LONG NEWTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs M Whitehead, 8 The Yew Walk, Long Newton Stockton on Tees, TS21 1PA
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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7PM IN THE WILSON CENTRE

634.26

Present: Cllrs K Hissitt (Chairman), G Smith, G Attwood, J Higgins, T Reed, L Sandbach, D Butler, A Woods, and the Clerk.

634.1 **Apologies** for absence. None.

634.2 **The Minutes** of The Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no declarations of gifts/hospitality/interests or changes to the register of interests.

634.3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 **Highways Cycle Way** Cllr Smith has written to Matt Vickers with a brief report on the scheme so far. **SBC** Highways grass verge outside St Mary's Church has been damaged by what appears to be an HGV leaving it just mud. Clerk has contact SBC for repair. **Bollards** Link Rd Cllr Hissitt requested Clerk contact SBC re the bollards at the speed cushion which are not very reflective in the dark. **Potholes** Clerk has reported numerous potholes on Burnwood Bridge, Darlington Road near Yew Walk entrance and those on Darlington Road near Woodland Way junction, Clerk has requested that his section of road be resurfaced. **Traffic sign** at the speed cushion on the Link Road was knocked out of its foundation by a vehicle, this has now been repaired by SBC.

3.2 **Village Environment Play Area** Clerk met with SBC on 26/1/2026 to discuss the future of the Play Area regarding maintenance and life expectancy implications. SBC will continue to inspect the site and will contact LNPC if there are any necessary repairs, LNPC can then discuss if they can fund the repairs, if they are unable to undertake this the item will be removed. It was agreed that this will be a decision to be made when a repair is necessary and the proposed cost to LNPC is known. **Football Pitch** A request by Middleton Rangers FC for use of the pitch on Saturdays for training until the end of April whilst their pitch is under water was agreed, necessary contracts have been signed. **Stile** from the football pitch to access Coatham Woods and the Public Footpath needs repair and has been reported to SBC. Clerk has chased and reply states that the contractor has been contacted to have a look with a view to undertaking a repair. No timescale can be given but SBC will provide an update in due course. **Trees Parish Council land** SBC have responded to the LNPC's request for the necessary work which was flagged up on the inspection to be undertaken. A quote for the work of £800.00 was accepted by LNPC and Clerk will contact Mark Nozedar to request the work be carried out.

3.3 **Bus Service** The Tees Flex bus is to be withdrawn from Service and as yet no response received regarding any proposals for a bus service for the village. Recent publicity has indicated that with the new service from Darlington to Stockton via the villages to the North of Long Newton, Long Newton will be the only village in Stockton without a service. Once the Tees Flex has finished at the end of March there will only be the very limited Community Service on Wednesdays and Fridays. Cllr Smith is to email TVCA again.

3.4 **Powergrid** Matt Vickers MP arranged for Powergrid to attend a Public Meeting to explain to residents the reason for the recent power cuts, what is being done to prevent further disruption and to answer questions from residents. The meeting was well attended. Powergrid are proposing to upgrade the underground network in Long Newton which is scheduled for completion in May 2026. No details of start date given. Powergrid agreed to keep LNPC updated, any updates will be put on LNPC website.

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634.4 **Planning**

4.1 Lists circulated via email.
4.2 25/2551/VARY No Comment
4.3 Durham Rd Scoping exercise LNPC have been made aware that SBC are to conduct a Scoping Exercise for land at Durham Rd which may include land within LNPC boundary. Clerk to contact SBC to request clarification.

634.5 **Accounts**

5.1 Cheque issued to Wilson Centre for hire fee January Meeting £12.00 1411
5.2 Cheque issued to Clerk on 25/1/26 for sal and exp January. 1410
5.3 Risk Assessment Review A review of the effectiveness of the Council's Internal Control Systems, and Risk Assessment was undertaken by the Chairman. Statement of Assurance was approved by Cllrs and signed by the Chairman. Cllrs reviewed the effectiveness of the Internal Audit, there were no issues
5.4 Cutting Edge estimate of £4936.32 plus VAT for grass cutting 2026 and £400 plus VAT daily rate 2026 was accepted by LNPC. Clerk will arrange contracts.
5.5 Precept SBC have confirmed a precept of £17,264 plus funding allocation of £236 for 26/27.

The above invoices were approved by LNPC

634.6 **Correspondence**

6.1 SBC Mayor's Parmo evening on 2/3/26 circulated to Cllrs
6.2 Email from Evergreen Grounds expression of interest added to approved list of suppliers.

634.7 **Cllrs Items and items for next meeting**

7.1 Social media Policy Cllr G Smith circulated a draft social media policy as previously discussed. Cllrs will consider the policy and Clerk will compile an official document for adopting at the next LNPC Meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.30PM

Signed…… K Hissitt Chairman