



Longridge Town Council

Full Council – Draft Minutes

Meeting Date:	11 February 2026		
Place:	Station Buildings, Berry Lane, Longridge.		
Present:	Councillors: L. Jameson (Chair), P. Smith, J. Rogerson, M. Gornall, S. Rainford, N. Eccles, N. Stubbs, A. Wallbank, K. Spencer, D. Jackson, D. Hindle and R. Walker.		
In attendance:	Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and four members of the public.		
Meeting started:	19:00	Meeting closed:	20:23

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1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR.

The Chair (Cllr. Jameson), welcomed everyone to the meeting, and provided an update on his recent and forthcoming Mayoral duties.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies as all members were present at the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTEREST DISPENSATION.

No declarations were offered.

4. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2025, with a minor amendment to include Cllr. N. Stubbs who was present at the meeting, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

The Chair sought Council's approval to vary the order of business to allow Agenda Item 7 – Pump Track and Agenda Item 11 – Climate Change to be taken earlier in the meeting. The Chair explained that members of the public were present specifically to listen to the Council's considerations on these items.

RESOLVED:

That Agenda Item 7 (Longridge Pump Track) and Agenda Item 11 (Climate Change) be brought forward and considered at this point in the agenda to facilitate public attendance.

The Chair welcomed members of the public to the meeting and confirmed that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, each speaker would be allocated **three minutes** to address the Council on the relevant agenda item.

Agenda Item 7 – Pump Track – Dedicated Lighting.

The Council received a statement from a member of the Longridge Pump Track User Group in support of the Pump Track dedicated Lighting Project.

The speaker expressed strong support for the facility, noting its positive impact on young people in the town by providing a safe, inclusive and accessible recreational space. Reference was made to the lighting which would be low profile, directional LED lights with a small light spillage.

The Chair thanked the speaker for their contribution and confirmed that the matters raised would be taken into account during the Council's consideration of the respective agenda item.

Agenda Item 11 – Climate Change Emergency - Declaration

The Council received a statement from a member of the Longridge Environment Group (LEG) regarding Climate Change.

The speaker thanked the Council for considering reaffirmation of its climate emergency declaration and urged it to demonstrate leadership by proactively addressing climate and biodiversity challenges.

They emphasised that projects such as Towneley Gardens, the Community Garden and the Longridge Loop would enhance biodiversity and improve resilience through tree and shrub planting. Noting that a declaration would not create unnecessary burdens but instead provide a clear policy framework to guide decision-making, strengthen community involvement, and improve access to funding opportunities.

The Chair thanked the speaker for their contribution and confirmed that the matters raised would be taken into account during the Council's consideration of the respective agenda item.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk submitted a report seeking approval for the accounts to date. Members were reminded that the 4 February 2026 Finance Committee had requested the Clerk to provide narrative on the Expenditure Tab, explaining any budget variances.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Approve the accounts to date.

7. LONGRIDGE PUMP TRACK – DEDICATED LIGHTING.

The Clerk submitted a report asking members to consider a request from the Longridge Pump Track Group to support in principle the installation of dedicated LED floodlighting and to act as the funding applicant on behalf of the community when seeking grant funding from RVBC and other appropriate funding bodies.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Support in principle, (subject to planning permissions), the installation of Pump Track floodlighting in order to improve safety, accessibility, and year-round community use.
- b. Request the Clerk to set up a Working Group including Town Councillors, local residents, members of the Pump Track Group and the local Police, to consider planning matters, costings, and the process of the Pump Track Group becoming a constituted body.

8. COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS.

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to provisionally appoint members to the Finance, Estates, and Staffing Committees for the 2026-27 civic year, as this would allow new committee members receive appropriate training before the committees become fully operational in May 2026.



RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Make the following appointments:

- a. Cllrs. N. Stubbs, J. Rogerson, P. Smith, S. Rainford, N. Eccles and M. Gornall to the Finance Committee.
- b. Cllrs. N. Stubbs, J. Rogerson, P. Smith, A. Wallbank, K. Spencer and L. Jameson to the Estates Committee.
- c. Cllrs. A. Wallbank, K. Spencer, S. Rainford, N. Eccles, L. Jameson and M. Gornall to the Staffing Committee.
- d. Request the Clerk to develop a framework for Councillor training.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT.

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider adopting a revised Councillor Code of Conduct, based on the Local Government Association Model, which was shown in Appendix 1 to the Report.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Request the Clerk to set out the differences between the revised Code of Conduct and the existing Code of Conduct and bring back to a future meeting of the Town Council.

10. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to note the need for Social Media policies and review and approve three policies and a Data Protection Statement attached as appendices to the report.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Note the need for Social Media Policies
- b. Agree to adopt the social media Policy, Councillor Use of social media Policy, Moderation Policy; and GDPR Social Media Statement.
- c. Request the Clerk to publish the policies on the Council's website and review the policies periodically in line with governance best practice.
- d. Request the Clerk to set up a Working Group to look at all aspects of the use of Social and Main Stream Media.

11. CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY - DECLARATION

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to re-affirm a commitment the Town Council made in September 2021 to ameliorate climate change and its effects.

The report noted that reaffirming the commitment did not extend the Council's statutory powers or place unreasonable demands on resources. It provided a policy framework to ensure that, where appropriate, environmental considerations would be taken into account when the Council makes decisions relating to improvements to council-owned land and assets, considers new projects, and makes procurement and maintenance decisions.

The Council considered the report regarding the Council's commitment and proposed reaffirmation.

Cllr. P. Smith proposed an amendment to the recommendation to clarify that any action taken by the Council would be reasonable, proportionate and within its statutory powers to ameliorate **Environmental Damage**. The amendment was seconded.



Following debate, the amendment was put to a vote.

For: 6

Against: 5

The substantive motion, as amended, was carried.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Agree to take reasonable and proportionate steps within its powers to ameliorate Environmental Damage and its effects and to have due regard to environmental impact when making decisions.
- b. Request the Clerk to bring a report to a future meeting to the Council, regarding how the Town Council will announce/publicise its commitment.

12. ENGAGEMENT OF GARDENER AND LENGTHSMAN AS CONTRCATORS TO THE COUNCIL

The Clerk provided a verbal update on the above appointments.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Request the Clerk to take a report to a future meeting of the Full Council regarding the engagements.

13. UPDATE ON THE LATEST ROUND OF UKSPF GRANT APPLICATIONS.

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on the Council's latest round of submissions for UKSP funding. The report reminded members that five applications had been submitted to RVBC for consideration and that two had been approved namely:

- Entrance to the Recreation Ground from Kestor Lane.
- Improvement and upgrade to the Council's Play Area/Outside Gym.

The Clerk noted that a new round of funding would be available from 01-04-2026.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the report and update.

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider planning matters since the last meeting.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

- a. Note the Report.
- b. Request the Clerk to submit evidence to the RVBC CEO and the Planning Department showing violations of shop front illuminations in Longridge.
- c. Request members to provide the Clerk with photographic evidence of the violations.

15. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on actions from recent Full Council meetings.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Note the Report.

16. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRS OF WORKING GROUPS

Cllr. Gornall, (Chair of the Towneley Garden Event Space Working Group), provided a progress update noting that the next significant steps for the Group are to agree a design that can be sent to RVBC to ascertain if a planning application is required and embark on public consultation.

Cllr. Rainford (Chair of the 'Banners' Working Group) provided an update stating that a report would be submitted to the April meeting of the Town Council

Cllr. Jackson (Chair of the Longridge Loop Working Group) and Cllr. Smith, provided updates on the Loop noting that purchase orders for planters and furniture will be submitted in the next few weeks.

Regarding the Community Garden, Cllr. Walker updated members on a recent meeting with prospective volunteers and reminded members that the volunteers would meet at 12:00 noon on 22-04-26 outside the garden gates.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Thanked members for the updates.

17. FUTURE MEETINGS.

2026: 11 March.

SIGNED BY CHAIR FOR THE MEETING:

A 'wet' signed copy is on file.

DATE:

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Mission Statement

Endeavour through foresight and leadership, to enhance quality of life for residents and visitors. Working to enrich and nurture opportunity to protect and improve the built and natural environment and improve community pride.