Loggerheads Parish Council
Loggerheads Community Fire Station
Market Drayton Road
Loggerheads
Market Drayton
Shropshire
TF9 4EZ

T: 01630 673426
E: clerk@loggerheads-pc.gov.uk
W: www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk

In attendance: Cllrs Barber, Beales, Brown, Butterworth, Fox, Lee, Love, Roberts, Sedgley, Sheard, Swan, Swetman, Tomson and Wellard.

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2023

1. To receive and consider apologies for absence

   Apologies were received from Cllr Hodgkins.

2. To note declarations of Members' interests

   There were no declarations.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 16th October 2023

   Resolved: To sign the Minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Question Time

   A resident made a comment regarding the Mucklestone Wood Road development and the proposed traffic calming measures. The resident believes the traffic calming measures could cause damage to existing trees during the installation. A group of residents will be at Ashley Memorial Hall on Saturday 25th between 2pm – 5pm, and Sunday 26th between 10am – 1pm.

   A resident raised a question by email in relation to the traffic calming measures being proposed for the Mucklestone Wood Road development. The resident has been advised that comments must be directed to the Borough Council as the local Planning Authority, and the Parish Council is yet to take a view on the application.

5. To note, consider and approve payments to the value of £5,949.11 as shown in the attached report

   Resolved: That spend of £5,949.11 is approved.

6. To consider matters relating to the budget for the financial year 2024/25 **(attached)**

   The meeting considered version 8 of the draft budget proposal for 2024/25. There were no amendments.

7. To receive and note the External Report for the financial year 2022/23 **(attached)**

Noted

8. To receive updates from Chairs of Committees: -

a. Finance and General Purposes Committee
Chair: Cllr M. Lee Vice Chair: Cllr L. Beales

i. To consider becoming a Full Member of Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network at a cost of £75 per annum

Resolved: To become a Full Member of Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network at a cost of £75 per annum

ii. To consider the following governance documents: -

- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy
- Community and Social Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Cookie Policy
- Environmental and Sustainability Policy
- Information Security Policy
- Internet, Email and Social Media Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Quality Policy
- Standing Orders for Contracts
- Treasury Management Policy

Resolved: To adopt the abovementioned governance documents en bloc.

b. Planning and Environment Committee
Chair: VACANT Vice Chair: Cllr H. Roberts

i. To consider planning applications not having been reviewed by Planning and Environment Committee

Application No: 23/00002/OUT
Proposal: Outline planning application for the erection of up to 150 dwellings, associated infrastructure and open space (with all matters reserved except for the details of the main site access). (AMENDED DESCRIPTION AND PLANS RECEIVED)
Location: Land North of Mucklestone Wood Lane and East of Rock Lane

Resolved: To object to the abovementioned application on the grounds under LNPP1 and LNPT1 of the Loggerheads Neighbourhood Plan.

Application No: 23/00854/FUL
Proposal: Reconstruction of Bottom Lodge (& use as ancillary security lodge) & adjacent outbuilding (for associated plant and machinery), along with entrance improvements to incorporate hard and soft landscaping works and installation of gates

Location: Old Springs Hall Stoneyford Market Drayton

Resolved: To make no objection nor submit any comment.

Application No: 23/00529/NMA
Proposal: Application for a non-material amendment to planning permission 23/00529/FUL for alterations to floor plans, elevations and garage position as per associated documentation submitted.
Location: Napley Lodge Farm Napley Road Napley

Resolved: To make no objection nor submit any comment.

Application No: 23/00878/FUL
Proposal: Single storey rear extension
Location: Lisieux Church Road Ashley

Resolved: To make no objection nor submit any comment.

ii. To note the following applications having been decided by NuLBC: -

Application No: 23/00424/FUL
Proposal: Construction of two replacement livestock buildings (including demolition of existing buildings) and construction of new access track.
Location: Bridge Farm London Road Knighton
Decision: **Refused**

Noted

c. Personnel Committee
Chair: Cllr A. Swetman Vice Chair: Cllr D. Swan

NONE

9. To consider the following Member items: -

NONE

10. To receive reports from Staffordshire County Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council and Staffordshire Police

a. Staffordshire County Council

The Highways Transformation Programme continues to bring more local division work. Mucklestone road work is imminent, for which there is written confirmation this is in the Work Plan, with Chestnut Road to be included, if possible, along with the reinstallation of the signage including the three-way sign on the A53 towards Market Drayton.

The Staffordshire Warmer Homes Programme has been launched with a £10.5 million grant from the Government to run over the next 2 years. More details can be found on the SCC website and MyStaffs App. The aim of the scheme is targeting more rural areas of deprivation where households have not got any access to mains Gas. There are eligibility criteria in place such as those on certain benefits and total

household income. The first round of funding has increased the energy rating for approximately 560 households, reducing carbon and helping those in fuel poverty with their energy bills in the run up to the Winter season.

With the holiday period just around the corner, people still in need of the flu and Covid-19 vaccinations are being urged to get jabbed as soon as possible to ensure they are protected during Christmas and New Year. More than 250,000 people in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent have stepped up for their vaccines, keeping both themselves and the wider community safe. With the risk of Covid-19 variants lurking pregnant women, older residents and vulnerable groups must remain vigilant. A full list of eligible groups can be found on the NHS website, including a range of venues where they can obtain their Vaccines.

b. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council

There was no Borough Council report.

c. Staffordshire Police

There was no Staffordshire Police report.

11. To receive updates from Members having attended external meetings

Cllr Fox mentioned the recent Open Day at St. Mary's School was well worth attending. If there are any further Open Days, all residents are encouraged to attend and support the school.

12. To identify additional training needs within the Council

NONE

13. **It is recommended that Council considers a resolution under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and representatives of the press from the meeting during the consideration of Item 14 on the grounds that matters contain sensitive information and by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.**

Resolved: To enter closed session thereby excluding the Press and Public.

14. To note matters relating to staffing **(circulated)**

The meeting noted an agreement has been reached regarding a national pay offer for local government workers, and that new pay scales have since been issued as a result.

15. To note the dates of **Loggerheads Parish Council** meetings for December 2023: -

Planning and Environment Committee	7pm, Monday 4th December at Loggerheads Community Fire Station
Noted	
Finance and General Purposes	7pm, Monday 11th December 2023 at Loggerheads Community Fire Station

Committee

Noted

Full Council 7pm, Monday 18th December 2023 at Loggerheads Community Fire Station

Noted

Chair: Cllr A. Swetman
Clerk: B. Minshall

Close of Meeting: 19:44pm

Signed…….

AGENDA ITEM 5

Report Statement

Report Purpose: To note, consider and approve payments to the value of £5,949.11

Version Control: V1

Author(s): Clerk and RFO

1. Report Summary

The report outlines the list of invoices which have been received, and the payments which are due to be made for the month of November 2023.

2. Position

Date	Supplier	Amount (£)
25/11/2023	B. Minshall – Salary	£2,321.00
25/11/2023	G. Cheshire – Salary	£1,112.80
30/11/2023	8x8 – Telephone	£12.00
15/11/2023	BT – Broadband	£73.14
08/11/2023	FuelGenie+	£74.50
01/11/2023	HMRC	£2,227.55
21/11/2023	Home & Office – Paper Towels	£46.74
25/11/2023	Mazars LLP – External Audit	£378.00
10/11/2023	O2 – Mobile Phones	£32.40
13/11/2023	Pickerz – Litter Picker and Bag Holder	£18.98
25/11/2023	Scribe – Q2 Bank Reconciliation	£30.00
		£5,949.11

BUDGET PLANNING 2024 - 25

	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	VAR
Payroll	36,000.00	52,000.00	(16,000.00)
Tax and Employers NI	0.00	7,300.00	(7,300.00)
Pension	0.00	3,000.00	(3,000.00)
Payroll Admin	300.00	300.00	0.00
Grounds Maintenance Officer	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00
Allotments	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00
Consultancy & Legal	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Expenses	300.00	2,000.00	(1,700.00)
Cllr Expenses - £1,000.00			
Officer Expenses - £1,000.00			
Grounds Maintenance	8,000.00	10,000.00	(2,000.00)
Vehicle - £2,000.00			
Fuel - £6,000.00			
Consumables - £2,000.00			
IT / Stationery / Printing	4,000.00	3,900.00	100.00
Printing - £200.00			
Telephones - £700.00			
Internet - £1,000.00			
Webhosting - £2,000.00			
Insurance / Audit	2,000.00	3,000.00	(1,000.00)
Loan Repayment	1,600.00	1,600.00	0.00
Loan Repayment	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
Parish Events	1,000.00	2,000.00	(1,000.00)
Play Equipment	0.00	16,360.00	(16,360.00)
Almington - £4,000.00			
Bell Orchard - £4,000.00			
Knighton Railway - £4,000.00			
Tadgedale Brook - £4,000.00			
Play Area Inspections - £360.00			
Room Hire	400.00	400.00	0.00
S137 Grants	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
SIDs	2,100.00	4,200.00	(2,100.00)
Subscriptions	1,000.00	3,075.00	(2,075.00)
CCIN - £250.00			
CMLNPN - £75.00			
CPRE - £40.00			
Scribe - £2,000.00			
Shropshire Union Canal - £30.00			
SPCA / NALC - £600.00			
Staffs Playing Field Ass - £30.00			
Support Staffordshire - £30.00			
Training	1,000.00	2,000.00	(1,000.00)
Utilities	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
TOTAL	**92,300.00**	**125,235.00**	(32,935.00)
	93,419.36		
	94,000.00		

