, the Council will pay the supplier directly against an invoice.

The Growth Company, Connect to Work.

The Committee considered the £250 request for publicity for a Longridge employment event, which was included in the grant report circulated with the agenda. Members noted that the programme receives government funding.

RESOLVED:

- a. That support of up to £100 be approved for printed material specifically promoting the Longridge event, with payment against an invoice.
- b. The Town Council will not charge for use of its facilities and resources.

8. NJC PAY AWARD

The Committee noted the implementation of the 2026/27 NJC pay award for the Clerk/RFO and Deputy Clerk. Members were informed that the increase was to the national pay scale, rather than an individual performance increment, and that the wages budget included provision for a pay rise.

RESOLVED:

Committee noted the report

9. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Members raised concerns that the café had ceased opening on Thursdays, with consequences for Heritage Centre access and the availability of the public toilets. The opening-hours and break clauses in the café lease were discussed. The Clerk was asked to circulate the lease to councillors so the Council could consider its position at a properly convened meeting of the Estates Committee.

10. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

The next scheduled Finance Committee meeting was noted as 28 October 2026, followed by 25 November and, if required, 2 December 2026 for consideration of the precept.

Signed by the Chair: _____ Date: _____