



# Longridge Town Council

## Full Council Meeting - Draft Minutes

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>08 April 2026</b>		
<b>Place:</b>	Station Buildings, Berry Lane, Longridge.		
<b>Present:</b>	Councillors: L. Jameson (Chair), P. Smith, S. Rainford, N. Eccles, N. Stubbs, K. Spencer, D. Jackson, M. Gornall, D. Hindle and R. Walker.		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Town Clerk, and representatives of the Longridge Community Hospital Campaign Group and the Longridge Environmental Group (LEG).		
<b>Meeting started:</b>	19:00	<b>Meeting closed:</b>	20:40

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**1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIR.**

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

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies from Cllrs. J. Rogerson and A. Wallbank.

RESOLVED:

That the reasons for absence be approved.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER REGISTRABLE INTERESTS.**

None.

**4. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2026, were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**

Representatives of the Longridge Community Hospital Campaign Group addressed the Council regarding the future of services at Longridge Community Hospital.

Representatives from the Longridge Environmental Group (LEG) also addressed the Council regarding climate change.

Cllr. Spencer requested that recorded votes be taken on agenda items 7 and 8.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That the hospital campaign be added as a formal agenda item for the 13 May 2026 meeting to consider whether the Council will offer official support.
- b. The Chair agreed to attend MP-organised public meetings as the Council's representative.
- c. That individual councillors may notify the Clerk if they wish to support the campaign in a personal capacity.

**6. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

The Clerk submitted a report seeking approval for the accounts to date.

Cllr. Walker (Finance Committee Chair) noted that the year-end position showed an overspend but considered it within acceptable limits when taking VAT refunds into account. Skatepark repairs were budgeted at £750, with recent damage still to be assessed. Asset replacement and refurbishment expenditure was noted at approximately £395 (primarily bench repairs and repainting).

**RESOLVED:**

That members approve the accounts to date.

**6A. FINANCIAL MATTERS (PART 2 ITEM)**

This item was deferred and taken later in the meeting.

**7. SUPPORT AND PRESENCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AT PUBLIC SCREENINGS OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION FILM ON NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE.**

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider whether the Town Council wished to support and attend local screenings of a public information film addressing the national implications of climate change.

During the discussion the Chair reminded members of the public present not to interrupt Council debate.

**RESOLVED:**

- a. That the Council support the local screenings of the public information film addressing the national implications of climate change.
- b. That the Council note:
  - a private councillor screening on 13 April 2026 and
  - a public screening at the United Reformed Church on 3 June 2026
- c. That attendance by councillors is voluntary.
- d. That the Clerk circulate any online viewing links received.

**Recorded Vote:**

For: Cllrs Jameson, Smith, Rainford, Eccles, Stubbs, Spencer, Jackson, Hindle and Walker

Against: Cllr Gornall

Abstentions: None

**8. PUBLICATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT STATEMENT**

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider whether the Town Council wished to publish a statement on its website confirming the Council's environmental commitment.

During discussion, a suggestion was made that the Council website could include a dedicated environmental section to highlight the council's environmental initiatives and activities.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Clerk be authorised to publish an Environmental Commitment Statement as set out in the Report on the Council website.
- b. Members also noted that a dedicated environmental section or tab could be created on the Council website.

**Recorded Vote:**

For: Cllrs Jameson, Smith, Rainford, Eccles, Stubbs, Spencer, Jackson, Gornall, Hindle and Walker

Against: None

Abstentions: None

**9. APPOINTMENT OF AGAR AUDITOR FOR 2025/26 AND 2026/27**

The Clerk submitted a report recommending the appointment of Mr David Swift MCiAA as the Council's Internal Auditor to carry out the Annual Governance and Accountability Returns (AGAR).

RESOLVED:

That Mr David Swift be appointed as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 and 2026/27. Financial years.

**10. LITTER PICKING**

The Clerk submitted a Report asking Members to consider whether the Town Council wished to continue funding additional litter picking services provided by RVBC for the 2026/27 financial year.

RESOLVED:

- a. That members agree to continue funding the additional litter picking services provided by RVBC for the 2026/27 financial year.
- b. That members agree to revise the locations to be covered.
- c. That Cllr. Eccles be requested to survey current coverage areas (avoiding Friday when the service operates).
- d. That the Clerk be requested to ask RVBC for an updated coverage map.
- e. That members defer the option of employing an alternative contractor pending further information.

**11. CODE OF CONDUCT.**

The Clerk submitted a report providing comparative Code of Conduct documents to assist Members in determining which Code of Conduct the Town Council should formally adopt.

RESOLVED:

That members agree to adopt the Ribble Valley Borough Council Code of Conduct (to align with the borough-wide standards framework and reduce administrative burden).

**11B GRANT AGREEMENTS.**

The Clerk submitted a report regarding the terms of two Grant Agreements to be issued by RVBC relating to:

- Improved access off Kestor Lane onto the Recreation Ground
- The purchase and installation of playground equipment on the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the terms of the two Grant Agreements be approved
- b. That the Council proceed with both projects.

**12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

**13. UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.**

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

RESOLVED:

- a. That members note the report.
- b. That the Clerk be requested to remove completed actions from future reports.
- c. That the Clerk be requested to chase the missing signs along Chipping Road and the introduction of double yellow lines where cars park near the Cricket Club.
- d. That the Chair be requested to contact Borough Councillor Brocklehurst regarding speeding concerns in Hothersall.

**14. COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES.**

Members' reports and verbal updates:

- a. Cllr. Jackson on the Longridge Loop: Benches, picnic tables, and planters ordered and paid for.
- b. Cllr. Walker on the Community Garden: LCC contractor assessment scheduled for 20 April; community work day scheduled for 5 May 2026.
- c. Cllr. Gornall on the Towneley Garden, Bowling Green upgrade. A delay had occurred regarding planning considerations, and a public engagement exercise will be conducted shortly.
- d. Cllr. Rainford on the Banner and Brackets Working Group. Noted the group will be meeting shortly.

RESOLVED:

Members were thanked for the updates.

**15. FUTURE MEETINGS (2026).**

Noted:

Wednesday 13 May – Mayor Making (Civic Hall)

Wednesday 27 May – Annual Town Meeting (Meeting of Electors of the Parish)

Wednesday 10 June – Full Council

**NOTE.** Following conclusion of the public session, a member of the public spoke with the Chair regarding single use plastic bottles.

**PART 2 - CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Exclusion of the Press and Public.

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.

**6A. FINANCIAL MATTERS (PART 2 ITEM).**

Verbal update from the Clerk.

The press and public were excluded from the meeting.

The Clerk provided a verbal update.

RESOLVED:

- a. That for security purposes, CCTV to be installed in the Clerk's office with Cllr. Walker to arrange installation.
- b. The Chair to sign a formal letter regarding outstanding utility payments, the draft to be circulated to councillors for review prior to being sent via Special Delivery.

*Minutes prepared by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Longridge Town Council.*

**Signed**

**Chair of the Council**

**Date:**