EARMARKED RESERVES	
Delegation	1,000.00
Loggerheads Library	1,000.00
Elections	4,000.00
TOTAL	6,000.00

INCOME	
Allotments	792.00
Burntwood	800.00
Council Tax Support Grant	2,408.00
Wayleave	12.64
TOTAL	**4,012.64**

TOTAL REQUIRED	**127,222.36**
	128,000

Precept 2023/24	46.12365064	
		16.3014524
Precept 2024/25	62.42510304	
	62.80667321	16.68302257

Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23 Form 3

To be completed by Local Councils, Internal Drainage Boards and other Smaller Authorities*:

- **where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; or**
- **where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less but that:**
  - **are unable to certify themselves as exempt (fee payable); or**
  - **have requested a limited assurance review (fee payable)**

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23

1. Every smaller authority in England that either received gross income or incurred gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 **must** complete Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return at the end of each financial year in accordance with *Proper Practices.*
2. **The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is made up of three parts, pages 3 to 6:**
   - The **Annual Internal Audit Report must** be completed by the authority's internal auditor.
   - **Sections 1 and 2 must** be completed and approved by the authority.
   - **Section 3** is completed by the external auditor and will be returned to the authority.
3. The authority **must** approve Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, before approving Section 2, Accounting Statements, and both **must** be approved and published on the authority website/webpage **before 1 July 2023.**
4. An authority with either gross income or gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 or an authority with neither income nor expenditure exceeding £25,000, but which is unable to certify itself as exempt, or is requesting a limited assurance review, **must** return to the external auditor by email or post (not both) **no later than 30 June 2023.** Reminder letters will incur a charge of £40 +VAT:
   - the Annual Governance and Accountability Return Sections 1 and 2, together with
   - a bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2023
   - an explanation of any significant year on year variances in the accounting statements
   - notification of the commencement date of the period for the exercise of public rights
   - Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

Unless requested, do not send any additional documents to your external auditor. Your external auditor will ask for any additional documents needed.

Once the external auditor has completed the limited assurance review and is able to give an opinion, the Annual Governance and Accountability **Section1, Section 2 and Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate** will be returned to the authority by email or post.

Publication Requirements

Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, authorities must publish the following information on the authority website/webpage:

Before 1 July 2023 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration that the accounting statements are as yet unaudited;
- **Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23**, approved and signed, page 4
- **Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2022/23**, approved and signed, page 5

Not later than 30 September 2023 authorities **must** publish:

- Notice of conclusion of audit
- **Section 3 - External Auditor Report and Certificate**
- **Sections 1 and 2 of AGAR** including any amendments as a result of the limited assurance review.

It is recommended as best practice, to avoid any potential confusion by local electors and interested parties, that you also publish the Annual Internal Audit Report, page 3.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return constitutes the annual return referred to in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Throughout, the words 'external auditor' have the same meaning as the words 'local auditor' in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

**for a complete list of bodies that may be smaller authorities refer to schedule 2 to the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.*

Guidance notes on completing Form 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2022/23

- The authority **must** comply with *Proper Practices* in completing Sections 1 and 2 of this AGAR. *Proper Practices* are found in the *Practitioners' Guide** which is updated from time to time and contains everything needed to prepare successfully for the financial year-end and the subsequent work by the external auditor.
- Make sure that the AGAR is complete (no highlighted boxes left empty) and is properly signed and dated. Any amendments must be approved by the authority and properly initialled.
- The authority **should** receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report before approving the Annual Governance Statement and the accounts.
- Use the checklist provided below to review the AGAR for completeness before returning it to the external auditor by email or post (not both) no later than 30 June 2023.
- The Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) must be approved on the same day or before the Accounting Statements (Section 2) and evidenced by the agenda or minute references.
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) must certify the accounts (Section 2) before they are presented to the authority for approval. The authority must in this order; consider, approve and sign the accounts.
- The RFO is required to commence the public rights period as soon as practical after the date of the AGAR approval.
- **You must inform your external auditor about any change of Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer or Chairman, and provide relevant authority owned generic email addresses and telephone numbers.**
- Make sure that the copy of the bank reconciliation to be sent to your external auditor with the AGAR covers all the bank accounts. If the authority holds any short-term investments, note their value on the bank reconciliation. The external auditor must be able to agree the bank reconciliation to Box 8 on the accounting statements **(Section 2, page 5)**. An explanation **must** be provided of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8. More help on bank reconciliation is available in the *Practitioners' Guide**.
- Explain fully significant variances in the accounting statements on **page 5**. Do not just send a copy of the detailed accounting records instead of this explanation. The external auditor wants to know that you understand the reasons for all variances. Include complete numerical and narrative analysis to support the full variance.
- If the bank reconciliation is incomplete or variances not **fully** explained then additional costs may be incurred.
- Make sure that the accounting statements add up and that the balance carried forward from the previous year (Box 7 of 2022) equals the balance brought forward in the current year (Box 1 of 2023).
- The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), on behalf of the authority, **must** set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights of 30 consecutive working days which **must** include the first ten working days of July.
- The authority **must** publish on the authority website/webpage the information required by Regulation 15 (2), Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, including the period for the exercise of public rights and the name and address of the external auditor **before 1 July 2023.**

Completion checklist – 'No' answers mean you may not have met requirements		Yes	No
All sections	Have all highlighted boxes have been completed?	✓	
	Has all additional information requested, including **the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights**, been provided for the external auditor?	✓	
Internal Audit Report	Have all highlighted boxes been completed by the internal auditor and explanations provided?	✓	
Section 1	For any statement to which the response is 'no', has an explanation been published?	✓	
Section 2	Has the Responsible Financial Officer signed the accounting statements before presentation to the authority for approval?	✓	
	Has the authority's approval of the accounting statements been confirmed by the signature of the Chairman of the approval meeting?	✓	
	Has an explanation of significant variations been published where required?	✓	
	Has the bank reconciliation as at **31 March 2023** been reconciled to Box 8?	✓	
	Has an explanation of any difference between Box 7 and Box 8 been provided?	✓	
Sections 1 and 2	Trust funds – have all disclosures been made if the authority as a body corporate is a sole managing trustee? **NB:** do not send trust accounting statements unless requested.		✓

Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices, can be downloaded from **www.nalc.gov.uk** or from **www.ada.org.uk**

Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23

LOGGER HEADS PARISH COUNCIL

https://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk

During the financial year ended 31 March 2023, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2022/23 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.		✓*	
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.		✓*	
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.		✓*	
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓*		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.		✓*	
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓*		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2021/22, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. *(If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2021/22 AGAR tick "not covered")*			✓
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	✓		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations *(during the 2022-23 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2021-22 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).*	✓*		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2021/22 AGAR *(see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes)*		✓*	

O. **(For local councils only)** Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken
22/05/2023

Name of person who carried out the internal audit
MR LEWIS ANDERSON

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit
Lewis Anderson

Date
19/06/2023

***If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).**

****Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).**

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

We acknowledge as the members of:

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		*prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.*
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.		✓	*made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.*
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		*has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.*
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		*during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.*
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.		✓	*considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.*
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		*arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.*
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		*responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.*
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		*disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.*
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A	*has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.*
			✓	

***Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.**

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

19/06/2023

and recorded as minute reference:

8(a)(ii)

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman A. Swetman

Clerk

https://www.loggerheadsparishcouncil.co.uk/

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23 for

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2022 £	31 March 2023 £	*Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.*
1. Balances brought forward	36,246	38,663	*Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.*
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	42,772	70,546	*Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.*
3. (+) Total other receipts	10,343	3,531	*Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.*
4. (-) Staff costs	16,811	18,059	*Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.*
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	1,556	1,556	*Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).*
6. (-) All other payments	22,368	34,802	*Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).*
7. (=) Balances carried forward	48,626	58,323	*Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).*
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	48,626	58,323	*The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – **To agree with bank reconciliation.***
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	103,922	104,640	*The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.*
10. Total borrowings	29,081	28,143	*The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).*

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		*The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.*
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	*The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.*

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2023 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

Date 19/06/2023

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

19/06/2023

as recorded in minute reference:

8(a)(ii)

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2022/23

In respect of **Loggerheads Parish Council**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit,** it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/ .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2023; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2022/23

Except for the matters reported below on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

See separate report.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

See separate report.

3 External auditor certificate 2022/23

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2023.

*We do not certify completion because:

Not applicable.

External Auditor Name

Mazars LLP, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1DF

External Auditor Signature *Mazars LLP* Date **5 November 2023**



Loggerheads Parish Council

External Auditor Continuation Report 2022/2023

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Introduction

This page is part of Section 3 – External Audit Report 2022/2023

The following matters have been raised to draw items to the attention of Loggerheads Parish Council. These matters came to the attention of Mazars LLP during the review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2023. This report must be presented alongside the AGAR to a full meeting of the smaller authority for review.

The review of the annual return may not disclose all shortcomings of the systems as some matters may not have come to the attention of the auditor. For this reason, the matters raised may not be the only ones that exist.

Except for the matters reported below on the basis of our review of the annual return, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The Internal Audit report identified significant weaknesses in financial management during 2022/23 because the cash book was not accurately compiled throughout the year and bank reconciliations were irregular. However, the Council answered yes to assertion 1 of the annual governance statement. The Council should ensure that the recommendations in the internal audit report are implemented and consider answering no to assertion 1 of the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement if these weaknesses remained for a significant part of the 2023/24 financial year.

The Council asserted in its Annual Governance Statement that during 2022/23 it provided proper opportunity for the exercise of public rights, but the completion notice and audit report at the conclusion of the 2021/22 audit were dated after the statutory date of 30 September set by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015). In future, the Council needs to put in place arrangements to ensure that it fully complies with the Accounts and Audit Regulations, noting that delays in resolving issues with the accounts, again meant that the external auditor's report was issued after the statutory deadline of 30 September 2023, so the council will need to answer no to assertion 4 in its 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement.

The Council has not fully implemented recommendations made in 2021/22 external audit reports. The Council answered yes to the relevant assertion in the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement (assertion 7), claiming it has taken appropriate action in respect of audit reports. In future, the Council should ensure that appropriate action in response to audit recommendations is taken within a reasonable time.

The Council has not corrected the following errors at Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return so the Annual Governance and Accountability Return has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices:

- The figures in the March 2022 column were not correctly restated to the values from last year's external audit report. Thus, box 4 was understated by £473, Box 6 was understated by £9,533, boxes 7 and 8 were overstated by £10,0126 and Box 9 was overstated by £233.

In 2023/24 the Council should ensure that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is prepared in accordance with proper practices.

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Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the smaller authority:

The 2022/23 internal audit report identified significant weaknesses in internal control such as not fully complying with financial regulations. The Council has correctly answered no to the relevant assertions in its Annual Governance Statement. The Council should ensure that it implements internal audit recommendations promptly and considers answering no to assertion 2 in 2023/24 if the weaknesses persisted for a significant part of the new financial year.

As acknowledged in the Annual Governance Statement at Section 1 and the Internal Audit report, the Council has not reviewed a formal assessment of its risks in 2022/23. In future, the Council needs to ensure that it carries out an annual assessment of the risks it faces and identifies appropriate mitigating actions recording its consideration at full council before 31 March each year.

As part of its Annual Governance and Accountability Return submission the Council is required to provide for audit explanations for significant variances between the 2021/22 and 2022/23 figures in Section 2. Such explanations support the Council's own understanding of its financial performance. For 2022/23, the Council provided insufficient explanation of its variances because not all variances above the tolerance level were initially explained. Although explanations were subsequently obtained in future, the Council should provide an explanation for all significant variances as part of its AGAR submission.

No other matters came to our attention.

For and on behalf of Mazars LLP

Date: 5 November 2023

mazars

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Mazars is an internationally integrated partnership, specialising in audit, accountancy, advisory, tax and legal services*. Operating in over 90 countries and territories around the world, we draw on the expertise of 40,400 professionals – 24,400 in Mazars' integrated partnership and 16,000 via the Mazars North America Alliance – to assist clients of all sizes at every stage in their development.

*where permitted under applicable country laws.

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W: www.loggerheads-pc.gov.uk

In attendance: Cllrs Butterworth, Fox, Hodgkins, Lee, Love, Sheard, Swan, Swetman and Wellard.

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2023

1. To receive and consider apologies for absence

   Apologies were received from Cllrs Roberts and Beales.

2. To note declarations of Members' interests

   There were no declarations of Members' interests.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Monday 9th October 2023

   Resolved: To sign the Minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. Public Question Time

   There were no Members of the Public in attendance.

5. To note the year-to-date financial position for the Parish Council **(attached)**

   Noted

6. To receive a report from the Member Auditors **– Cllrs Sheard and Wellard**

   Cllrs Sheard and Wellard provided the meeting with a verbal update in relation to the Member Audit which took place at the end of the beginning of November to review the financial accounts for Q2. The Audit identified some duplicate paperwork as well two discrepancies – one relating to HMRC payment, which has since been resolved; and another related to invoicing for the webhosting of the Council's Previous website, which is still under review pending resolution.

7. To consider becoming a Full Member of Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network at a cost of £75 per annum

   Resolved: To recommend to Full Council being a Full Member of Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network at a cost of £75 per annum.

8. To consider matters relating to the budget for the financial year 2024/25

The meeting continued to discuss the budget process for the financial year 2024/25, which is now on version 8, having seen some minor amendments since the October meetings to reflect recent clarification around costings.

9. To consider the following grant applications, and make a recommendation to Full Council
   a. Bloomin' Ashley – £200.00

   Resolved: To award a grant of £200.00 to Bloomin' Ashley subject to receipt of the requisite documentation.

10. To consider the following governance documents: -

    a. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy - amend
    b. Community and Social Policy
    c. Community Engagement Policy - amend
    d. Cookie Policy
    e. Environmental and Sustainability Policy
    f. Information Security Policy
    g. Internet, Email and Social Media Policy - amend
    h. Procurement Policy
    i. Quality Policy
    j. Standing Orders for Contracts
    k. Treasury Management Policy

    Resolved: To recommend adoption of the abovementioned Policies to Full Council subject to amendments being made to the Bring Your Own Device, Community Engagement and Internet, Email and Social Media Policies.

11. To consider matters relating to communications

    NONE

12. To consider matters relating to Parish Events

    a. To consider matters relating to the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in 2024 **– Cllr Swan**

       Cllr Swan provided the meeting with a verbal update in relation to preparations being made by the relevant Task and Finish Group. It is anticipated the event will run at The Loggerheads Pub between 13:00 – 16:00 – with staging for live entertainment, the possibility of a Military Vehicle Display and/or flyby carried out by RAF Shawbury as well as involvement by Community Groups and Organisations.

13. To receive updates in relation to ongoing projects

    a. Burntwood Community Area (formerly 'LV1')

       There is now one minor amendment outstanding which prevents the paperwork from being signed; and it is hoped this will be resolved soon.

14. To consider the following Member Items: -

    NONE

15. To note the date of the next **Finance and General Purposes Committee** meeting as being held at **7pm, Monday 11th December 2023** at Loggerheads Community Fire Station

Noted

Chair: Cllr M. Lee
Clerk: B. Minshall

Close of Meeting: 19:31pm

Signed…….

AGENDA ITEM 7

Report Statement

Report Purpose: To consider becoming a Full Member of Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network at a cost of £75 per annum.

Version Control: V1

Author(s): Parish Clerk

1. Report Summary

The report outlines the potential for Loggerheads Parish Council to become a Full Member of Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network at a cost of £75.00 per annum.

2. Position

In July 2023, the Parish Council officially became the recognised Delivery Partner to Staffordshire County Council in delivering the Loggerheads Community Managed Library Service over a 5-year period. As a result of this is it being suggested the Parish Council become a Member of the Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network (CMLNPN).

The CMLNPN helps community managed libraries (CMLs) to run effectively and successfully by sharing ideas, learning, experiences and inspiration. The Network is the result of support demonstrated by the Upper Norwood Library Trust, Libraries Connected, Locality, the Libraries Taskforce and funding from Power to Change: the national network supporting community organisations to be strong and successful.

The vision is to help community managed libraries thrive in their communities. The CMLNPN wants CMLs to: -

- be aware of, and able to grasp opportunities such as funding and advice.
- provide mutual support and learning.
- operate as effectively as possible, to make them sustainable in the long term.
- help community managed libraries to learn from each other, exchange information and good practice.
- collaborate to run learning and networking events.
- create and share resources of benefit to community managed libraries.
- provide a voice to raise issues that matter to community managed libraries,
- draw on learning and good working practices from other peer networks.

Full Membership provides access to a range of resources and support from the Community Libraries Network and beyond including:

- Monthly community libraries sector newsletter.
- A ‘Community Libraries Network Member’ reusable window sticker.

- Free and discounted training, workshops and events.
- Full access to online resources including toolkits, guidance, news and funding opportunities.
- 1-2-1 contact support from a member of the CMLNPN team.
- 15% discount for CMLNPN regional and national conferences.
- Perks from external partners and access to exclusive grants and other opportunities.
- Discounts on products and services.
- Access to the Network Forum.
- Representation on a national scale & national lobbying.

3. Financial Impact

The financial impact to the Parish Council of Full Membership to the Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network is £75.00 per annum.

4. Conclusions

It is concluded that Full Membership of the Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network will be incredibly beneficial to the Parish Council.

5. Considerations Sought

- To become a Full Member of the Community Managed Libraries National Peer Network at a cost of £75.00 per annum.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD) POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Introduction

Loggerheads Parish Council permits Councillors and Officers the use smartphones and tablets of their choosing for council business.

This policy is intended to protect the security and integrity of personal data controlled and processed by Loggerheads Parish Council.

Loggerheads Parish Council reserves the right to revoke this privilege if Councillors and Officers do not abide by the policies and procedures outlined below.

Loggerheads Parish Council Councillors and Officers must agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy to be able to connect their devices to the company network.

Devices and Support

- Smartphones including iPhone, Android, Blackberry and Windows phones are allowed.
- Tablets including iPad and Android are allowed.
- Laptops are allowed.
- Connectivity issues may be supported by ICT services, but this will be on a case-by-case basis and the connectivity issue should be reported to the Clerk.
- The device manufacturer or their carrier should be contacted for operating system or hardware related issues.

Security

- To prevent unauthorised access, devices must be password protected using the features of the device and a strong password is required to access the company network.
- Passwords must be at least six characters and a combination of upper- and lower-case letters with a number and a symbol.
- Passwords must be kept confidential and must not be shared with family members or third parties.
- Passwords must be changed if it is disclosed to another person or discovered.
- Devices must be encrypted.
- The device must lock itself with a password or PIN if it's idle for five minutes.
- Home Wi-Fi networks must be Caution must be exercised when using public Wi-Fi networks as public Wi-Fi networks may not be secure.
- Public data backup and transfer services (Dropbox, Google Drive, must not be used.
- Data must only be stored on internal memory, never on a removable memory cards.
- Rooted (Android) or jailbroken (iOS) devices are strictly forbidden from accessing the

network.

- All data relating to Loggerheads Parish Council will be erased at the end of a Councillor's term or in the case of an Officer at the end of his or her employment.
- All data relating to Loggerheads Parish Council will be erased if there is a personal data breach.
- All data relating to Loggerheads Parish Council will be erased if there is a virus or similar threat to the security of data.
- Care must be taken to avoid using approved devices in a manner which could pose a risk to confidentiality, whether by clicking on links in suspicious emails, accessing potentially harmful websites, using potentially harmful application software, using Wi-Fi facilities in public places (e.g. coffee shops or airports), or Some apps for smartphones and tablets may be capable of accessing sensitive information.

Risks, Liabilities and Disclaimers

- Lost or stolen devices must be reported to Loggerheads Parish Council within 24 hours. Councillors and officers are responsible for notifying their mobile carrier immediately upon loss of a device.
- Councillors and officers to adhere to the Loggerheads Parish Council's BYOD policy as outlined above.
- Councillors and officers are personally liable for all costs associated with his or her device.
- Loggerheads Parish Council reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination for noncompliance with this policy.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Local

This Policy contains Loggerheads Parish Council's written commitment to strengthening the Parish's communities of both place and interest, to recognising and encouraging their diversity and treating communities and individuals fairly and with respect.

The principles by which the Council will operate are also its pledge to the community: -

- Equality and respect.
- Professionalism and Delivering on our promises.
- Democracy and transparency.
- Working with others to maximise effectiveness.

It also compliments the authority's Social and Ethics; Equal Opportunity and Diversity; also, in their Procurement Policy, the Council commit to purchasing locally where possible.

The Council will aim to understand the nature of society within the Parish and will use its role as the level of local government closest to the people, to develop its qualities and encourage interaction within and between the communities.

In particular, the Council will: -

- Promote and support the provision cultural facilities and community venues.
- Promote and facilitate events which draw the whole community together.
- Support ways of giving individuals and communities a voice and where appropriate to act as an Advocate for them.
- Support the reporting of local events and issues.
- Work in partnership to tackle significant social welfare issues within the Parish.
- Use its governance role to strengthen communities, as well as supporting voluntary and community organisations which seek to do the same.
- Put the needs of the public first and provide fair, responsive and accountable local government.
- Promote good relationships between members of the community particularly those who might suffer discrimination.
- Monitor policies and procedures to assess their effectiveness in achieving our aims.
- Work with our partners in statutory, voluntary and private sectors to ensure the best outcomes for the people of Loggerheads Parish.

Global

Loggerheads Parish Council will also strive to set a good example locally, in addressing world ethical issues and will encourage partner and associated organisations to do so. It is

committed to the prevention of any violation of established Human Rights of any kind, particularly where child labour or undesirable forced acts are involved.

In particular, the Council will: -

- Promote a culture of ethical behaviour throughout the organisation.
- Act to protect the integrity and therefore enhance the reputation of the Council.
- Only engage with suppliers, contractors or business partners who do not compromise out reputation outlined within this policy.
- Maintain policies and procedures which will deliver value for money and demonstrate socially and environmentally responsible behaviour.
- Purchase Fair Trade goods where possible and promote and support Loggerheads as a Fair Trade Parish.
- Question its major suppliers of goods and services about their ethical credentials.
- Encourage all suppliers to the Council, to ensure that throughout their global supply chains, all organisations comply with the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code.
- Collaborate and compete with other business institutions in a fair, honest and appropriate manner.
- Ensure that ethics as well as returns, govern its investments.

N.B. Companies with a commitment to ethical trade adopt a code of labour practice that they expect all their suppliers to work towards. Such codes address issues like wages, hours of work, health and safety, employment to be freely chosen, no child labour, the right to join free trade unions and a ban on harsh or inhuman practices.

LOGGERHEADS COUNCIL
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Introduction

Loggerheads Parish Council recognise the importance of local people, community groups and businesses having a voice in contributing to the debate and decisions on issues being determined by the Council and on wider issues within the .

The Policy is also intended to be an ongoing pledge by the Council to our communities. It also compliments the authority's Social and Ethics Policy; and our Equal Opportunity and Diversity Policy; and should be considered alongside our broader Communications Policy.

This document forms the Council's first Community Engagement Policy. It sets out: -

- The Role of community engagement and its importance.
- How Loggerheads Parish Council engages the wider community and identifies the needs and aspirations of the community.
- How the Parish Council can improve community engagement.

The objectives of the policy are to: -

- Encourage effective local community engagement.
- Ensure that embedded throughout the Council, there is clear understanding of the need to engage with communities about decisions that affect them.
- Enable aspirations/ comments/suggestions obtained from community engagement to have an impact on decision making and the way decisions are being made and services are being delivered.
- Identify how the Council can enhance its profile by improving engagement with the wider community (with specific reference to the harder to reach groups in our society).

Community Engagement – An Overview

Community engagement is concerned with giving local people a voice and involving them in decisions which affect them and their community. This may include individuals, voluntary and community organisations, as well as other public sector bodies.

It provides opportunity for local people to talk to the Council about their aspirations and/or needs in their community and neighbourhood. It allows the Council to consult with and inform people about what services it provides, how it prioritises, how policies are determined and how well its performing.

The term stakeholder refers to a wide range of people and groups (these might include, residents, visitors, businesses, voluntary organisations, public service organisations and lobby groups), all of which have an interest in the Council's services and projects and other issues in

the parish.

Hard to Reach groups refers to those likely to experience social exclusion and are sometimes perceived as being disempowered. Some examples include young people, elderly people, physical disability, language barriers, financial constraints, cultural differences or social expectations. The Council will put effort into seeking their views, but it also recognises that sometimes they may have excluded themselves through personal choice.

The key aspects of community engagement include: -

- Development of a network of relationships between the Council, individuals, voluntary and community groups.
- Clear and open communication to ensure that information is made accessible to all groups.
- Listening and understanding to a range of people to identify aspirations, needs and problems of local people and groups.

Effective and meaningful community engagement can provide a number of benefits: -

- The problems and needs of local people are clearly identified in order that appropriate new or improved facilities / services can be provided.
- Those participating feel empowered by being involved in decision making in their local community.
- This may result in enhanced leadership and greater interest in elections or standing for Council and in volunteering within the community.

Loggerheads Parish Council and Community Engagement

The Council will facilitate community engagement in the following ways: -

- Ensuring information on what decisions are being considered and how residents can influence or contribute to the discussions are available in good time. Methods used to ensure engagement will be - through the Council website, noticeboard, the Council's Facebook, posters, consultations, reports and word of mouth.
- All meetings of the Council and its committees are open to the public and press and there is a period set aside for public participation. Residents can access agendas for meetings via the Council website, noticeboard or they can be collected from the Council office, public agendas are also made available at the meetings of the Council and its committees. The Council website, noticeboard, agendas explain the procedure for residents wishing to speak at meetings. Facilities also exist where residents can, where appropriate or necessary, make written reports, present petitions or have a case presented on their behalf to Councillors.
- Planning applications are considered at Planning and Environment Committee meetings which are held monthly. The opportunities for people to speak applies equally to these agenda items. Equal opportunity is given to applicants/supporters, objectors and local community groups.
- The Clerk is the principal advisor to the Council and other staff also advise on their areas of expertise. They must however be politically neutral and ensure that residents can be fully involved, have their views considered and be confident that they are receiving unbiased information and support from Council Officers.
- Details of how to contact the Clerk will be displayed the Council noticeboard, Council website and Facebook. Details of how to contact Councillors will be displayed on the

noticeboard and the Council website.

- The Council will produce a list of annual Council and committee dates to include the start times of the meetings.
- The Council will be open and accountable in its dealing with residents and the community. It will make information on its policies and procedures freely available.
- The Council will be receptive to requests from residents or communities and will attempt to be flexible to ensure their opinions are also known to other organisations. This may be by including an item for discussion on an agenda or allowing a local group to put their opinions into an official report undertaken by the Council.
- The Council will, operate a "gateway" service from both its offices to ensure local people and communities are referred to the correct organisation, Officer, Borough, or Councillor where the Council cannot resolve their issue directly.
- Councillors will continue to represent the Council on various outside bodies, to ensure that they are kept informed of the communities' needs.

