

LONGFIELD & NEW BARN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Meeting on Tuesday 20th May 2025

at Church Hall, Main Road, Longfield

Meeting commenced at 7.50pm

Those present: Cllr. Steve Brown (Chair), Cllr. J Kite (Vice) Cllr. Roger Pefitt, Cllr. Phil Smith, Cllr. Tony Mack, Cllr. Mike Tamber, Cllr. Gurvinder Sandher

Clerk: Paula Henney

Apologies accepted for absence: Cllr. C Stafford, Cllr. J MacDonald, Cllr. P Denman

Members of the public present: None

53/2025 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. Kite is the Leader of Dartford Borough Council, Director of Leigh Academy Trust and Director of Ebbsfleet Development Committee, Director of Dartford Football Club and Life President of Southfleet Cricket Club.
- Cllr. Sandher is CEO of Kent Equality Cohesion Council and Cohesion Plus and Non-Exec Kent & Medway NHS Trust.
- Cllr. Perfitt is a member of Dartford Borough Council, Chair of the Development Control Board at DBC.
- Cllr. Tamber is retired Postmaster and owner of property in Longfield.
- Cllrs. T Mack and Smith had none to declare.

54/2025 Minutes of last meeting: 22nd April 2025

Minutes of last meeting approved by all present. Proposed by Cllr. Kite and seconded by Cllr. Perfitt.

55/2025 Matters arising not recorded elsewhere: None.

One Co-Option application was received and in attendance. After brief introduction by the applicant, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Catherine Stollery to Longfield and New Barn Parish Council. Declaration of acceptance and Code of Conduct were signed and witnessed.

Cllr. Stollery joined the meeting as a Co-opted Councillor at 8.10pm

Action: Cllr. C Stollery to complete DPI documentation and send to Clerk within 28 days. Clerk to send documents to Dartford Borough Council and update website.

56/2025: Chairman's Report:

Cllr. Brown apologised for the change in the meeting date and thanked everyone present for attending.

57/2025: Correspondence:

The Clerk provided further clarification on correspondence **Items 2 and 9**. No further action was required.

Item 5: Communication received from resident with regards to speeding and lack of crossing on New Barn Road. Clerk advised this had also been raised with KCC Highways by the resident.

Action: It was resolved the Clerk would ask KCC Highways for latest data on speed and accidents/incidents and further guidance.

58/2025 Public Question Time: None

59/2025 Committee Reports and Recommendations

Accounts for 2024/2025:

To approve internal audit report by Elkerlodge 2024/2025 and approve as internal auditor for 2025/2026 audit – received and approved by all present.

AGAR 2024/2025 – Year end accounts, bank reconciliations and AGAR documentation was reviewed and approved by all present and signed by Chairman and Clerk. It was noted the asset register for contents in Long Valley Hall may need to be reviewed. Cllr. Smith raised a request as to whether the Parish Council could share the expenditure on yearly park repairs with the community. It was suggested this could be shared by means of a flyer/poster for the notice boards/website.

Action: Clerk to prepare a draft for review.

Action: Clerk to check and update asset register if required.

Public Rights of Inspection: Proposed dates of 3rd June 2025 to 14th July 2025 were approved by all present.

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

Planning: Cllr. Mack presented on behalf of the Planning group and agreed by the full council meeting. It was noted that more details were required for 25/00513/TPO.

