



Longridge Town Council

Annual Meeting of the Town Council – Draft Minutes

Date:	13 May 2026		
Place:	Longridge Civic Hall, Calder Avenue, Longridge		
Present:	Councillors: L. Jameson (Chair for Agenda Items 1 and 2.), R. Walker (Chair from Agenda Item 3), J. Rogerson, P. Smith, K. Spencer, A Wallbank, N. Eccles and M. Gornall.		
In attendance:	Town Clerk. Members of the public, Mayors and Consorts of Clitheroe Town Council and RVBC, Borough Councillors and friends and family of the Mayor Elect/Mayor.		
Meeting started:	19:00	Meeting closed:	19:40

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1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR.

The outgoing Mayor/Chair welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Town Council and formally opened the proceedings.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR/MAYOR FOR 2026-27 CIVIC YEAR

Nominations were invited.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Robert Walker be elected as Chair/Mayor of Longridge Town Council for the 2026/27 civic year. (Proposer: Cllr. Rogerson, Seconder: Cllr. Wallbank)

3. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – CHAIR

The newly elected Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the meeting. The Declaration was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR/DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2026/27

Nominations were invited.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor N. Stubbs be elected as Vice-Chair/Deputy Mayor of Longridge Town Council for the 2026/27 civic year. (Proposer: Cllr. Gornall, Seconder: Cllr. Smith)

5. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – VICE-CHAIR

Cllr N. Stubbs had submitted apologies and was unable to attend.

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 83(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council allows Cllr N. Stubbs until the next ordinary meeting of the Council on 10 June 2026 to make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED FROM:

Cllr. Nick Walker

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None Declared.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the following meetings be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair:

- a. Ordinary Meeting held on 8 April 2026
- b. Ordinary (nomination) Meeting held on 8 April 2026
- c. Extraordinary Meeting held on 22 April 2026

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There was no public participation.

10. ANNUAL REVIEW AND REPORTS

a. Outgoing Chair's Annual Report

The outgoing Mayor (Cllr. Jameson) presented a summary of the Council's activities and achievements during 2025/26.

Members thanked the outgoing Mayor for their service.

b. Committee Reports

Brief updates were received from the Chairs of the Finance Committee and Staffing Committee.

11. END OF YEAR FINANCE REPORT (2025/26) – FOR INFORMATION

The Clerk presented the End of Year Finance Report. Members noted the financial position for the year ended 31 March.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the report be noted.
- b. That formal approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) will be considered at the ordinary meeting on 10 June 2026.

12. PROPOSED MOTION: LONGRIDGE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN

RESOLVED:

- a. That Longridge Town Council formally pledges its official support to the Longridge Community Hospital Campaign.
- b. That the Chair/Mayor be authorised to act as the official representative of the Council at all public meetings organised on this matter.
- c. That the Clerk maintains the hospital campaign as a standing item for update under "Councillor Reports" until further notice.

13. GOVERNANCE APPOINTMENTS 2026/27

a. Appointment to Committees

RESOLVED:

That the following members be appointed to serve on the committees for 2026/27:

- **Estates Committee:** Cllrs. N. Stubbs, J. Rogerson, P. Smith, A. Wallbank, K. Spencer and L. Jameson.
- **Finance Committee:** Cllrs. N. Stubbs, J. Rogerson, P. Smith, N. Eccles and M. Gornall.
- **Staffing Committee:** Cllrs. A. Wallbank, K. Spencer, N. Eccles, L. Jameson and M. Gornall.

(Note: Committee Chairs to be elected at the first meeting of each committee.)

b. Appointment to External Bodies

RESOLVED:

That the following be appointed:

- Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) – Cllrs. Gornall and Smith
- Parish Council Liaison Meeting – Cllr. Eccles (one vacant)

c. Appointment to Standing Working Groups

RESOLVED:

That members be appointed to the following working groups:

- Longridge Life Savers: Cllrs: Eccles and Smith
- Longridge Loop: Cllrs: Spencer and Smith
- Community Garden: Cllr: Walker and Eccles
- Banners and Brackets: Cllrs: Walbank and Gornall
- Pump Track: Cllrs: Smith and Eccles
- Use of Social and Other Media: Cllr. Spencer (one vacant)
- Longridge in Bloom: Cllrs Eccles and Spencer

d. Councillor Lead Roles

The following lead roles were confirmed:

- Flag Master: Cllr: Stubbs
- Defibrillator and bleed kit checks: Cllr. Wallbank
- Planning application review support: Cllr. Walker
- Neighbourhood Alert: Cllr. Jameson

e. Review and Adoption of Council Policies

RESOLVED:

That all listed policies be readopted without amendment for the 2026/27 civic year (Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Management Policy, Grants Policy, Code of Conduct, etc.).

14. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

a. Preview of the year ahead

The newly elected Mayor outlined priorities for the coming year.

b. Items raised by Councillors

No items were raised.

15. FUTURE MEETINGS

Members noted the schedule:

- Estates Committee – 19 May 2026
- Annual Town Meeting (Meeting of Electors) – 27 May 2026
- Finance Committee – 3 June 2026
- Full Council – 10 June 2026
- Staffing Committee – 22 July 2026

A buffet was available after the meeting.

Signed: (Mayor)

Date: