

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 7.00pm at Longford Village Hall

Attendance noted as

C Young (Chair of Longford Parish Council), C Byers, K Doherty, R Harris, D Melvin, G Bocking (all Longford Parish Councillors), John Kay (Clerk to Longford PC) and two members of the public.

Apologies: L Gough (Longford Parish Cllr)

1. Welcome from the Chair

The Chair of Longford Parish Council, Cllr C Young welcomed the members of the public and opened the meeting.

2. Chair's Annual Report

Cllr C Young read out the annual report – see appendix 1

3. Public Participation

The members of the public had no matters to raise.

Meeting closed at 7:10pm.

Signed

Date

Appendix 1

Chair's Annual Report 2025/26

As Chair of Longford Parish Council, I am pleased to present this annual report summarising the council's activities and achievements during the 2025/26 year. The council continues to work on behalf of residents to maintain local facilities, support community organisations and enhance the parish environment.

Community Facilities and Improvements

The Parish Council has continued to invest in local facilities. Two rubbish bins on the playing field were replaced to help keep the area clean and welcoming for users.

In addition, a bin on Tewkesbury Road was replaced, and arrangements were made for a new bin to be installed near the bus stop on the Whittington Estate, helping to improve cleanliness and convenience in other parts of the parish.

New motion-activated lighting has also been installed at the village hall to improve safety and efficiency.

Through a successful grant application to Gloucestershire County Councillor Sarah Hands, funding was secured for new cycle racks at the village hall, encouraging sustainable travel and supporting community use of the facility.

The council is also aware that the children's play area will require updating in the coming years. Funding has been earmarked within the council's budget to support future improvements, ensuring that the play area continues to provide a safe and enjoyable space for local families.

Maintaining Community Spaces

Regular working party mornings have taken place on the playing field, with councillors working alongside volunteers to keep the area tidy and well maintained.

The council has also taken on responsibility for maintaining roadside grass verges within the parish, a task previously carried out by the local authority. Verge cutting will now take place twice a month during the growing season to help keep the parish looking well cared for.

Environment and Green Spaces

Improving the local environment remains a priority. Councillors and volunteers planted hundreds of spring bulbs in the community orchard area, creating an attractive display this spring.

Additional fruit trees have been planted on the playing field, further enhancing the area for residents and wildlife.

During the year, the Parish Council worked with Bromford regarding the felling of two poplar trees on land opposite Victoria Court. While it is always regrettable to lose established trees, this action was necessary due to the trees causing damage to nearby property through their root systems. The trees were also heavily affected by mistletoe and showed signs of decay. Following discussions, Bromford agreed to undertake the works.

Looking ahead, further planting projects are planned. A silver birch tree donated by Gloucestershire County Council will be planted in the wildflower area on Fircroft Road. In addition, hedging plants donated by Gloucestershire County Council will be planted at the allotments on Lewis Avenue, helping to strengthen the site boundary while providing additional habitat for wildlife.

Signed

Date

Allotments

The parish allotments continue to be in high demand, with a waiting list in place. They remain a valued community asset for residents wishing to grow their own produce.

The annual allotment competition will also take place again this year, with prizes awarded for the best kept allotments. This continues to be a popular event and encourages a high standard of care across the site.

Community Engagement

The council has supported improved engagement with residents by facilitating drop-in sessions with local Police Community Support Officers at the village hall.

A constituency surgery was also hosted with our Member of Parliament, Cameron Thomas, giving residents the opportunity to raise issues and discuss matters of concern locally.

Working with Others

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Longford Village Hall Committee and Longford Football Club, supporting community activities and shared facilities.

We have also worked with neighbouring parish councils to raise concerns about sewerage issues affecting the area.

Governance and Administration

Councillors have undertaken updated training during the year to support their roles.

The council also contributed to the consultation on local government reorganisation in Gloucestershire, supporting a single unitary authority for the county. A decision is expected in July 2026.

During the year, our longstanding Parish Clerk resigned, and the council would like to thank her for her excellent service. A new Parish Clerk has since been appointed and is supporting the council's work.

Finance

When setting the budget for the 2026/27 financial year, the Parish Council carefully considered its financial commitments alongside the pressures facing households. After reviewing the council's finances and planned expenditure, councillors agreed that the parish precept would remain unchanged for 2026/27.

Looking Ahead

With local government reorganisation on the horizon, the council is preparing for the changes ahead. We currently have two councillor vacancies and will be looking to fill these over the coming year to ensure continued effective representation for residents.

The council will continue to focus on maintaining and improving local facilities, enhancing green spaces, and supporting the community.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our Parish Clerk, volunteers and local organisations for their continued support and commitment to the parish.

Signed

Date