Communication

Loggerheads Parish Council is committed to improving community engagement by: -

- Continuing all the above activities and services into the future and improving relationships with community groups, including developing measures to harness the views and opinions of people and groups who are often missed out of community engagement activities.
- Ensuring that the principles and standards of its main Communications Policy (which is also available on the website, are applied to its community engagement.
- Being proactive and willing to consider any reasonable opportunities that support its purpose of making information available and increasing contributions from the community, especially those that are difficult to reach.
- When dealing with controversial issues that affect a particular community then consideration will be given to holding a public meeting.
- Consultations and surveys are to be considered when necessary and appropriate and results will be made available.
- Continuing to work in partnership to produce and review community led policies. It will also ensure that priorities from such policies are built into its own Business Plan.
- Identifying and embracing opportunities to work with other local community groups when the need arises.
- Publicising the positive results that have been achieved from working relationships between the Council and other community groups; in order to encourage new relationships/partnerships to be formed and to raise community spirit.
- Promoting elections and the importance of the democratic process and the value of being a Councillor.
- Promoting the value to the parish of volunteering.
- Reviewing its Community Engagement Strategy on regular basis to ensure that it remains relevant.

Freedom of Information

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this document will be posted on the Council website and copies will be available from the Council office.

Outcomes

The outcomes which we are striving for and against which the success of this policy will be measured are: -

- Improved communication through the establishment of new channels of engagement.
- More residents understanding the role of Councillors, feeling they can become involved and thereby getting the best effect.
- Improved engagement with local communities, with more people feeling that they are involved in decision-making and a higher percentage of people involved in volunteering.
- Improved satisfaction with services provided by the Council.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
COOKIE POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Introduction

This Policy supplements our Website Privacy Notice.

Cookies are small text files that websites use to remember information about you. They're stored on your computer and can only be accessed by the website that created them or your web browser. It is possible to change the cookie settings of your browser to allow or block cookies depending on your preference. To learn more, visit our page on Cookies.

This website uses a number of different cookies depending on how you use the website.

Google Analytics (a third party cookie) _utma _utmb _utmc _utmz.

These cookies are set by Google. Inc and are used to collect information about how visitors use our site. We use this information to compile reports and to help us improve the site. The cookies collect information in an anonymous form, including the number of visitors to the site, where visitors have come to the site from and the pages they visited.

Session cookie (a first-party cookie) fbsesstoken.

These cookies are set by the Loggerheads Parish Council website and are essential so that this website can provide visitors with the information they request as they navigate through the website.

How and Why We Use Cookies on this Website

This website uses one or more cookies to help us improve your experience when using this website. By visiting our website with your Internet browser set to accept cookies, this tells us that you consent to the use of our website, cookies and other technologies.

Cookies and Browser Settings

It is possible to change the cookie settings of your browser to allow or block cookies depending on your preference. We've put together some instructions on how to do is in some of the most popular browsers: -

Google Chrome

1. Click the Tools/Preferences menu.
2. Select Options and/or click the 'Under the Hood' tab.
3. Click Content settings in the 'Privacy' section.
4. Make your selection from the options listed depending on which cookies you'd like to block/allow.
5. The names of some menu items/settings may differ between the PC and Mac version of

Google Chrome.

Firefox
1. Click Tools > Options (or Firefox > Preferences on Mac).
2. Click Privacy in the top panel.
3. Check or uncheck the box next to ‘Accept cookies from sites’ to enable cookies.
4. Click OK.

Microsoft Edge
1. Click Start > Control Panel.
2. Double-click the Internet Options icon.
3. Select the Privacy tab.
4. Click Advanced.
5. Select ‘Override automatic cookie handling’ under the ‘Cookies’ section in the Advanced Privacy Settings window.
6. Select the ‘Accept’ or ‘Prompt’ option under ‘First-party Cookies.’
7. Select the ‘Accept’ or ‘Prompt’ option under ‘Third-party Cookies.’ (If you select the ‘Prompt’ option, you’ll be asked for approval every time a website attempts to send you a cookie.)
8. In the Internet Options window, click OK to exit.

Safari
1. Go to the Safari drop-down menu.
2. Select Preferences.
3. Click Security in the top panel.
4. Under ‘Accept Cookies’ select Only from sites you navigate to.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Loggerheads Parish Council recognises its operations have impact on the environment in a few ways and is committed to identifying, monitoring and reducing such impacts. In addition, its duties enable it to protect and at times enhance the local environment both directly and by influencing others. The Council will make best use of its position and powers to do this.

The Council acknowledges its **duty** to consider the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out its functions, under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, s40.

The Council will recognise and support Environmental Strategies of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council.

The Council accepts that "sustainable development" will not be possible unless "Climate Change", the global temperature rise, is tackled and that this is of growing concern to its residents, particularly the young.

This Policy will also be linked to other Council policies including Equality; Community and Social; Quality; Treasury Management (Investment) and Procurement, which will ensure environmental considerations are central to the ethos of the organisation.

The Council will therefore work with partners to help our Parish achieve it sustainability ambitions. To be successful, everyone must play their part and the Council will help them realise there are wider benefits of tackling climate change which can improve lives, not diminish them.

To achieve this, the Council will: -

- Embrace the concept of sustainability and acknowledge the need to reconcile environmental, social and economic demands.
- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and where possible set standards which are more stringent than the legal minimum.
- Undertake periodic audits to ensure up to date assessments of environmental impacts are maintained and the progress of action plans are monitored. As part of this it will measure the organisation's carbon footprint and take the necessary actions to reduce it.
- Ensure that Councillors and employees receive training to enable them to understand and control the environmental effects of their work.
- Require where appropriate, its suppliers to provide environmental assessments of their environmental impacts and life cycle analysis of major products.
- Have regard for both the natural and built environments and will strive to protect and where possible enhance them.
- Although the Council is not a large energy user it will take any opportunity to manage

energy with a view to minimising its consumption.
- Ensure its operations minimise pollution of land, water and air.
- Minimise the consumption of natural resources and consume material goods with consideration and in moderation.
- Seek to minimise waste, re-use or recycle where possible and ensure disposal has the minimum environmental impact.
- Reduce emissions from travel and machinery.
- Direct its efforts to make the Parish sustainable, through like-minded community groups.

Responsibility

The Parish Council is ultimately responsible for setting it policy and ensuring it is adhered to. Many of the responsibilities for environmental and sustainability functions are delegated to its Planning and Environment Committee. Member Audits may include compliance of environmental policies and procedures in it planned audits.

The Parish Clerk is responsible for implementing this policy and as far as is reasonably practicable, will ensure that: -

- Appropriate environmental operating procedures are developed and reviewed.
- Any work carried out will comply with the requirements of this Policy and relevant operating procedures.
- Noise Pollution is kept to a minimum.
- Environmental accidents are investigated, resolved and preventative measures are enforced to prevent reoccurrences.
- This Policy is reviewed regularly to ensure relevance and currency.

Everyone of us has the ability and responsibility to contribute to this!

Every one of us will benefit!

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
INFORMATION SECURITY POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

1. Principles and Purpose

This Policy sets out the Council's commitment to information security within the Council and provides clear direction on responsibilities and procedures.

Loggerheads Parish Council is a Data Controller, as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and has registered as such with the Information Commissioner's Office.

2. Protocols

2.1 System Security Processes and Procedures

The Council will provide and maintain security processes and procedures for all key information systems. The procedures will uphold the principles of confidentiality, integrity, availability, suitability and be assessed for their impact upon other systems and services.

The security procedures will provide preventative measures to reduce the risks to the system, the information held within the system and the service it supports.

The Council will apply controls to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation.

A Continuity plan is available to support the continuation of services following failure or damage to systems or facilities.

The Clerk will be responsible for the implementation and promotion of the procedures.

2.2 Physical Security

Adequate and practical access controls will be provided in all areas in which personal and business data is stored or used. Unattended rooms should be always secured with locked doors as a minimum-security requirement.

All documents disclosing identifiable information will be transported in sealed containers e.g. envelopes.

Within their level of authority, staff will be responsible for minimising the risk of theft or vandalism of the data and equipment through common-sense precautions. High value equipment such as, laptop computers, should not be left unattended or

unsecured and paper records should not be left in public view.

The physical environment in which data and equipment is stored will be suitable and fit for purpose to ensure the safety of the data and equipment.

2.3 Logical Security

All computerised information and systems must be regularly backed up to a secure environment.

All computerised information systems will be password controlled and all passwords will be treated with the strictest confidence and users will not divulge their password to any unauthorised person. All sensitive data will be password protected.

2.4 Copyright and Licenses

The Clerk is responsible for ensuring all computer software packages and non-electronic media for use within an information environment are used in accordance with the terms and conditions of use as set out in the licence agreement.

2.5 Disposal and Movement of Equipment and Media

Any media or IT equipment disposed of by the Council will not contain any data or codes that could allow an individual to be identified from it. The disposal of equipment will be made under a controlled and documented environment satisfying the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The disposal of media such as disks and memory sticks must ensure that data cannot be recovered. Disposal of such media through the "everyday" waste collection is not permitted. The Council will implement processes to ensure appropriate disposal of such media.

