



Longbarn Residents' Association

"Working together for our Community"

Registered Charity No. 1170309   

MINUTES OF LRA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 2 OCTOBER 2025 AT PADGATE VILLAGE CLUB

1. Welcome

Bob welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting held 21 August 2025 & Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were outlined & discussed & were accepted as a true reflection of the last meeting. All items have either been actioned or are included in tonight's agenda

3. Accounts to month ending August 2025

As usual the accounts brought up no anomalies, with Nicola presenting them to perfection.

4. LRA bowling green update

At long last progress appears to be happening. Torus Green Spaces Manager has seen the survey report & video: it appears that all the drainage pipes are up to 70% full of water that should have been drained away into the holding tank & then into the normal water drainage system. This points to either the pump fitted to move the water from the pipes into the tank is not working, or the tank is not draining into the normal water drainage system.

There are more meetings scheduled in the immediate future to confirm when & what is being planned to make the green viable once again.

Parts of the green may need to be dug up to check the pump & indeed the car park may need to be dug up to sort the problem from the tank to the normal water outlet. Torus are now fully committed to solving all the problems.

Howard is to keep LRA Management Committee regularly updated on progress until completion.

5. LRA Fireworks Extravaganza 2025

The date is set for Friday 7 November.

Dave has successfully confirmed with Kassia Academy what's required on the day & the clean up the following day.

Paul is to confirm with Andrew Pryce that he'll bring a proper kiddies fun fair this year, rather than the very poor show from last year, else we will not bother this year.

Mark Wallace will again be the gaffer for the event.

The Station House Halloween/fireworks event will take place on Saturday 1 November ~ Again Mark will be the lead, & Barry will inspect & repair the rocket launchers (before the Station House event), ensure the rocket launchers are in situ at Station House & taken down after the event & returned to our container at PVC, ready for our own Fireworks Extravaganza.

A meeting with Chris Catelani (Station House owner) has been arranged for Wednesday 8 October to finalise arrangements.

Janet requires access to our container to see what is available for the Tombola Stall. Barry now has a key & will meet with Janet at the container in the immediate future.

A tow bar is the only outstanding item not yet covered, but is being looked at with several alternatives available.

6. Feedback from meeting with Richard Martin (Greencore) held 29 September

Bob & Paul met with Richard Martin & were introduced to Lisa Charnock, their new HR Business Partner, & on behalf of LRA we gave our thanks for the superb ongoing help & provided by Greencore.

Paul is to negotiate a meeting at their warehouse to confirm what is wanted & what isn't from the LRA equipment being stored in their warehouse; Greencore will arrange disposal of the remainder on our behalf.

Greencore agreed to supply all required foodstuffs for our Fireworks Extravaganza, & will also supply their safety & first aid man (Ricky Rothwell) to attend & lend his services at the Extravaganza on our behalf.

On leaving, & in a moment of unusual hardfacedness 😬 Paul explained that our 2 BBQs need replacing, & invited Lisa to check with Richard to consider paying for one of the new BBQs.

7. We need new BBQs

After 10 years of use it was agreed that the existing BBQs are no longer fit for purpose & new ones need to be sourced.

Paul & Bob spent an afternoon visiting B&Q, Range & Wickes to source the best value replacements. The Wickes offering looks the best value: they are stainless steel & come at a cost of £700 in total. Paul registered LRA as a trade user (which will generate a 10% discount) &, if we get a 50% contribution from Greencore, the total cost to LRA for 2 new BBQs will be £315. Whatever the Greencore outcome we need 2 new BBQs & they will be ordered on 8 October for delivery the following week.

In the meantime Barry will remove the gas taps from the old BBQs (to safeguard correct fittings), & Paul will arrange for the old ones to be collected & disposed of.

8. Outputs from LRA awayday held 28 May 2025

At our Awayday held 28 May, & tasked with coming up with stuff which might fill gaps in our existing provision in Longbarn Land, we brainstormed 27 topics. We drew a line simply so that each of the 12 of us in attendance may go away & consider the feasibility of the Top Twelve. Those topics below the line remain worthy of consideration, but not yet. To date Paul's received 2 feasibility studies, & will issue a reminder following this meeting.

9. Kiddies Christmas party

Katy has the lead for organising our Kiddies Christmas Party. Available dates at PVC are Sunday 7 & 14 December. Katy will check availability of entertainers against the dates & then make the appropriate booking. We may then work on timings for the day. The tickets last year were £10 per child, & we agreed to keep it the same, with payment by cash or bank transfer. Katy will set a date for tickets to be paid for, by, so that she then has surety in buying our kiddies presents (by age & gender).

Bob has approached our usual Father Christmas for availability.

10. Adults Christmas party

Friday 19 December is available at PVC so that's now in the book. Bob has provisionally booked DJ Wayne Sixsmith as entertainer for the evening (at £150), & will explore buffet or hot pot for the evening's refreshments.

11. LRA Poppy Appeal 2025

Barry, with help from Station House patrons, will erect & take down our poppies. Paul will sort publicity. Bob to liaise with the British Legion & obtain collection Boxes for PVC & Station House.

12. Landscaping

For over two months Warrington Borough Council were chased to do the “first cut” on the embankment on Harper’s Road to enable our wonderful volunteers to then continue mowing throughout the Summer. Despite contacting Councillor Una Gillham on numerous occasions (when we were always told it would be done, & then asked us, “Have they not done it yet?”), WBC let us down & Dave Allen & John Melia went above and beyond again for LRA, by strimming & clearing the embankment themselves. What superstars! 🥳

Councillor Gillham was also contacted regarding the mess left by contractors on our grass verges on Harper’s Road ~ having re-laid the pavements they left all kinds of hardcore & debris on the embankment & the grass next to Geoff’s tree, again making it impossible to be mowed until all cleared by hand. Again there has been no response or action at all from WBC; very soul destroying; but again thanks to our wonderful volunteers came to the rescue.

The planters on Harper’s Road & Padgate Station are again looking splendid ~ a big thank you to the people tending them.

A special thanks to Barry who is working on each planter to give them a nice coat of protective paint, along with running repairs to the planters .

Bulbs will be needed for several of the planters; small daffodils were suggested.

At the end of this year it will be necessary to renew some of the planters. They have served us extremely well over many year's but some are now past their best.

9. AOB

We reflected back on agenda item 12 & the outstanding work performed by John Melia & Dave Allen, not just in making good the shortfall by WBC but also in keeping our grassed verges mown throughout the year. Of course we have a number of volunteers who serve us famously, & to whom we are ever so grateful (& recognised their contribution at our ‘Thank You’ event at PVC on 6 July). But we agreed that these 2 lads really do go above & beyond, & we agreed both with Bob’s suggestion that we recognise their contribution with a Thank You gift, & Paul’s suggestion that we thank them each with a £50 gift token of their choice.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8.35pm, with a thank you for all attendees.

Dates of next meetings ~

- Management Committee meeting 13 November 2025
- Trustees’ meeting 9 December 2025
- Residents’ meeting 11 December 2025

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