Date	Reference	Property	Description	Comments
24.04.2025	25/00397/FUL	Anchorage The Drive Longfield Kent DA3 7LX	Demolition of existing conservatory, single garage and utility room and erection of two x storey side extensions	No objection
07.05.2025	25/00499/FUL	3 Turnstone Longfield Kent DA3 7NR	Demolition of existing side attached garage and erection of a single storey side/rear to form annexe	No objection
09.05.2025	25/00458/TPO	46 The Old Yews Longfield Kent DA3 7JA	Application for 1no. Thuja tree to reduce the crown overall by approximately 50 per cent as per annotated photo, subject to Tree Preservation Order No.5 1973	Parish would like to request DBC Planning officer to take a look at the property at the impact this work would have on the surrounding community.
09.05.2025	25/00459/TPO	42 The Old Yews Longfield Kent DA3 7JS	Application for mature Layland Cypress screen to reduce the height to approximately 6-7M to even oleevl, reduce/trim both sides hard back whilst retaining green foliage throughout, reduce both ends hard back by approximately 50% as per annotated photo and fell the single Cypress tree, subject to Tree Preservation Order No.5 1973	Parish would like to request DBC Planning officer to take a look at the property at the impact this work would have on the surrounding community.
12.05.2025	25/00513/TPO	2 North Riding Fawkham Avenue Longfield Kent DA3 7HS	Application for the crown reduction of one Hornbeam (T1) in the front garden. Sympathetic reduction of approximately 1.5M to reduce the overall height and spread of the tree,	Concerns over reduction of Hornbeam due to being an important habitat for birds and perhaps any work

			taking the height from approximately 17M to 15.5M and spread from 16M to 14.5M. Subject to Tree Preservation Order No.4 1987	should be avoided until after September.
12.05.2025	25/00343/FUL (Retrospective)	8 Oakwood Rise Longfield Kent DA3 7PA	Conversion of existing bungalow into two separate dwellings (retrospective)	No objection
15.05.2025	25/00476/FUL	Woodlawn New Barn Road Longfield Kent DA3 7JE	Demolition of existing bungalow and garage and the erection of a detached dwelling with attached garage, associated landscaping and driveway alterations	No objection

Councillors Allowance year ending 31st March 2025: Five requests received from elected Councillors and approved for payment by all present.

60/2025 Lighting/Street Scenes and Allotments:

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

Renewal of Streetlights Maintenance Contract presented and approved by all present – Invoice £2306.36 (incl VAT) approved. Proposed Cllr. Sandher seconded Cllr. Perfitt.

Allotments: Clerk confirmed there were 6 remaining overgrown plots across the two sites and these were being progressed and offered for a FOC period. Proposal to review in one month and obtain quotes for clearing if plots had not been let. Agreed by all present.

61/2025 Grants and Community

Citizens Advice – Dartford Borough Council currently support Citizens Advice and as this was not a community specific request this was not supported by the current budget.

Parish Community Event 2025: After general discussion it was agreed to see if an open-air film night event could be booked for a Friday to possibly provide an early start date (films start based around sun-set times).

Action: Clerk to check supplier availability for different dates/start times.

Play Areas: Clerk confirmed ROSPA annual inspections would take place during July 2025 and confirmed the previously agreed planned maintenance by Playfix (£5190.00) for The Oval Play space would start week commencing 2nd June 2025.

Long Valley Hall: Cllr Perfitt confirmed repairs to the hot water tank had been completed and new timers had been installed to aid in reduction of costs and burden on elements and thermostats.

62/2025 Kent Association of Local Councils: It was agreed by all present that Cllr. MacDonald could attend the EGM on 19th June 2025 in an “information gathering capacity” on behalf of the Parish Council. No other members were available to attend.

63/2025 Borough and Parish Councils Forum: None

64/2025 Dartford Borough Council: Cllr. Kite advised that business was continuing as usual after the recent elections. (Councillor Sandher left the meeting at 8.55pm).

65/2025 Kent County Council: Clerk provided an update from the online HIP meeting with Highways. Build outs at Longfield Hill had been identified by the Parish Council as a danger following on from Cllr. Smith and Stafford's on-site meeting earlier in the year. Due to the potential high costs involved in changing or removal, Highways recommended that community engagement would be the start of the process before costs become involved. General discussions were held around speed/perceptions around the community and specifically correspondence Item 5 – (speeding and crossing at New Barn Road). It

was resolved that the Council should seek advice from Highways and request current accident and speed data to see if it supports change.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Next meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday 24th June 2025