

25-26/13

LOUND PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2026. The meeting took place at 7pm at the Village Hall. **(Subject to amendment until signed by the Chairman at the next meeting)**

Present: Miles Thomas (Chair), , Gayle Welsh, Jenny Ozinel, Connor Moore, Jill Brown (clerk). Paul Ashdown (District Councillor). Keith Robinson, and Ed Back (County Councillors). Two members of the public were present.

- 1. Welcome and Apologies** – Apologies were received from Carly Jones, and Paul Strowlger, These were accepted. Proposed by Connor, seconded by Jenny.
- 2. Declaration of interest and requests for dispensation** - Declaration of any pecuniary or other interest with regard to items on the agenda. There were none.
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Parish Council Meetings** - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th January 2026 were agreed. Proposed by Gayle, seconded by Jenny.
- 4. Public Forum** – A discussion took place regarding the proposed water treatment plan. Miles will send an email to Richard Rout as it seems there has not been the public consultation that was mentioned on the website.
- 5. Updates**
 - Speed Indicator – Miles presented the stats, and the figures suggest that speeds have reduced significantly. The device will be moved to the site at The Mardle.
 - Warm Welcome Rooms – There are 14-15 attendees each week. Miles is looking at funding options for next year. Paul A said he may be able to help if needed. There is a new trainer for Fit Fun Flex, the cost of which may go up to £5.
 - Grants update – Miles is looking into funding for Warm Welcome Room, and Fit, Fun, Flex for the next financial year.
 - Notice Boards - Paul S had sent through an update on quotes received. There may be another option which will be explored and discussed at next meeting.
 - Gov.uk email addresses – some councillors have not yet managed to install their gov.uk email address but will continue trying.
 - Village Hall Update – The upstairs room is finished with new carpet and most windows replaced. The room is available for rent.
 - Rugby Bus – The new bus is up and running. Miles will make contact with the Rugby Club so that a transfer of £300 can be made from Lound PC as previously agreed.
 - Litter Pick – This will be Saturday 21st March.

Signed Chairman, Clerk, Date.....

- 6. Reports from District and County Councillors** – Paul Ashdown reported that the budgets have been set and Council Tax Bills will be issued shortly. The new recycling bins are currently being distributed.

There are grants available for any relevant upcoming projects.

Keith Robinson talked about upcoming elections.
- 7. Solar Farm Planning Application** – It is one month until the Planning meeting. Lound Parish Council will continue to support the overriding views of the population of the village.
- 8. Casual Vacancy** – There is still a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.
- 9. Correspondence** – Request to fly model aircraft on Heath. This was discussed and it was agreed that permission would be declined for the following reasons: Disturbance to wildlife, disturbance of peaceful enjoyment of the area for others, overhead power cables, restricted open space due to increased tree growth. Proposed Jenny, seconded Gayle.
- 10. Appoint Internal Auditor and approve letter of engagement** – The letter of engagement was reviewed and it was agreed that SALC would be appointed as Internal Auditors for 2025/26.
- 11. Internal Control Document** – Paul S who was not present had forwarded the completed Internal Control Document. This was approved by the Parish Council. There were two items identified for action which were agreed (declaration of gifts to be added to each agenda, and Code of Conduct to be reviewed and re-ratified during 2026/27). Proposed by Gayle, seconded by Connor.
- 12. IT Policy** – A new IT Policy was reviewed and adopted in line with AGAR requirements. Proposed by Connor, seconded by Gayle.
- 13. Publication Scheme** – A new publication scheme was reviewed and adopted in line with requirements from last year’s Internal Audit Report.
- 14. AGAR assertion 10 requirements update** – Assertion 10 requirements were discussed - IT policy has been adopted (item 12), gov.uk domains are in place for clerk, and some Councillors are already using these, other councillors have PC-specific email addresses and are in the process of switching to gov.uk addresses. Miles has provided an up to date website accessibility statement.
- 15. Accounts a:** Income and expenditure and balances to end February 2026 were reviewed and agreed. Bank reconciliation to end of February 2026 was reviewed and agreed – signed by Gayle. Actual and forecast income to end February 2026 was reviewed and agreed. Proposed by Jenny, seconded by Connor.

b: Payments to Authorise: Clerk’s pay to end March 2026 and end April 2026 was agreed. Proposed by Jenny, seconded by Gayle.

25-26/15

Printing for upcoming Litter Pick - £10 agreed – Proposed by Gayle, seconded by Jenny.

Warm Welcome Room hire of Village Hall £490 agreed – Proposed by Jenny, seconded by Connor. Warm Welcome Room receipts for sundries £21.84, proposed by Gayle, seconded by Connor.

Reimbursement to Miles for Warm Room sundries £30.10 (one receipt missing but bank statement presented as evidence) agreed, proposed by Jenny, seconded by Connor.

16. Dates of Future Meetings – 18th May 2026 Annual Parish, and Annual Parish Council Meeting, 6th July.

17. Councillors Forum –

- Maintenance - Surface near Mardle and Heath.
- Notice Boards
- Solar Farm Update
- Essex and Suffolk Water Proposals update