

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17/02/2025

Councillors Present: Chairman Mr. R. Leveridge, Ms H. Allsopp, Mr. T. Collings, Mr. J. Hinton, Mr. G. Tuttiett and Mrs H. White.

Also Present Unitary Cllrs B. Filmer and T. Grimes (from 7.37 pm) and Mrs S. Ferguson, Clerk.

Minutes were taken by the Clerk. The meeting opened at 7.00 pm.

LPC129/24

Cllr J. Hinton sent his apologies and Cllr Gooding was attending a Sports Club meeting on behalf of the Manor Hall Committee. There were no declarations of Interest.

LPC130/24

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 20th January 2025 - Unanimous.

LPC131/24

Public Speaking –No MOP present.

LPC132/24

Planning Applications-

- 31/24/00018 The Old Dairy, Purving Row, Lympsham.BS24 0HW. Conversion of garage (formerly milking parlour) to living accommodation, including alterations to roof pitch. This application was withdrawn after registration.

LPC133/24

Most correspondence had been sent by email. The Clerk updated the Members on an item on which she had further information. This involved a kind offer of a replacement bench for the outfield. The Harvest Home Committee had been in touch about their intention to replace a bench in one location and the Clerk was asked to liaise with the other party to see if an alternative location would be acceptable.

LPC134/24

The reply from Bristol Water was discussed. The reply was thought to be comprehensive, but the Clerk was asked to write for more information about the longevity of the pipes, to ask what they were made of (as asbestos was a concern) and to identify if the increasing subsidence of the road through the village could be an indication of leaking pipes.

LPC135/24

The request on Social Media for the hedge in the play area to be removed, plus a request to improve drainage were discussed. It was noted that the park is within a conservation area, and that the hedge was important as it was put in as a screen from the tennis courts as well as being of ecological importance to nesting birds, so removal was not deemed an option. The play area grassed surface again fitted into the Conservation area ethic and Councillors thought the pathways were accessible for the majority of the year, except during extreme wet weather. The cost of changing to a different surface would be prohibitive.

LPC136/24

It was resolved to approve the Financial Risk Assessment Report 2024-2025.

LPC137/24

It was resolved to approve the Statement of Internal Controls 2024-2025 which was then signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

LPC138/24

It was resolved to appoint Mr R. Young as Internal Auditor.

LPC139/24

The Annual Community Champion Award was discussed and it was decided to recognise a group rather than an individual this year. The Clerk would ensure representatives of the group would attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 17th March at 8.00 pm to receive the Award.

LPC140/24

There was an update on the work to clear the PROW from Purving Row to Dulhorn Farm. The Chairman advised that the Somerset Council PROW Service manager would need to be advised. Cllr Collings had met with the Landowner.

LPC141/24

The Clerk reported the defibrillator training session would be on Saturday 26th April, time TBC.

LPC142/24

There had been no further information from Somerset Council on Litter bin servicing.

LPC143/24

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve all February payments below:

All items paid from CIL Money are marked with *

- Nichols Facilities Ltd (SID Management) = £114.00*
- Whitehouse Kennels (Dog bin servicing) = £134.40
- Clerk Salary= £826.24
- Clerk Quarterly Expenses = £100.00
- Tax/N. I. = £202.42
- PATA (Payroll service) =£46.05
- Website Administration Annual Payment= £617.99
- Scribe Accounts Annual Fee = £414.72

The balances of accounts after February payments are as follows;

Current Account = £1033.03

Deposit Account= £33,994.25 **Breakdown:** Lympsham in Bloom Funds £444.45, Gardening Club Funds £517.20, CIL £9,451.18, Chatty Hour £1202.24, Capital Reserves £16,370.97, Old Photos Group £50.00 and remaining 2024 Precept £5,958.21.

Vat (to reclaim) = £218.82

LPC144/24

Clerk Report

A letter was received from Bristol Water in response to the complaint raised last month. This has been sent on to all Councillors.

There has been no further information received on litter bin servicing at the time of writing this report.

There will be a delay in the Nuttall Trust funding decisions due to illness. The Board will now meet in March.

After a wet spell, the Play area paths flooded and the Clerk asked the school to advise Parents not to use the play area as a thoroughfare to the school while it was underwater to prevent accidents and to preserve the grasses areas. This led to a request by parents for the Parish Council to consider taking out the hedge along the tennis courts and to put drainage into the play area. The item is on the Agenda this month.

VE80 –It is being suggested to mark the Victory in Europe 80 years ago with a Celebration on the Bank Holiday weekend (Bank Holiday Monday is 5th May 2025), as there will be no official extra Bank Holiday for the event. The Sports Club Manager is planning a Garden party on Sunday 4th.

The Clerk has been informed of a new scheme to help encourage litter picking, Litter Lotto. This rewards residents for taking part and using litter bins—making your community cleaner and greener. It is currently used by councils across the UK with over 25 million pieces of litter binned so far. The Parish can benefit as there is immediate impact, with eye catching posters to place on bins serving as a powerful reminder and motivates residents to participate. Users scan the QR Code on the poster which is on the bin and automatically enter the national £100 weekly prize-draw. Bonus entries awarded for dog poo bags and cigarette litter. I am told it is easy to Implement: A pack of 10 posters costs just £69, making this a cost-effective way to amplify awareness. The cost includes a full 12 months of access to LitterLotto®. This may be worth consideration.

There was an accident involving an articulated lorry on Rectory Way on The ditch opposite Little Grange has been left polluted by diesel and debris. The Clerk has reported this to Somerset Council.

GENERAL REPORTS.

- Unitary Councillors – Cllr Filmer gave an update on the Somerset Council financial situation, and the Boundary Review which has had the deadline extended. He mentioned the Assisted Waste scheme review and anew toll to report hazards on the road to Somerset Council.
- Shop Committee: Share purchase would shortly be live.
- LCN: The Chairman and Clerk had attended the online LCN.
- Highways Working Group- Chairman Leveridge gave an update from this meeting. He would continue to push the road safety issues affecting the Community although only the top 25 priorities would be considered based on Highways software over the last 5 years.

- N.W.- No one had come forward to offer help to increase the areas covered in the village.
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: Half term 17th-21st February.
- Sports Club: Meeting Monday 17th February, Cllr Gooding to attend.
- Manor Hall: Tiles replaced on roof.
- Highways: All defects reported.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk. The defibrillator has been checked and reported to the Circuit. The Clerk liaised with the school to ask for cooperation by parents to use an alternative route when the pathways were flooded.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: None reported.
- Drainage Issues: No issues this month.
- Footpaths: Brief discussion on bridges, all issues reported on 'Explore Somerset'.
- Village Events: 6 Nations Rugby will be shown at the Sports Club
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering- A questionnaire has gone out to all households to gather more information and opinions.

LPC145/24

Items to take forward to next meeting on Monday 18th March at 7.00pm (to be followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00pm. No items forthcoming.

The meeting ended at 8.17 pm.

These Minutes were signed as a true record on 17th March 2025.