LONG CRENDON PARISH COUNCIL

Sports Pavillion, Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, HP18 9BS

Email: Clerk@Longcrendon-pc.gov.uk Telephone: 01844-396140

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 19.30

PRESENT: -

Paul Davies	Councillor & Chairman Parish Council (Chairman of this meeting**)**
Alex Griffiths	Councillor
Sandy Hooper	Councillor
Candy Cozens	Councillor
Nigel Allen	Councillor
Helen Passingham-Hughes	Councillor
Greg Lismore	Parish Clerk

2025.28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - None – all members present

2025.29 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - None

2025.30 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - 6 members of the public was present including Councillor elect David Cooper who having been elected in the uncontested poll due to take place on 1st May 2025 will take office at the next PC meeting. Councillor Elect Cooper gave a 'self-introduction' and was thanked by the members present.

2025.31 MINUTES and MATTERS ARISING. The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2025 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record of proceedings.

2025.32 CLERK'S REPORT AND ACTION LIST.

- The Clerk confirmed he had been supporting the Parish and County council election process including delivering nomination papers and posting election notices as required..
- The transaction to transfer the public open space at Wainwrights to the Parish Council is still in progress with our conveyancing solicitor.
- The depleted salt boxes replenishment at Elm Trees, Coltman Avenue and Highfield has been ordered from Buckinghamshire Council and paid for but still not yet been done.
- The Parish Council has completed the transfer of ownership of street lights by SPITFIRE BESPOKE HOMES Ltd on the adopted parts of the new housing estate at Chearsley Road. The Buckinghamshire Council confirmed that they had included the 7 street lamps on their adoption map. Some of the street lights are on un-adopted parts of the estate and will remain in private ownership.
- The new public bench for the Wainwrights Meadow (paid for by personal donation) has been delivered to the PC and is awaiting installation. The Parish Council will confirm the exact siting next month and instruct contractors.
- 3 "NO DOGS" signs have been purchased to be placed at the skate park play area. Dogs are not permitted in this area (there is a large amenity field next door where dogs are welcome) and as there is evidence on recent dog foulings in the play area and on the play equipment used by village children the responsible adults should ensure they do not bring their animals into this play area.

- A significant number of street lights have been repaired. The public are requested to keep the Parish Council informed of any lamps that fail in the future as if we don't know about them we can't get them fixed.
- 2024-2025 AGAR preparation has commenced.
- Dealt with overflowing bins and the filthy state of the pavilion changing rooms after recent sporting events. The pavilion users have been asked to be more careful in future.
- The Clerk met with Cllr. Greg Smith and 2 officials from Buckinghamshire Council re the request to design a safe pedestrian crossing on Bicester Road adjacent Carters Lane. The outcome was not positive in that Buckinghamshire Council confirmed they did not have a "pot" we can bid for to fund these kind of safety improvements that our Ward Councillor was requesting. They would only act if there were funds provided as a byproduct of local property development via S106 or Community Infrastructure Levy contributions. The Buckinghamshire Council were asked to provide a cost estimate for doing the preliminary technical design of a solution based on what the Parish Council had asked them previously. We expect some update next month.
- A waste skip will be ordered for use by the allotment holders later this month.

2025.33 PLANNING -

25/00663/APP	Notley Farmhouse, Chearsley Road	No Objection
25/00844/VRC	Land West of Sandy Lane (Northern Parcel)	No Objection

2025.34 FINANCE

The disbursements for March 2025 were approved.

The balance on the current account as at the time of the meeting was £62,753.74

The Clerk confirmed the S137 limits for 2025-2026 financial year have been set at max £11.10 per elector by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (increased from £10.81 in 2024-2025 financial year). The increase reflects the percentage rise in the retail price index between September 2023 and September 2024, in accordance with Schedule 12B of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 137 of the Act allows Parish Councils to incur expenditure for purposes that benefit their communities when no specific statutory power is available.

2025.35 PROJECT UPDATES

- **2025.35.1 Road Safety** - The 4 new Speed Indicating Devices have been installed in the Parish. Unfortunately they had not been initialised with the correct speed limits when activated. This was corrected as soon as the Parish Council were actually made aware of the issue. The village led SPEEDWATCH activity continues to help with deterring speeding motorists and is being effective at altering road users behaviours which is much appreciated by the PC and residents who have spoken to us.

- **2025.35.2 S106 Sports & Leisure Project at Recreation Grounds -** UK Power Networks and Thames Water are now engaged and are providing us with accurate costing for the work they will need to complete. Carry forward.
- **2025.35.3 Medical facility on Parish Council land at Chearsley Rd**. We are still awaiting a response from the local Integrated Care Board for this area (part of NHS governance). Carry forward.
- **2025.35.4 Improved access to amenity field at Harroell.** The Parish Council will make some temporary repairs to the fence on Harroell which was previously destroyed by a hit and run driver and is due to be replaced as part of this project. Carry forward.
- **2025.35.5 LED Street Light Project.** E-energy have completed their 'survey' and provided the Parish Council with a quote. A copy will be sent to Councillor elect David Cooper for his edification. Unfortunately it does not sufficiently address our requirements at this time. The business case for the project needs to deliver a cost neutral return over time based on electricity consumption savings. Cllr Helen Passingham-Hughes met on-site with the leadership team at one of our suppliers which was productive. We will proceed with a limited set of repairs to 8 of our street lamps which were classed as urgent in their analysis but have been downgraded from "dangerous". The project is exploring options to perhaps replace some street lamps in the Parish with 'non-heritage' units which are more industrial looking and as this will drive some cost savings and will be looked at more closely. Carry Forward.

2025.27 ANY OTHER BUSINESS –

The Parish Council owned notice board at the Square will be cleaned up and the locks replaced as the original keys were lost many years ago.

The Parish Council will be issuing a 'call for sites' for housing allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan which is currently under development.

The Parish Council confirmed that the creation of a Biodiversity Policy as requested by the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs is in progress for them to adopt. Once adopted the Parish Council will consider if there are any activities over and above the existing activities in place that may help promote further implementation of our policy and are both legally permitted to spend public funds on and appropriate to our Parish.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council election due to be held on 1st May 2025 had insufficient candidates to fill the available seats and was declared UNCONTESTED by the Returning Officer.

Cllr. Nigel Allen proposed and it was agreed that the existing Parish Council owned and maintained website be transferred to the Crendon Crier at nil cost as the content is mostly NOT related to Parish Council matters and it would find a better home under new custodianship. It was further agreed that the Parish Council would acquire a sector specific website from a recognised Council Sector provider and this should be done as soon as practical. The domain already under the control of the Parish Council LONGCRENDON-PC.**GOV**.UK would be used by the Parish Council in future once implemented.

The new rate card from our street light maintenance provider SparkX was noted.

The Parish Council needs to consider what it wishes to do with the U14 playground in the recreation grounds. A Parish Council led project team is required. This will be placed on the agenda for the next PC meeting after the elections in May 2025.

Residents correspondence received in respect of Harroell path was discussed . The response to the author should indicate that the land concerned does not belong to the Parish Council and that they should take their concerns to the land owner or residents management team as appropriate.

Residents correspondence received in respect of the state of the Square and a shopfront was discussed . It was confirmed that the property concerned was not under the control of the Parish Council and whilst there were elements of sympathy with the correspondent there was nothing the Parish Council were able to do in this case.

Repairs to the defective street bench on Chilton Road outside the pensioners bungalows have been ordered and we await the suppliers action.

The bench to be placed on Wainwrights Meadow that was donated by a resident is now with the PC and a site visit to confirm specific location and path/platform needs will take place shortly. The Clerk will also confirm in writing with the current landowner that are in agreement to it's placement prior to the legal transfer of the land to the Parish Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22:10

Print Name: ….....

Signed..... Date.....