



LONG ASHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Jubilee Pavilion, Keedwell Hill, Long Ashton on 20th January 2025 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillors F Chaudhuri, C Davis, N Davis, H Lilley, D Smith (Chair), D Barks, D Wilkinson and J Fenton, A Trozzo, D Barks.

In Attendance : Hannah Harwood (Clerk & RFO), Stuart McQuillan (Ward Councillor), Ash Cartman (Ward Councillor) and 16 members of the public.

C25.001 Apologies for absence LGA 1972 s85(1)

Apologies for absence were received from A Barrett, D Andrews, C James and M Harris.

Absent – A Johnson and D Bolton.

C25.002 Declarations of Interests and Grant of Dispensations

Resolved - That the following declarations of interest were received, and dispensations were approved:

1. Cllr N Davis & C Davis – Other interest in items 7 and 4– approval to stay in the meeting and discuss.
2. Cllr D Smith – Pecuniary interest in all item 7 and 4 – approval to Chair the meeting but not vote.

C25.003 Confirmation of minutes

Resolved - That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th November 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (LGA 1972, Schedule 12, paragraph 41(1)).

C25.004 Budget and Precept 2025-2026

- a) **Resolved** - That the draft budget of £276,907 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes committee meeting held on 9th December 2024 was approved.
- b) **Resolved** - That the level of precept for 2025-2026 was approved at £243,680. This request will be submitted to North Somerset Council by the 27th January 2025 deadline.

In summary this includes consideration for projected underspends of at least £38,000 for the 2024/2025 financial year, the creation of an earmarked reserve of £20,000 for devolution expenses, and a budget subsidised by £18,000 from general reserves to achieve an increase of 4.8%. If approved, the precept request will be £243,680 which relates to £86.06 for a Band D property. Long Ashton Parish Council raised a precept of £230,188 for 2024/2025. This was an annual charge of £82.15 for a Band D property.

C25.005 Long Ashton Community Centre - Motion

Resolved - That the Council will waive the requirement for prior permission for each piece of publicity, as outlined in clause 3.12 of the lease between the Parish Council and the Community Centre. This approval is made on the condition that all publicity is

managed in accordance with the Long Ashton Community Centre Publicity policy. Due to exceptional circumstances, until December 2025, a small number of advertising banners will be allowed. The policy will apply to all new advertising banners.

- C25.006 Epic Proposed Development Planning Application 23/P/2185/FU28**
North Somerset Council has recommended the application for approval, a decision met with profound disappointment and frustration from the Parish Council, Ward Councillors, and residents. Reflections were shared on the process, including concerns over the scrutiny of planning policies and the consideration given to local objections. Thanks were given to all who spoke on behalf of the Parish Council and the community for their efforts.
- C25.007 Peel Park Transfer**
An update was received from Ash Cartman (Ward Councillor) on North Somerset Council's offer to support enforcement of the S106 agreement to transfer Peel Park to the Parish Council. North Somerset Council are now progressing their side of the transfer.
- C25.008 Annual Parish Meeting (APM)**
Resolved - To note that the Annual Parish Meeting, which is a statutory requirement to be held between 1st March and 1st June, is scheduled to take place on Monday, 19th May 2025, at 6:30 pm. Discussions are underway with potential speakers, and further details will be provided in due course. A budget of up to £500 for the event was agreed.
- C25.009 Schedule of meetings**
The schedule of meetings for June 2025 to May 2026 were noted.
- C25.010 Ward Councillor Report**
An update was received from Ward Councillors representing Long Ashton, covering relevant developments, ongoing initiatives, and matters of interest to the Parish Council and community.
- C25.011 Working Groups**
To note – Reports were received from the following groups:
a) Community Engagement Working Group
b) Newsletter Working Group
c) Light Up Long Ashton (LULA) Working Group
Thanks were given to Sarah Smith for all of her hard work.
d) Skatepark Working Group
e) Biodiversity Working Group
f) Peel Park Working Group
- C25.012 Date of the next meeting**
To note that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is Monday 24th March 2025 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 20:37

Signed:  Date: