

Long Drax Parish Council General Meeting

Held at Drax Sports and Social Club on Wednesday 14/05/2025 @ 7.30pm

(1) Apologies for absence

Joseph Spetch

(2) Present / appointment of new clerk

Roger Turnbull	(Chairperson)	RT
Geoff Haigh	(Vice-Chair)	GH
Gillian Ward		GW
Paul Miles		PM
Jon Whiting	(Clerk)	JW

County Councillor Mike Jordan

RT welcomes newly appointed clerk JW to the meeting. The Parish council thank the previous clerk Michelle Thorne for her many years of service to the PC. GH will arrange for a token of thanks, agreed to be flowers, to be sent to MT.

(3) Minutes of last General meeting (January 2025)

Minutes were distributed to the Councillors via email prior to the meeting and were accepted as a true and accurate record at the meeting.

Flood defence work has commenced as planned in February/March 2025.

(4) Finance

Long Drax Finances – To date the balance is £2138.10

Parish Precept of £1300 was received in April.

A mandate has been submitted to Virgin Money Bank adding JS and GH as signatories along with the new clerk's details. A proposal and discussion in regards to moving to online banking was agreed by all Council members present. JW to make enquiries with Virgin money in regards to moving to online banking.

Long Drax Parish council finances 2024/2025 were audited by Georgina Ashton along with RT and JW. No issues identified. Council members present at the meeting agree with annual governance statement (numbered 1 – 8 inclusive). Certificate of exemption, annual governance statement and accounting statements signed at meeting by RT and JW. Relevant sections of AGAR form to be sent via email to PKF Littlejohn by JW.

Invoices have been received and are to be paid for, from Mooi Design (website), Brian Hopper (2024 audit) and Zurich (insurance renewal) - JW

(5) Traffic issues between Read School and Baxter Hall

GH updated the Council that further repairs have now been carried out on the verges along Main Road. There have been no updates to the Council from the Bursar of Read School.

(6) Planning

No applications

(7) Correspondence

- North Yorkshire Boundary Commission Review – no changes to PC boundary
- April 2025 Parish newsletter from PSCO Annie Newbould – No issues for PC
- Easter Green Link 2 (EGL2) project at the Wren Hall Converter Station site - full update from RT
- Defibrillator status check – recently checked with no issues identified
- Pipe between Redhouse drain and Black Tom drain Long Drax – update provided by RT
- North Yorkshire Council - Sports Facilities Research – nil return from PC
- North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison: Parish Update March 2025 – RT discussed content
- North Yorkshire Council Parish Liaison: 'Climate Change Adaptation' Webinar – dialled into by RT precise of discussions provided
- Police Drop In Session at Drax Club - attended by RT and JW no matters arising for PC.

(8) Matters Arising

- Proposed request to apply for road speed limits with Long Drax parish – discussed at length. Issues agreed to be the manner of driving rather than excessive speed. Particularly an issue at beginning and end of business at The Read School day. MJ does not believe an application to reduce / change speed limit would be supported. PC to explore funding / grant for purchase of signage (reduce speed / wildlife) to be placed on private (not highways) land.
- Drax Power Station Council liaison meeting update – RT attended, the minutes of the meeting were circulated to all PC members.
- Green Link 2 (EGL2) meeting update RT provided full update including extension of works and budget restrictions.
- Turning circle improvements – awaits issues to be resolved concerning grant / funding. RT has forwarded a plan. Interested parties agreement in progress.
- Langrick Road pavement – has now been sprayed and de-weeded, expected work on the banking to be completed by August / September 2025.
- Community emergency plan – remains in progress

- Parish Council communications – PC agree for a messaging app to be created to facilitate lines of communication between meetings. JW will create a Long Drax Parish Council WhatsApp group to include all members of PC and clerk. PC agree for a new website page to be created within a budget of £400. GH will lead. When the web page is created local businesses will be approached for potential funding.

(9) Any other business

- A caravan and vehicle, believed connected, has appeared in the field adjacent to Wren Hall Lane. This land is a continuation of the caravan sited at The Old Nursery. It is believed the occupier is working at the Green Link 2 / Wren Hall Lane site. No planning permission for the aforementioned caravan at this site has been applied for. There is also a believed occupancy change at The Old Nursery with this site now being occupied by two adults only. NYC to be contacted in relation to both issues with a request that the suspension of the enforcement notice at The Old Nursery be reviewed.
- Contact to be made with previous clerk Michelle Thorpe to close previous Long Drax Parish Council webpage.

Meeting closed 21:02hrs

Next meeting – Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7.30pm (Drax Sports & Social Club)