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Present:-

Chairman Swetman, Cllr Swan, Cllr Butterworth, Cllr Sheard, Cllr Lee, Cllr Beale, Cllr Lee, Cllr Love, Cllr Sedgley, Cllr Hodgkins, Cllr Fox,Cllr Roberts

Borough Cllr Northcott, Borough Cllr Turnock

Minutes of the meeting of **Loggerheads Parish Council** to be held at **Loggerheads Fire Station on Thursday 11 December 2025 at 7pm**

1. **To receive and consider apologies for absence**

   Cllr Wellard, Cllr Goodwin
2. **To note declarations of Members' interests –** Cllr Sheard payment to A Sheard for trailer item in Finance

3. **To approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13.11.2025**
   Proposed Cllr Lee
   Seconded Cllr Roberts
   Abstention Cllr Beales, Cllr Sedgley not at last meeting.

4. **Public Question Time**
5. **Updates from committee chairs (Finance & Planning)**
   - **Planning** Cllr Love gave an update on the planning committee including the Parish Councils objections to the planning application for nine houses in Ashley. Borough Cllr Turnock had called the matter in to be heard by the full committee as opposed to a delegated decision.
   - **Finance** Cllr Lee had presented the budget and precept requirements for the next financial year. A trailer for the maintenance officer had been discussed at a cost of £1400. This had been proposed by Cllr Lee, Seconded by Cllr Swan. Cllr Sheard abstained.

6. **To note the return for the AGAR for 2025.**

   The Clerk explained that the AGAR had now been returned. She had challenged Mazars on the fact that this was due back on 30.09.2025. They explained that they had experienced staffing issues which had resulted in failures meeting the statutory time frames. The AGAR was now published in full on the website. The

issues mentioned for improvement that had raised were around the historic non claiming of VAT. This had been resolved fully, and an interim internal audit had taken place in October which had given no areas of concern.

7. **To accept the budget for 2026/27**
The budget had been present to the Finance Committee and was recommended for approval. This was now published on the web site. There was an increase of 3.7%
Proposal – Cllr Lee
Seconded – Cllr Love
Unanimous

8. **To accept the precept for 2026/27**
An increase of 3.7% had been recommended by the Finance Committee which takes the precept to £143694.
Proposed Cllr Lee
Seconded Cllr Roberts
Unanimous

9. **To approve the payments for December**
Proposed Cllr Lee
Seconded Cllr Cllr Sheard
Unanimous

10. **LV1 lease and update**
Chairman Swetman had now signed the plan and returned it back to NBC.

11. **Tadgdale brook walk and play area**
Goal posts were now in situ at Allmington
Chairman Swetman – Spoke to the Borough Councillors regarding his concerns over the state of Tadgdale Brook and the lack of maintenance.
Chairman Swetman asked about asset transfers at NBC. Borough Cllr Northcott said there was no appetite at this time.

12. **To receive reports from Staffordshire County Council, Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council and Staffordshire Police**

Borough Councillor Turnock – gave an update on LGR and the unanimous vote by NBC to stay on its own and not be part of other proposals from other authorities. He also stated that he had called the planning matter in Ashley for nine houses. The Willoubridge Farm planning application had received a letter regarding a judicial review and NBC had reviewed their position and the application appeared to be now refused.

Borough Councillor Northcott explained that there had been a lot of speculative applications to take advantage of the “grey belt” planning.

Chairman Swetman raised concerns regarding the increased housing numbers for the Parish for the precept calculations at only eight houses in the last year.

Chairman Swetman raised concerns to the Borough Councillors regarding S106 monies and the fact that monies remain outstanding for the Parish.

Chairman Swetman raised concerns regarding the lack of dog waste bins and how LPC would purchase 16 extra bins. NBC refused to empty these bins and expected LPC to do it. Questions were asked what is happening with the extra Council Tax that is being collected from the new houses. Chairman Swetman asked if the Borough Councillors could investigate this.

Chairman Swetman had reported a few broken trees on Tadgdale Brook and the onerous nature of reporting.

13. **To receive updates from Members on outside committees and bodies**
14.

Cllr Fox – St Marys School had undertaken an inspection on its Christian ethos, they await the results. A pagoda is undergoing refurb on the playground.

15. **Date of next meeting – NB at Weslyn Chapel – Ashley**

Meeting closed 19:40 hours