An inventory of all Council computer equipment will be maintained. Details of any equipment or media disposed of or relocated (other than portable equipment) must be recorded.

2.6 Personal Computers

Computer users have responsibility for the security of the equipment in their care and shall not commit an act to compromise the data or Information Security Policy.

Computer users will be made aware of their responsibilities through this policy and the BYOD Policy.

2.7 Staff and Councillor's Responsibilities

The Council will make every reasonable effort to ensure that staff and councillors are aware of their responsibilities for the security of information. However, each councillor or member of staff is responsible for ensuring that the Information Security Policy is adhered to and report any breaches of security.

2.8 Incident Reporting

Incidents affecting security must be reported to the Clerk as quickly as possible.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
INTERNET, EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Introduction

Communications via email internet usage undertaken in the name of the Council or on Council systems carry inherent risks such as: -

- Potential defamation.
- Spreading of viruses, including Trojans which can steal date.
- Breach of confidentiality.
- Accepting files from sources in online chat rooms which could bypass firewalls or email filters.
- Breach of contract.
- Breach of copyright.
- Breach of data protection legislation.
- Breach of privacy and unlawful discrimination.

This policy sets out the restrictive use of the Parish Council's electronic equipment, namely, computers and telephones.

The Parish Council reserves the right to monitor telephone, email and internet usage in accordance with the law, in particular the latest Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act. The Council provides telephones, email and internet access solely for the purposes required for the performance and fulfilment of job responsibilities.

Occasional and reasonable personal use of the Council's telephone, internet and email service is permitted, provided it does not interfere with work performance or security.

Monitoring and Privacy Issues

Internet and email usage may be monitored from time to time to identify potential breaches of this Policy. This may lead to formal disciplinary action. Employees should note that serious breaches may result in dismissal for gross misconduct.

However, the Parish Council is subject to Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, and this means that the Council will respect employees' private and family life.

Email Etiquette

All employees must follow the procedure outlined below when sending and receiving emails on behalf of the Parish Council: -

- Only agreed email signatures may be used.
- All messages must use appropriate business language.

- A waiver clause will be included at the end of each email message.
- The circulating of offensive, indecent or obscene material or anything which breaches the Equal Opportunities Policy is strictly prohibited.
- Confidential material should not be disclosed.
- Only attachments from a trusted source may be downloaded.
- Ensure that the address of the recipient is correct before sending emails.
- Ensure that a 'reply to all' is appropriate.
- Ensure that essential files are saved before deleting the message in which they were received.

Telephone Etiquette

All employees must follow the procedure outlined below when using the Council's telephone: -

- Answer all calls by stating the name of the Parish Council.
- Be always polite.
- Do not be rude or abrupt to callers.
- Do not use offensive language.
- Do not swear.
- Check the telephone frequently for messages from callers and respond in a timely manner.

Employees may make and receive personal calls if they are brief and infrequent. This applies to calls on the Council's land line or employees' personal mobile phones.

Unacceptable Behaviour on the Internet

Below are examples of what the Prish Council deems to be unacceptable use or behaviour by employees: -

- Allowing non-authorised users to access the internet using employees log in or while logged on.
- Visiting internet sites that contain obscene, hateful, pornographic or other illegal material.
- Passing on such material to colleagues or external people.
- Using the computer to perpetrate any form of fraud or software, film or music piracy.
- Using the internet to send offensive or harassing material to other users.
- Downloading commercial software or any copyrighted materials belonging to third parties, unless this download is covered or permitted under a commercial agreement or other such licence.
- Hacking into unauthorised areas.
- Publishing defamatory and/or knowingly false material about the Council, its employees, members, colleagues and/or customers on social networking sites, 'blogs' (online journals), 'wikis' and any online publishing format.
- Undertaking deliberate activities that waste staff effort or networked resources.
- Introducing any form of malicious software into the corporate network.
- Gambling online.
- Disclosure of any confidential corporate information without express consent.
- Any other area that the Council reasonably believes may cause problems

Social Media

This section of the policy is intended to help Officers and Councillors make appropriate

decisions about the use of social media such as social networking websites, forums, message boards, blogs or comments on web-articles, such as Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

This policy outlines the standards the Council requires employees and elected members to observe when using social media, the circumstances in which your use of social media will be monitored and the action that will be taken in respect of breaches of this policy.

All Officers and Councillors are expected to always comply with this policy to protect the privacy, confidentiality, and interests of the Council.

Breach of this policy by employees may be dealt with under our Disciplinary Procedure and, in serious cases, may be treated as gross misconduct leading to summary dismissal.

Breach of this policy by elected members will be dealt with under the Code of Conduct.

The Council has overall responsibility for the effective operation of this policy.

The Clerk is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the operation of this policy and making recommendations for changes to minimise risks to our work.

All Officers and Councillors should ensure that they take the time to read and understand this policy. Any breach of this policy should be reported to the Clerk or Chair of the Council.

Questions regarding the content or application of this policy should be directed to the Clerk.

The Clerk and administration officer are permitted to post material on a social media website in the name of the Council and on its behalf in accordance with the rules and scope of this policy.

If you are not sure if your comments are appropriate do not post them until you have checked with the Clerk.

The Council recognises the importance of the internet in shaping public thinking about the Council and the support and services it provides to the community. It also recognises the importance of our employees and elected members joining in and helping shape community conversation and direction through interaction in social media.

Before using social media on any matter which might affect the interests of the Council you must have read and understood this policy, and Officers must have gained prior written approval to do so from the Clerk.

Whenever you are permitted to use social media in accordance with this policy, you must adhere to the following general rules: -

- Do not upload, post or forward a link to any abusive, obscene, discriminatory, harassing, derogatory or defamatory content.
- Any employee/elected member who feel that they have been harassed or bullied or are offended by material posted or uploaded by a colleague onto a social media website should inform the Clerk.
- Never disclose commercially sensitive, personal private or confidential information. If you are unsure whether the information you wish to share falls within one of these categories, you should discuss this with the Clerk or Mayor.
- Do not upload, post or forward any content belonging to a third party unless you have that third party's consent.
- Before you include a link to a third-party website, check that any terms and conditions

of that website permit you to link to it.

- When making use of any social media platform, you must read and comply with its terms of use.
- Be honest and open but be mindful of the impact your contribution might make to people's perceptions of the Council.
- You are personally responsible for content you publish into social media tools.
- Don't escalate heated discussions, try to be conciliatory, respectful and quote facts to lower the temperature and correct misrepresentations.
- Don't discuss colleagues without their prior approval.
- Always consider others' privacy and avoid discussing topics that may be inflammatory e.g. politics and religion. Remember that although it is acceptable to make political points or canvass votes via your own social media accounts this will not be permissible if you are commenting on behalf of the Council.
- Avoid publishing your contact details where they can be accessed and used widely by people you did not intend to see them, and never publish anyone else's contact details.

Employees and elected members should be aware that any use of social media websites (whether accessed for Council purposes) may be monitored and, where breaches of this policy are found, action may be taken against employees under our Disciplinary Procedure and councillors under the Code of Conduct.

Misuse of social media websites can, in certain circumstances, constitute a criminal offence or otherwise give rise to legal liability against you and the Council.

In particular a serious case of uploading, posting forwarding or posting a link to any of the following types of material on a social media website, whether in a professional or personal capacity, will probably amount to gross misconduct/breach of the Code of Conduct (this list is not exhaustive):-

a. pornographic material (that is, writing, pictures, films and video clips of a sexually explicit or arousing nature).
b. a false and defamatory statement about any person or organisation.
c. material which is offensive, obscene, criminal, discriminatory, derogatory or may cause embarrassment to the Council our councillors or our employees.
d. confidential information about the council or anyone else.
e. any other statement which is likely to create any liability (whether criminal or civil, whether for you or the organisation).
f. material in breach of copyright or other intellectual property rights, or which invades the privacy of any person.

Any such action will be addressed under the Disciplinary Procedure/Code of Conduct.

Where evidence of misuse is found the Council may undertake a more detailed investigation involving the examination and disclosure of monitoring records to those nominated to undertake the investigation and any witnesses or managers involved in the investigation. If necessary, such information may be handed to the police in connection with a criminal investigation.

If you notice any use of social media by other employees/elected members in breach of this policy, please report it to the Clerk in accordance with the Council's Whistleblowing Policy.

Monitoring and Review

The Council shall be responsible for reviewing this policy annually to ensure that it meets legal

requirements and reflects best practice.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
PROCUREMENT POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

The Council will strive to attain best value for all goods, materials and services which it purchases.

"Best Value" will be defined as a balance of price, quality of product and supplier services.

The Council will operate a transparent procurement process in accordance with its Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Standing Orders for Contracts.

