Longridge
Town Council

Full Council – Minutes

Date:	**10 December 2025**		
Place:	Station Buildings, Berry Lane, Longridge.		
Present:	Councillors: L. Jameson (Chair), P. Smith, J. Rogerson, M. Gornall, S. Rainford, N. Eccles, N. Stubbs and A. Wallbank.		
In attendance:	Town Clerk and one member of the public.		
Meeting started:	19:00	**Meeting closed:**	21:21

251210/

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. He thanked the Longridge Band for their valuable contribution to life in Longridge and noted how well the Youth Band had played at the Christmas Concert and how grant the Town Council had made for the purchase of a Tuba was being put to good use.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**
   Members accepted apologises from Town Councillors Jackson, Spencer and Hindle.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS AND WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR PECUNIARY INTEREST DISPENSATION.**
   None.

4. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING.**
   The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2025 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
   The Chair requested members grant permission for a member of the public to address the Council to discuss the possible closure of Longridge Hospital.

   RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:
   Grant permission.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk submitted a report seeking approval for the accounts to date and the Schedule of Payments.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

a. Approve the accounts to date.

b. Approve the Schedule of Payments as set out in the Report and in Table 1 below.

Schedule of Payments to be considered for approval.

#	Ref.	Payee	Description	Gross £	Vat £	Net £	Due Date	Date Paid
1	SCH7461	Scheme Link	Longridge Pubwatch Scheme. Grant approved 26-11-2025	408.00	-	408.00		03/12/25
2	8875	H S Dranfield	Skip rental. Soapbox Derby. Grant approved 10-09-2025	750.00	125.00	625.00		03/12/25
3	NWTM	NWTM	Road Closure Remembrance Parade	2,946.00	491.00	2,455.00		01/12/25
				4,104.00	**616.00**	**3,488.00**		

Note: Approval is not usually sought for expenditure approved by Full Council, the Budget Committee, Direct Debits, and people or organisations where the Town Council has a contractual relationship.

7. 2026-2027 BUDGET AND PRECEPT CONSIDERATIONS.

The Clerk submitted a report asking members to consider the recommendations of the Budget Committee for the 2026/27 budget, precept and reserves.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

a. Approve a precept for 2026/27 of £106,410.

It was noted that this would result in a Band D Council Tax of £32.28 (a 7.5% increase for 2025/26).

b. Approve the reserves policy for 2026/27, including a general reserve of £45,000 and the earmarked reserves as listed above in Section 4.2 of the report

c. Authorise the Clerk to submit the Precept Demand to RVBC.

8. GRANT AND SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS.

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider a grant request from the Valley Singers for £250 to purchase sheet music.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

Approve the grant request from the Valley Singers and authorise the Clerk to inform the Valley Singers of the Council's decision and make the necessary arrangement for payment.

9. REQUEST FOR A PLAQUE IN THE MEMORY OF PAUL BYRNE.

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider a request from the family of Paul Byrne (former Mayor of Longridge Town Council) to place a plaque on an existing bench outside the Council offices.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

a. Approve the request in principle.

b. Request the Clerk to draft a policy on such requests and submit to a meeting of the Estates Committee for review and consideration.

10. UKSPF – GRANT FOR SOLAR PANELS

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to confirm those members who are authorised to sign the Grant Agreement.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

a. Confirm as set out in the Council's Standing Orders that any two Town Councillors can sign on behalf of the Council any deed required by law.
b. Nominate Cllr. Jameson and Walker to sign the necessary legal documents.

11. SHARED PROSPERITY AND JUBILLEE FUND.

The Clerk submitted a report requesting members to consider suitable projects where the Council could submit Expressions of Interest. The report noted that submissions had to be submitted by 5 January 2026.

Members were reminded that the fund is a merged Ribble Valley Shared Prosperity and Jubilee fund and is intended to deliver legacy capital projects across the borough that strengthen the borough's economy and local communities. The fund prioritises capital investment that improves places and infrastructure, supports community activity and helps economic recovery and growth.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

a. Request the Clerk to email a list of potential projects to all members requesting their views.
b. Nominate Councillors Smith and Gornall to work with the Clerk in preparing the Expressions of Interest.

12. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND TRAINING

The Clerk submitted a report requesting Council consider nominating members to its committees at its January 14, 2026 meeting.

The report noted that nominating members early would allow new committee members receive appropriate training before the committees become fully operational in mid-May 2026.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:
Approve the request.

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Clerk submitted a report updating members on Local Government Reorganisation.

The Report noted the following timeline:

- Early 2026: Government-led public consultation.
- Summer 2026: Preferred model selected.
- May 2027: Shadow council elections.
- April 2028: New unitary councils become operational and existing councils are dissolved.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:
Note the report.

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 comments regarding 3/2025/0910 to RVBC.

15. UPDATE ON ACTIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

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, Cllr. Rainford Chair of the 'Banners' Working Group provided an update from the initial meeting and Cllr. Smith updated members on the work he had carried out on the 'Longridge Loop' and noted that he had produced a presentation which was available to view.

RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:
Thanked members for the updates.

17. FUTURE MEETINGS.

2026: 14 January, 11 February and 11 March.

SIGNED BY CHAIR FOR THE MEETING:

A 'wet' signed copy is on file. DATE: