

## MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14/04/2025

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

Also Present: Mr. C. Field (Somerset Council) and Mrs. S. Ferguson, Clerk.

Minutes were taken by the Clerk. The meeting opened at 7.29 p.m.

### LPC1/25

Cllr J. Hinton and Unitary Cllrs B. Filmer and T. Grimes sent apologies which were accepted. Cllr. Tuttiett declared an interest in Item Four, planning application 31/25/00010.

### LPC2/25

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 - Unanimous.

### LPC3/25

Public Speaking –Mr. C. Field was available to answer questions on the planning application in item 4. The meeting was closed briefly for this at 7.34-7.40 p.m.

### LPC4/25

Planning Applications- This planning application had arisen since the Agenda was issued and was considered by the council.

- 31/25/00010- East Farm, Purving Row. Lympsham . Somerset. BS24 OHW. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Buildings to 1 no. dwelling house (Class 3), and associated building operations. It was resolved to support this application for change of use.

### LPC5/25

All correspondence had been sent by email. The Chairman asked the Clerk to minute his thanks to Mr. J Ford for his work on repairing the wall on Memorial Corner and also to both Mr. Ford and Cllr Gooding for securing the two ploughs into position in the flowerbeds after being restored to their former glory.

### LPC6/25

It was resolved to purchase a bleed kit and lockable cabinet from CIL money. This would be situated as close to the defibrillator as possible at the Pavilion. Action: The Clerk was asked to proceed with the purchase.

### LPC7/25

The emails about the PROW maintenance were discussed and noted.

### LPC8/25

It was resolved that the Chair and Clerk meet with the solicitor from Ashfords, to discuss the terms of the leases and license to occupy, so that all queries could be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

### LPC9/25

It was resolved, in principle, to support the funding of a second toilet in the church grounds as part of the re-ordering process. Further information would be needed before any figures could be decided.

### LPC10/25

It was resolved to match the generous £50.00 donation from the Gardening Club for the Easter Eggs needed for the hunt to be held on Easter Sunday. Action: The Clerk was asked to ensure the money reached the Club in good time.

### LPC11/25

The idea of setting up a Community responder group was discussed. It was agreed to ask for volunteers at the defibrillator training session to be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April.

### LPC12/25

The Clerk updated the members on the costs and choices of replacement signs. It was discussed and resolved to ask Highways to straighten up the small sign opposite the garage, but not to replace the one that had gone missing further towards Bleadon.

### LPC13/25

The Internal Auditor report was received and noted. There were no issues and the report was favourable.

### LPC14/25

It was resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2024-2025. This was duly signed by the Chair and Clerk/RFO.

LPC15/25

The RFO presented the Accounting Statements 2024-25 which she had signed. It was resolved to approve the Statements and the Chairman signed them. The dates for the exercise of Public Rights were noted as Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

LPC16/25

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:**

It was resolved to approve April payments shown below:

All items paid from CIL Money are marked with \*

- Nichols Facilities Ltd (SID Management) = £114.00\*
- Whitehouse Kennels (Dog bin servicing) = £168.00
- Clerk Salary= £833.03
- Hewish Printers (Lympham News) = £553.00
- Tax/N. I. = £269.18
- Defib Supplies (Pads) =£119.94
- SALC (Annual Fee) = £442.09
- Mr. R Young (Internal Audit) = £50.00
- Clerk (reclaim expenses) = £54.70
- Chatty Hour expense= £103.66
- PGC Contracting = £540.00
- Annual Parish Refreshments etc. = £138.06
- Chairman's Allowance (flowers)= £36.99
- Chambers Groundworks (repair path) = £120.00\*
- Gardening Club (Donation)= £50.00 (Easter Egg Hunt)
- Parish Council donation (under Chair's allowance) = £50.00 (Easter Egg Hunt)
- Mr. J. Ford (repair to wall and branch clearance) = £TBA

The balances of accounts after April payments are as follows;

(Precept due shortly)

Current Account = £717.60 (Mr. J Ford's invoice still to be received).

Deposit Account= £28,710.56 **Breakdown:** Lympham in Bloom Funds £444.45, Gardening Club Funds £467.20, CIL £8,408.96, Chatty Hour £1098.58 Capital Reserves £18, 141.37 and Old Photos Group £50.00

Vat (to reclaim) = £157.99

LPC17/25

#### **Clerk Report**

Two pine trees have been planted by someone unknown near the bus stop on the verge of the road out of the village towards the A370. These will need to be dug up and moved as they will, in time, affect the highway.

The Clerk has purchased new defibrillator pads for the unit at the Pavilion as the existing ones will be out of date on 1<sup>st</sup> May. The defibrillator training session on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10am at the Manor Hall has been advertised on social media and on the village noticeboards.

Highways has provided information on replacement Lympham signs for the A370. The Clerk will update the Members with this information by email.

The W.I. has requested permission from the Manor Hall Committee and the school to plant a Peace rose for commemorating VE80.

There has been correspondence from Ashfords Solicitors regarding the lease from 2016 for the School. There are several queries from the Wessex Learning Trust's solicitors that need resolving. The Clerk and Chairman will meet to discuss these queries and report back to full council at the April meeting.

A VAT 126 claim for £557.89 was submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> March which was the last day of the financial year. This has since been paid.

The annual fee invoice from SALC has been received and the fee has increased significantly by 60% to £442.09.

Highways have replied to the query about road markings on the corner near Little Grange. There have been no police reports of accidents there in the last 5 years, so the Traffic Manager does not think further action is needed. The Clerk has reported the accidents this year to her, and explained the difficulties particular at present with the diversion in place for the work on the railway bridge. The Traffic Manager has asked the police to patrol the area during this time to deter unsafe driving.

The share options at the Community shop are now available and an update has been issued from the Chairman of the shop committee.

The cyber policy renewal is due on 19<sup>th</sup> June and a questionnaire has been sent for the Clerk to fill in and send back. The Clerk followed up on the complaint from residents about the road surface following the water leak near Grange Cottages. Bristol Water inspected the area and their belief was this is a Highways issue, as the road is cracking due to a lack of support on the edge of the ditch. Their Engineer spoke with both residents and reported that they understood his thinking. The Clerk then received a phone call from their Customer Services department, which was followed by an email. This information was relayed by the Clerk to County roads who inspected the surface and said it was not considered urgent and would be carried out in due course as part of their regular schedule of maintenance. The Clerk has emailed to ask if the crack outside the residents' property could be patched for now, but has not had a reply so far.

The end of year paperwork has been compiled and was sent to the Internal Auditor last week, the audit was favourable and the AGAR is ready for signing at the meeting before going to the External Auditor, PKF. There will be changes to the AGAR next year which mean the Council will need to have a gov.uk email domain and a fully accessible website in order to be able to sign as compliant in all areas of transparency. The Clerk will explain this to Members at the meeting, and has put this as a future Agenda item for May as there is time to reflect on this and a lot to cover in this month.

There was a penalty notice issued for £800.00 from HMRC in relation to the 2023-2024 financial year. The Clerk has appealed this and the notice has been withdrawn, as the information it was based on was not needed and therefore the penalty was invalid.

### General Reports

- Unitary Councillors – Cllr Filmer had sent a report which was distributed in his absence.
- Shop Committee: Share purchase is now live.
- LCN: The Clerk and Cllr White attended the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr White gave a short update.
- Highways Working Group- Chairman Leveridge would continue to push the road safety issues affecting our community.
- N.W.-Nothing to report.
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: No report
- Sports Club: Report was given at the earlier Manor Hall meeting.
- Manor Hall: Committee meeting this evening.
- Highways: All defects reported by the Clerk.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks were carried out by the Clerk and the area was litter picked. Nothing of concern to report. The defibrillators have been checked and reported to the Circuit. Pads had been purchased and were to be replaced in one unit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: Two pine trees had been planted on the highway without permission. These would need to be moved later in the year.
- Drainage Issues: No issues this month.
- Footpaths: Nothing further to report.
- Village Events: Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday on Village Green.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-Ordering- Nothing this month to add.

LPC18/25

**Items to take forward to next meeting** on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AMPC):

- To consider the implications of changes to AGAR (of external Audit requirements) for smaller authorities.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

These Minutes were signed as a true record on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025.