- The Council will, wherever possible, purchase goods, materials and services locally and where "*best value"* can be satisfied.
- In evaluating *"best value",* the past record of the supplier will be taken into account.
- For goods, materials or services over £25,000, an evaluation model encompassing both price and quality, will be developed in advance, against which best value can be judged. A scoring matrix should be used for all purchases or contracts above £3,000 for which quotations are required.
- For other than small value purchases, the environmental and social credentials of the supplier will be requested, in accordance with the Council's Environmental Policy and Community and Social Policy.
- The Council will purchase Fair Trade goods where possible.
- The Council will purchase recycled goods or less environmentally damaging materials where they meet the required functional standard.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
QUALITY POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Purpose

Loggerheads Parish Council believes that its commitment to continuous improvement will guarantee the success of the Council by fulfilling its strategic objectives and the needs and expectations of its residents, communities, businesses, clients, partners and other stakeholders.

The Council has developed its expertise and standards since its establishment and its aim is to achieve a high standard of service to the Parish.

Scope

The Policy relates to all activities and processes developed and operating for quality control and management which have been underlined by the Council in a range of linked policies. It will also help ensure the Council operates in compliance with legal requirements and best practice.

Policy

The Council is committed to seek Quality in all that they do by: -

- Developing and maintaining activities that are systematically planned, implemented, reviewed and evaluated.
- Increasing the Council's capacity by developing both Councillors and Officers and using external expertise where appropriate.
- Investing in technology and equipment which will increase efficiency.
- Working in partnership where it can add value.
- Building successful relationships with clients and communities by ascertaining their respective needs and considering their wishes.
- Develop and achieve our commitments for quality, cost, and schedule.

The Council will seek recognition for its policy by: -

- Striving for excellent internal and external audit reports.
- Seeking to gain and then retain successive levels of the Local Council Awards Scheme.
- Remaining eligible to use the Power of General Competence.
- Operating through integrated quality management principles which incorporate continual assessment and can be externally assessed if appropriate.
- Publicly reporting performance.
- Undertaking satisfaction surveys on its services.
- Assessing business, financial and safety risks and managing in a way that lowers them to an acceptable level.

- Preparing and regularly reviewing a Business Continuity Plan.

The Councillors and Officers are responsible for quality control through the policies and procedures seeking improvement by constant review with suppliers and subcontractors being encouraged to co-operate. The Council is committed to achieving customer satisfaction using quality procedures.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
STANDING ORDERS FOR CONTRACTS

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

1. General

1.1 The following Standing Orders for Contracts set out the procedures by which the Council will enter into contracts for the provision of goods, services, materials and work. Every contract made by or on behalf of the Council shall comply with these procedure rules and no exception from any of the provisions shall be made otherwise than by direction of the Council or under Standing Order. These Standing Orders for Contracts should be read in conjunction with the Council's Financial Procedures, Standing Orders and its Procurement Policy applying at the time.

1.2 The Orders do not apply to contracts for the sale or purchase of land or buildings other than as set out in this Order. Every contract relating to the sale or purchase of any land or buildings shall be in writing and be signed on behalf of the Council by the Proper Officer. Purchases of land should not be above the current market value as determined by the Council's appointed valuer and sales of land should not be below the current market value as determined by the Council's appointed valuer. Where this is not the case a report should be made to Council setting out the reasons for such variation, which may consider any community benefits or justification on the grounds that it helps fulfil a wider objective of the Council.

1.3 Subject to Rule 1.2 every contract made by or on behalf of the Council shall comply with: -

1.3.1 these Standing Orders for Contracts.

1.3.2 the Council's Financial Regulations.

1.3.3 the Council's Standing Orders.

1.3.4 all relevant statutory provisions including any relevant E.U. directive.

1.3.5 any direction by the Council, Committees, Sub-Committees having appropriate delegated authority.

1.4 These Contract Procedure Rules shall not apply or may be varied where or to the extent that: -

1.4.1 the Council so resolves.

1.4.2 statute or subordinate legislation prescribes otherwise.

2. Delegated Authority to Enter into Contracts

2.1 The Proper Officer shall have power to accept tenders (where required) and to enter contracts on behalf of the Council, when the decision and budget have been approved by Council.

2.2 The Proper Officer or Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), if different, has authority to issue official orders or letters for work, goods and services as set out in the Financial Regulations.

3. Orders for Works, Goods and Services up to £3,000

3.1 Orders for work, goods and services up to the value of £3,000 are not subject to the Standing Orders for Contracts, nor are formal quotations required but orders must comply with the Council's Financial Regulations.

3.2 Orders for work, goods and services which would normally be considered as one transaction shall not be divided into different orders so that the Standing Orders for Contracts are deemed not to apply.

4. Contracts of up to £25,000

4.1 Tenders need not be invited for contracts estimated to have a value of £25,000 or less but three quotations shall be obtained in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. The Council's Procurement Policy states that in all contracts for goods, materials or services over £25,000, an evaluation model encompassing both price and quality, will be developed in advance against which best value can be judged.

4.2 Three quotations need not be invited in circumstances set out in regulation 11 of the Financial Regulations, or in cases where genuine competition is not available because of the specialist nature of the work or goods, all subject to a resolution of Council which embodies the reason for not doing so.

5. Requirements for Tender

5.1 Subject to the exceptions in Rule 5.2 below, tenders shall be invited where the contract sum is estimated to be above or close to £25,000.

5.2 Tenders need not be invited in circumstances set out in 11.1 of the Financial Regulations, subject to a resolution of Council which embodies the reason for not doing so.

5.3 Where the value of a supply, services or design contract is likely to exceed £189,330, or a construction contract is likely to exceed £4,733,252 (or other threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time), the Council must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (EU Directive 2014/24/EU) apply to the contract and if so the Council must comply with EU procurement rules; which will include advertising in the Official Journal of the European Union. See also Financial Regulations 11.1 b, c and e.

5.4 Where tenders are required, one of the following methods shall be used: -

5.4.1 Open competitive tender (Rule 6).

5.4.2 Ad hoc approved list (Rule 7).

5.4.3 Standing approved list (Rule 8).

5.4.4 Approved list of another Council (Rule 9).

5.4.5 Established procurement specialist (Rule 10).

6. Open Competitive Tenders

6.1 Tenders estimated to be £25,000 inc. VAT or over shall be invited by giving at least 30 (thirty) days public notice on the UK Government Contracts Finder portal (under the Public Contract Regulations (2015)), on the Council's website and in such trade journals as the Proper Officer has considered appropriate stating the nature and purpose of the contract, inviting tenders and stating the last date when tenders will be accepted. Any notice issued shall contain a Statement of the effect of Standing Orders Nos. 32a and 32b.

7. Ad Hoc Approved List

7.1 Tenders shall be invited after giving notice in the manner set out in Rule 6 seeking applications to be placed on a list from which selected contractors will be invited to submit tenders.

8. Standing Approved List

8.1 The council does not operate an approved list of suppliers.

9. Approved List of Another Authority

9.1 Tenders may be invited from persons included in a list approved by the Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council for the supply of goods or materials of specified categories values or amounts or for the carrying out of specified categories of work.

10. Established Procurement Specialists

10.1 Where large, high value tender exercises take place, in areas in which the Council have limited expertise, it may be necessary to engage the use of established procurement specialists. These specialists will undertake the tender process on behalf of the Council, subject to compliance with Financial Regulations for the opening of tenders.

11. Selection of Tenders or Invitees

11.1 The selection of persons from whom tenders shall be invited shall be delegated to the Proper Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Parish Council and Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee.

11.2 In inviting applications for inclusion in a list of approved tenderers or in selecting persons from whom tenders are to be invited, steps shall be taken to ensure fair competition. It may be necessary to supplement approved lists in cases where the specialist nature of the work or goods indicates that competition will be limited, subject to a resolution of Council which embodies the reason for doing so.

Where a contract will involve a design element, or in the case of other construction works, the chosen process may be varied minimally to ensure that the quality of the design is properly considered. Construction processes which are taking forward the Government Construction Strategy may also be used.

12. Form of Invitation to Tender and Submission of Tenders

12.1 All tenders shall be required to be submitted on a Form of Tender approved by the Proper Officer. This Form shall include a statement that the Council will not be bound to accept any tender and reserves the right to accept a tender other than the one which is the lowest price or not to accept any tender at all.

12.2 The invitations to tender shall state that no tender will be considered unless contained in an unmarked plain sealed envelope and endorsed "Tender" followed by the subject to which it relates.

12.3 Every tender shall be addressed to the Parish Clerk (Proper Officer) and the tender shall remain in his/her custody, or that of his nominated representative, until the time appointed for its opening. (See also 10.1).

13. Extension of Time

13.1 Where the Proper Officer considers it to be in the best interests of the Council the time within which tenders must be received may be extended after giving notice of such extension of time in the following manner: -

13.1.1 **Open competitive tenders** - in accordance with Rule 6.

13.1.2 **Ad hoc approved list / Established procurement specialist** - by giving fourteen days written notice to each of the selected contractors.

13.1.3 **Standing approved list** - by giving fourteen days written notice to each of the relevant persons on the list.

14. Opening of Tenders

14.1 All tenders for a contract shall be opened at the same time and as soon as possible after the closing time for the acceptance of tenders. The tenders will be opened by the Proper Officer or other nominated Officer in the presence of two Members of Council. (See also 10.1)

14.2 The Proper Officer shall prepare and maintain a register of tenders received and shall record in that register the following particulars: -

14.2.1 the last date and time for the receipt of tenders.

14.2.2 the date and time the tender was received.

