

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17/03/2025

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

Also Present Unitary Cllrs B. Filmer and T. Grimes (from 7.48 pm) and Mrs. S. Ferguson, Clerk.

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

LPC146/24

There were no apologies. Chairman Leveridge declared an interest in any matters relating to Church Re-ordering discussions.

LPC147/24

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 17th February 2025 - Unanimous.

LPC148/24

Public Speaking –No MOP present.

LPC149/24

Planning Applications- There were no planning applications to consider on issue of the Agenda, however two had arisen since and were considered for comment as the closing date for comments was before the next meeting:

- 31/25/00006 Mores Building, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham, Somerset. BS24 0BN. Change of use from single traveller family plot to parking of vehicles in connection with Aquablast Drain Services. It was resolved to support this change of use application by a local business as it would improve its Facilities- Unanimous.
- 31/23/00007 11 Copse Corner, Lympsham, Somerset. BS24 0DA. First floor extension, single storey rear extension and porch canopy. It was resolved to support this application as an improvement to the original dwelling- Unanimous

LPC150/24

Most correspondence had been sent by email, but the Clerk had received a verbal request from a resident to ask for the Parish Council for support in writing to the Water Board about a crack in the road which had appeared after a recent water pipe had burst. As the Clerk had been in previous correspondence with Bristol Water, she offered to follow this up.

LPC151/24

It was resolved to ask Highways for a quote for a replacement Lympsham sign to replace the one on the A370 which had been stolen. Somerset Highways would not be able to fund this. The Clerk was asked to establish if there was an alternative to metal, such as a composite, to deter the recent spate of thefts of metal signage.

LPC152/24

It was resolved to approve the Asset Register 2025- Unanimous.

LPC153/24

It was resolved to approve the payment of flowers for the W.I. displays to a limit of £100.00. – Unanimous.

LPC154/24

It was resolved to write to Highways to establish a cost for markings approaching the blind corner which had seen a spate of accidents over the past two months- Unanimous.

LPC155/24

It was resolved to award the Clerk a one-point increase in salary grade (up 28p per hour to £16.65) from 1st April 2025- Unanimous.

LPC156/24

It was resolved to use CIL money to pay for the clearance of the path to Dulhorn Farm- Unanimous.

LPC157/24

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve March payments shown 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= £826.04
- Lympsham News Editor Expenses = £100.00
- Tax/N. I. = £202.62
- PATA (Payroll service) =£37.35
- Somerset Council (play area bins) = £104.21
- A. Tucker (Bridle path Clearance) * = £1200.00

The balances of accounts after March payments are as follows;

Current Account = £1,308.41

Deposit Account= £30,994.25 **Breakdown:** Lympsham in Bloom Funds £444.45, Gardening Club Funds £517.20, CIL £8,337.18, Chatty Hour £1202.24, Capital Reserves £19,000.00, Old Photos Group £50.00 and remaining 2024 Precept £1443.38.

Vat (to reclaim) = £458.59

LPC158/24

Clerk Report

A further response following a complaint to Bristol Water had been received and sent to all Councillors.

There has been no further information received from Somerset Council on devolution of litter bin servicing.

A pre renewal questionnaire had arrived for the Insurance policy which is due on 1st June.

There has been further correspondence from concerned residents relating to the lack of road markings/ signage on the corner by Little Grange, Rectory Way. There have been two more road traffic collisions since the articulated lorry accident in February and one resident had written to Highways with her concerns about speed on this corner. The Clerk has put this as an Agenda item this month as Highways has said that any markings or signage would have to be both requested and paid for by the Parish Council. Interestingly, the Environment Agency would not work at the site as it was felt to be too dangerous without a road closure.

The bridle path to Dulhorn Farm has been cleared and has already been utilised by horse riders and walkers.

The Chairman of the Sports Club has issued an appeal for loans from Members as the Club is struggling financially and has bills which need paying urgently.

VE80- There has been a request for this occasion to be marked by the lighting of a beacon on the evening of 9th May.

The Clerk has moved some of the remaining Precept for 2024-2025 into General Reserves which now stand at

£19,000.00. A Vat reclaim of £458. 59 will be made before the end of the month as it is the end of the Financial year.

Councillors are reminded that the next LCN meeting is being held in Lympsham on Tuesday 25th March at the Manor Hall should they wish to attend.

General Reports

- Unitary Councillors – Cllr Filmer gave an update on Somerset Council's Budget, finances and officer redundancies and mentioned that proposed changes to night time parking fees had been withdrawn. There was to be a consultation on street parking charges.
- Shop Committee: Share purchase would shortly be live.
- LCN: The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th March at Lympsham Manor Hall. The Clerk and Cllr White would attend.
- Highways Working Group- Chairman Leveridge would continue to push the road safety issues affecting our community.
- N.W.-No offers of volunteers forthcoming.
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: No report
- Sports Club: An appeal for loans had gone out to Members as the Club was in financial difficulties.
- Manor Hall: Nothing to report.
- Highways: All defects reported.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk. The defibrillators have been checked and reported to the Circuit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: None reported.
- Drainage Issues: No issues this month.
- Footpaths: Nothing further to report.

- Village Events: There is to be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. The Quiz was well attended on Saturday 15th March
- St. Christopher's Church Re-Ordering-There had been 129 replies (approximately 32% of households) to the recent questionnaire. A wooden floor had been suggested as had heating from air source pumps. Chairman Leveridge (in his role of Co-coordinator for the Church Re-ordering) spoke about an idea to offer a second toilet in the ground of the Churchyard. The cost for this was an estimated £18-£19,000.00. This would need funding and a discussion followed on if the Parish Council would consider helping with funding and applying for grants. Support was offered in principle, but as this was not an Agenda item, the Clerk would put it on the April Agenda for consideration.

LPC159/24

Items to take forward to next meeting on Monday 14th April (to follow Manor Hall Committee Meeting at 7.00pm).

- To consider the purchase of Bleed kits
- To consider offering support towards the funding of a second toilet in the Church grounds as part of the re-ordering project.

The meeting ended at 8.03 pm.

These Minutes were signed as a true record on 14th April 2025.