

LONGFIELD & NEW BARN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Meeting on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

at Church Hall, Main Road, Longfield

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Those present: Cllr. Steve Brown (Chair), Cllr. Roger Pefitt, Cllr. Catherine Stafford, Cllr. Phil Smith, Cllr. Jennifer MacDonald, Cllr. Tony Mack, Cllr. Mike Tamber, Cllr. Gurvinder Sandher

Clerk: Paula Henney

Apologies accepted for absence: Cllr. P. Denman, Cllr. J. Kite

Members of the public present: None

40/2025 Declarations of Interest:

- Cllr. Brown is a member of Dartford Borough Council, a member of the DBC cabinet and member of the Development Control Board at DBC.
- Cllr. Sandher is CEO of Kent Equality Cohesion Council and Cohesion Plus.
- Cllr. Perfitt is a member of Dartford Borough Council, Chairman of the Development Control Board at DBC.
- Cllr. Tamber is retired Postmaster and owner of property in Longfield.
- Cllrs. C. Stafford, MacDonald, Mack, and Smith had none to declare.

41/2025 Minutes of last meeting: 25th March 2025

Minutes of last meeting approved by all present. Proposed by Cllr. Smith and seconded by Cllr. Stafford.

42/2025 Matters arising not recorded elsewhere: Cllr. MacDonald enquired if any speakers/groups had been organised for the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr. Brown suggested that this could be looked at earlier for next year's meeting to potentially review and revive the meeting.

43/2025: Chairman's Report:

Cllr. Brown would like to minute a thank you to the Clerk for the swift completion of the recent internal audit.

44/2025: Correspondence: Correspondence was approved by all present.

45/2025 Public Question Time: None

46/2025 Committee Reports and Recommendations

Finances and General purpose: Payments and receipts, proposed by Cllr Stafford, seconded by Cllr. Sandher and approved by all present.

Cllr. Perfitt requested, for clarity, if we could distinguish payments between general maintenance and urgent repairs for the Long Valley Hall account.

Action: Clerk to raise a new budget line for repairs under Long Valley Hall.

Planning: Cllr. Stafford presented on behalf of the Planning group and agreed by the full council meeting.

Date	Reference	Property	Description	Comments
27.03.2025	25/00342/TPO	1 Garrow Longfield Kent DA3 7JN	Application for 3x Horse Chestnut trees outside 1 Garrow, along New Barn Road (Marked A, B and C in sketch)- Clean up trunk to a height of 4 metres, reduce branches back growing towards house to give maximum 5 metres clearance from house (1 Garrow), Remove ivy from the trunks subject to Tree Preservation Order No.1 1988	Objection. The trees are not within the applicant's property but on a grass verge and are very prominent. The proposed works would have a seriously detrimental impact on the street scene
09.04.2025	25/00406/FUL	35 Turnstone Longfield Kent DA3 7NR	The erection of a part two storey side/part single storey side and rear extension with new roof continuing along existing ground floor projection, together with the demolition of existing detached garage and internal alterations	No objection
09.04.2025	24/01398/FUL	Land At Brickfield Farm Close Longfield Kent DA3 7PJ	Development of four residential dwellings (all single storey) with associated private amenity space and landscaping. Creation of car parking for the proposed development and for Tuppence House (including provision of spaces to the west of the building).	Objection to this revised plan as the site is designated Green Belt and the proposal does not meet the very special consideration requirement for development in the Green Belt

Quarterly Reconciliation: Noted by all that the quarterly reconciliation checks had been completed by Cllr. Smith. Cllr. Brown passed on his thanks.

Internal Audit 2024/2025: Noted by all that the internal audit was completed by Elkerlodge Accounting and that reports and end of year accounts would be sent for approval at May meeting.

Council resolved the following:

Invoice Elkerlodge Accounting

Payment £480.00

Proceed with Elkerlodge Accounting for internal audit for coming year 2025/2026

47/2025 Lighting/Street Scenes and Allotments: Clerk updated the Council on the pending introduction of half hourly monitoring for UMSO (unmetered supply) streetlights within the Parish. Costs for this are yet unknown, the Clerk has contacted UK Power Networks to see if any further information on the process and costs is available.

Current Streetlights contractor advised of 4% increase in costs for 2025/2026. Clerk confirmed the increase had been factored in the budget line.

Action: Clerk to continue to update Parish Council when further information is available.

48/2025 Grants and Community

Longfield Hill Trees: Clerk confirmed works booked for 10th June 2025 and residents had been advised on the date.

Long Valley Hall: Clerk provided information on current hall hire rates and terms and conditions along with year-end spend and income including details of increased costs from current suppliers for the coming year.

After discussion and review of information, the Council resolved to increase hire rates across the board. Regular hirers would be given 3 months' notice (increase to take effect from 1st August 2025). Increases to take effect immediately for any new bookings. Potential to charge for storage will be reviewed at a later date.

Any new hirers will only be able to hire the hall Monday to Sunday will be from 8am to 11pm. Any current bookings until midnight will be honoured.

The Council resolved that all payments for hall hire were to be made by BACS transfer and that cash would no longer be accepted. This was also to safeguard the Clerk and hall volunteer. The damage deposit refund charged for each hire will be increased to £150.00 and would be returned within 7 days after hire once checks had taken place. This will be included on the booking form.

Action: Clerk to update booking form and terms and conditions for immediate use and communicate upcoming increases with all regular hirers.

Gravesham Life Saving – Council approved donation of £100.00 for providing the recent Defibrillator training at Long Valley Hall.

Beams Donation – Resolved that a donation could be reviewed at a future date.

Parish Community Event 2025: Resolved to proceed with a film night event on 9th August 2025. Due to sunset times the film would start need to start at around 9pm. Clerk will send the link to all Councillors to enable them to put forward two suggestion each for films in the eighteen plus age range.

Action: Clerk to confirm date with supplier and liaise with Cllr Stafford and Cllr Sandher to propose the finer details for approval with the Council. Clerk would raise event request with Dartford Borough Council when details have been agreed.

49/2025 Kent Association of Local Councils: None

50/2025 Borough and Parish Councils Forum: None

51/2025 Dartford Borough Council: Cllr. Stafford shared information that previously, the Parish Council had requested a review of disabled parking outside the GP surgery in Kent Road, and enquired if an update had been received.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Dartford Borough Council Parking Enforcement.

52/2025 Kent County Council: None.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Next meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday 20th May 2025