14.2.3 the name of the tenderer and the amount of the tender.

14.2.4 the date and time they were opened and by whom.

14.2.5 the signature of the Officer to whom the tenders were handed after opening.

14.3 All persons required to be present at the opening of tenders shall immediately sign against the relevant particulars in the register and shall also sign each page of the tender as evidence of such tenders having been opened by them or in their presence.

14.4 Following the opening of tenders invited the Proper Officer shall write to all persons who were invited to tender but who failed to tender to ascertain the reasons for that failure.

15. Late Tenders

15.1 Any tender received late will be returned promptly to the tenderer by the Proper Officer. A late tender which has been received may be opened in the presence of the two Members to ascertain the name and address of the tenderer, but no details of the tender shall be disclosed.

16. Alterations to Tenders

16.1 Where the tender reveals errors or discrepancies, which would affect the tender figure in an otherwise successful tender, the tenderer shall be told of the errors and discrepancies and given an opportunity of confirming, correcting or withdrawing the offer.

17. Acceptance of Tenders

17.1 In accepting a tender, consideration will be given to price and quality. A suitable pre-determined price quality model (Evaluation Model) will be devised by the Proper Officer or representative in accordance with the Council's Procurement Policy. Selection of the best tender will be based on this evaluation.

17.2 If no tenders are received or if all tenders are identical, the Council may make such arrangements for procuring the goods or materials or executing the works as it thinks fit.

18. Contracts to be in Writing

18.1 Every contract which exceeds £3,000 shall be in writing in a form approved by the Proper Officer.

18.2 Every contract shall specify, amongst other things: -

18.2.1 the goods, materials, works, matters, or things, to be furnished, supplied or done (including any appropriate technical specifications).

18.2.2 the price to be paid with a statement of discount or other deductions.

18.2.3 where applicable, the time or times that the contract is to be performed.

18.2.4 how the contractor will be accountable for performance, and any information or reports that he will be required to submit.

18.3 The Proper Officer shall sign or witness every contract not required to be made under seal on behalf of the Council.

18.4 Every contract for which provision has been made in the approved annual estimates and/or approved by the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council pursuant to Standing Orders and being in value of amount less than £3,000 shall be entered into on behalf of the Council by the Proper Officer by issuing an official order only.

19. Tender Notification and Standstill Period

19.1 Once the decision to award a contract is made, each Tenderer must be notified in writing of the outcome of the tender process. A "standstill notice" (also referred to as an "award decision notice" is only applied to advertised tenders when statutorily required. In all other cases, there will not be a "standstill notice" once tendered contracts are awarded.

19.2 For Tenders over EU Thresholds there must be a "standstill" period between the notification and signing the contract and/or raising of an order. This is ten calendar days but can be extended if a challenge is lodged by a Tenderer in which case the Proper Officer will advise on the relevant standstill period and process.

20. Assignment

20.1 In every written contract for the execution of work or the supply of goods or materials, the following clause shall be inserted:

"The contractor shall be prohibited from transferring or assigning directly or indirectly, to any person or persons whatever, any portion of the contract without the written permission of the Council. Sub-letting of any part(s) of the work, except to the extent permitted in writing by the Officer concerned, shall be prohibited"

21. Liquidated Damages

21.1 Every contract that exceeds £50,000 shall, where considered appropriate by the Proper Officer, provide for liquidated damages to be paid by the contractor in case the terms of the contract are not duly performed.

22. Performance Bonds

22.1 Where a contract is estimated to exceed £150,000 in value and is for the execution of the works, or for the supply of goods or materials by a particular date or series of dates, the Finance and Governance Committee shall consider whether the Council should require security for its due performance and shall either certify that no such security is necessary or shall specify in the conditions of tender the nature and amount of any security to be given. In the latter event, the Council shall require and will take a bond or other sufficient security for the due performance of the contract.

23. Retention

23.1 Works contracts, which are estimated to exceed £50,000 in value, will be subject to a defects period. The Council will retain a percentage of the monies due to the contractor for a period that the Proper Officer deems appropriate, having regard to the current practice in the relevant industry and to the circumstances of the contract.

24. Cancellation

24.1 Every contract will include a clause allowing the Council to cancel the contract and to recover costs if the contractor has offered, or given, any gift or consideration whatsoever as an inducement or reward to obtain the contract, or any other contract with the Council.

25. Nominated Subcontractors

25.1 Where a subcontractor or supplier is to be nominated to a main contractor the following provisions shall have effect.

25.2 Where the estimated amount of a subcontract exceeds £25,000 then, unless the Proper Officer certifies that it is not reasonably practicable to obtain competitive tenders, tenders for the nomination shall be invited and dealt with in accordance with these Contract Procedure Rules as if they were for a contract with the Council.

25.3 A nominated subcontractor must be willing to enter into a contract with the main contractor on terms which indemnify the main contractor against his own obligations under the main contract in relation to the work or goods included in the subcontract.

26. Engagement of Consultants

26.1 In the event of the Council engaging the services of consultants, these Contract Procedure Rules will apply where relevant, and subject to approved exemptions set out in the Financial Regulations.

LOGGERHEADS PARISH COUNCIL
TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Approved by Council:
Date of Review: May 2026

Introduction

Loggerheads Parish Council acknowledges the importance of prudently investing the temporary surplus funds held on behalf of the community. This Strategy complies with the revised requirements set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government Guidance on Local Government Investments and considers Section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003 and guidance within Governance and Accountability for Local Councils Practitioner's Guide 2018. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly known as the Department of Communities and Local Government) maintains the borrowing of money purely to invest or to lend and make a return is unlawful and the Council will not engage in such activity.

The Local Government Act 2003 states that a local authority may invest: -

- for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment.
- for the purpose of prudent management of its financial affairs.

The Guidance states:

a. where a Parish or Parish Council expects its investments at any time during a financial year to exceed £500,000, the Guidance should apply in relation to that year.
b. where a Parish or Parish Council expects its investments at any time during a financial year to exceed £10,000 but not £500,000, it should decide on the extent, if any, to which it would be reasonable to have regard to the Guidance in relation to that year.
c. where a Parish or Parish Council expects its investments at any time during a financial year not to exceed £10,000, no part of the Guidance need be treated as applying in relation to that year.

The Council expects its investments to be less than £500,000; but may exceed this amount and therefore has agreed to apply made in sterling and as aggregated in an interest-bearing bank account.

Investment Objectives

The Council defines its treasury management activities as "*the management of the Council's cash flows, its banking and money market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of best value performance consistent with those risks*".

This strategy establishes formal objectives, policies and practices and reporting arrangements for the effective management and control of the Council's treasury management activities and the associated risks and should be read in conjunction with the Council's Financial

Regulations.

The Council's investment priorities are:

- the **security** of its reserves, and
- the adequate **liquidity** of its investments, and
- the **return** on investment (the Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity).

The Council will monitor the risk of loss on investments by review of credit ratings on a regular basis. The Council will only invest in institutions of high credit quality – based on information from credit rating agencies.

Investments will be spread over different providers to minimise risk. The current Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) limit is £85,000 per institution licence. It should be noted that some apparently different banks trade under the same licence.

Specified Investments

Specified investments are those offering high security and high liquidity, made in sterling and with a maturity of no more than a year. Such short-term investments made with the UK Government or a local authority or Parish or parish council will automatically be Specified Investments.

For the prudent management of its treasury balances, maintaining sufficient levels of security and liquidity, Loggerheads Council will use: -

- Deposits with banks, building societies, local authorities, or other public authorities.
- Other approved public sector investment funds.
-

The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity.

Those investments which have greater potential risk (e.g. investment in the money market, stocks and shares) are inherently unpredictable and uncertain, and as such the Council will not use this type of investment.

Investments will be regarded as commencing on the date the commitment to invest is entered into rather than the date on which the funds are paid over to the counterparty.

- Long term investments are defined in the Guidance as greater than 12 months.
- The Council does not currently hold any funds in long term investments.

Approved Organisation

The investments will be split between banks and institutions approved by the Parish Council from time to time.

The aim is to spread the risk amongst institutions to retain as much FSCS protection as possible. The intention is to retain up to three month's operating cash in the current account, drawing from the linked deposit account in the same bank. Investment movements will be carried out between approved organisations by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) in accordance with the investment objectives. Approved banks and funds are set out in Schedule A which may be amended from time to time on a recommendation from the RFO.

Investment Reports

The RFO will provide a report on investment activity (the Balance Sheet) for the Council quarterly.

Review and Amendments

The Treasury Management and Investment Strategy must be reviewed annually and revised if considered necessary.

The Council reserves the right to make variations to the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy at any time on receipt of a report from the RFO. Any variations will be made available to the public.

Freedom of Information

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Council's Treasury Management and Investment Strategy will be published on the Parish Council's website and is also available as hard copy from the Parish Council Offices.

Appendix 1

Approved Banks (and Subsidiaries thereof): -

- Bank of Ireland UK
- Barclays
- Clydesdale Bank PLC
- The Co-operative Bank
- HSBC
- Lloyds Banking Group
- NatWest
- Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)
- Santander UK
- TSB
- Unity Trust

Other Approved Funds

- CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund
- Other Government Schemes and Bonds of short-term liquidity (not more than one year)