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 13TH OCTOBER 2026 AT 7PM IN THE WILSON CENTRE

641.26

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

641.1 **Apologies** for absence received from Cllr A Woods and Cllr T Reed.

641.2 **The Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th September 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. There were no declarations of gifts/hospitality or interests. Cllr G Smith has previously declared a change to the register of interests as he has changed his address. Form A and B completed, Clerk will forward to SBC and update website.

641.3 **Matters Arising**

3.1 **Highways** **Street Lights Darlington Rd** The street lights on Darlington Rd eastern entrance to the village are out and also on the T Junction, Clerk has contacted SBC. SBC have investigated and the lights are connected to the illuminated sign which was damaged in an accident at the junction, repair of this is the remit of Highways England. Until Highways England undertake the necessary repairs SBC cannot reconnect these lights. SBC have contacted Highways England and requested this repair is undertaken asap. **Darlington Rd** A contractors van reversed into the dead end sign on the grass verge at the side of 1 The Yew Walk Clerk has reported to SBC.
3.2 **Village Environment Policy** regarding vehicle access to Parish Council owned land, draft circulated to Cllrs, and was approved at the meeting and signed by the Chair. **Tree SBC Highways land** The tree on SBC land at the side of Cobwebs Willow Chase is inspected regularly by SBC, SBC will take a further look. SBC are to cut back trees on the bus route to provide clearance heights. Clerk will contact SBC regarding maintenance work on trees within LNPC ownership. **Trees on LNPC land at Woodland Way Green** Despite requests via St Mary's School and verbally to some adults at the green who are with some of the children, trees are still being damaged by some children playing after school. One tree which was stripped of bark has had to be removed and recently a sapling was snapped off at the base and removed to construct a den. This area is registered as a village green with some trees having TPO status. Recently the flowering cherry tree was the target with bark being stripped. Residents living in the area have expressed concerns to LNPC regarding the behaviour of some of the children. Whilst LNPC agree that the area is ideal for children playing/making dens it is unacceptable that trees are being damaged in the process by some of the children. Cllr Hissitt to contact school again and Clerk to investigate the viability of tree guards, and seek advice from SBC. **Northern Powergrid** Clerk will contact Northern Powergrid at the end of this month if there is no sign of the proposed work on the network. **Planters** Clerk will arrange for pansies to be planted. **Willow Chase** It was agreed that after the leaves have dropped Cutting Edge will be requested to undertake work clearing away any fallen trees.

3.3 **Bus** The new bus service X60 from and to Darlington via Stockton to Teesside has commenced. LNPC delivered timetables with the Parish Press to houses in the village. Councillors thanked Cllr G Smith for all his continuous work to restore a bus service to the village.

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641.4 **Planning**

4.1 Lists circulated via e-mail

641.5 **Accounts**

5.1 Cheque issued to Wilson Centre for £12.50 hire fee September 1441
5.2 Cheque issued to Clerk Sal & Exp September 1439
5.3 Cheque issued to Cutting Edge grass cutting September invoice 3782 £740.45 1440
5.4 Cheque issued to HMRC PAYE & NI 1438
5.5 Website Clerk reported that the new website is completed, and the gov.uk email address should be completed soon. Direct Debits set up £11.99 website and £2.99 per month gov.uk email, VAT included.
5.6 Audit Plan was previously circulated and approved by Cllrs and signed by the Chair.
5.7 Accounts The Clerk reported on the 2nd quarter accounts. The quarterly review of the budget has been undertaken, the reserves are adequate for proposed expenditure to the end of the financial year.
5.9 Budget 27/28 Cllrs were requested to consider items for the 27/28 budget.
5.10 St Mary's photo copying of Parish Press. Cllr Hissitt is to contact the School to ascertain payment method

The above invoices were approved by the LNPC

641.6 **Correspondence**

6.1 Emails regarding SBC Mayor's Charity Race Night, Parmo Night and the Remembrance Service circulated to Cllrs,

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

7.1 Christmas Light Check The lights were checked at the close of the meeting and Clerk will arrange for Mr M Thompson to undertake any maintenance.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.50 PM

Signed……..K Hissitt Chair