

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17/11/2025

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

Also Present: Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and Mrs. S. Ferguson, Clerk.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

LPC96/25

Unitary Cllr. T. Grimes sent apologies. There were no Declarations of Interest.

LPC97/25

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

LPC98/25

Public Speaking –There were no members of the Public present.

LPC99/25

Planning Applications- There were no applications for consideration this month.

LPC100/25

Most correspondence had been sent by email, however the Council thanked Cllr. Collings and Mr. P. Godfrey for their time and generosity in repairing a large pothole in the bridleway leading from South Road. The Clerk also showed the Council a preview of the new website which is nearing completion.

LPC101/25

It was resolved to accept the Meeting Dates for 2026 proposed by the Clerk.

LPC102/25

It was resolved to purchase a Christmas Tree for Memorial Corner. Cllr Gooding would order one from Westcroft Nurseries.

LPC103/25

There was no response so far from the Environmental Agency or the Internal Drainage Board to the letter sent regarding the removal of the Bleadon Sluice.

LPC104/25

A request from a resident to ban the use of chemical weed killers as a condition of the Grounds Maintenance Contract was considered. It was resolved that usage would be kept to a minimum.

LPC105/25

There was no further update on the progress with the School lease.

(Unitary Cllr B. Filmer joined the meeting)

LPC106/25

The Clerk presented an update on the spending so far this year and predicted spend from December to 31st March 2026. An updated Budget for 2026-2027 was shown. The Budget will be considered further in December with a final decision on Precept demand being made when the Tax Base figures had been published by Somerset Council.

LPC107/25

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve the November 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 = £991.52
- Tax/N. I. = £147.82
- PGC Contracting = £532.80
- Unity Bank Charges = £6.00
- R. Leveridge (L in Bloom) = £123.63
- R. Leveridge (L in Bloom) = £40.80
- E. Male (L in Bloom) = £60.32
- A. York (L in Bloom) = £39.90
- Hall Hire = £260.00

- SALC (Training)= £45.00
- CPRE = £36.00
- SALC (Training)= £25.00
- Clerk Quarterly Home Expenses= £100.00
- R. Leveridge (Fuel)= £16.50

The balances of accounts after November 2025 payments are as follows:

Current Account = £2,035.47

Deposit Account= £71,552.68 **Breakdown:** Lympsham in Bloom Funds £127.30, Gardening Club Funds £467.20, CIL £6110.37, Chatty Hour £1451.80, Old photos Group £530.00, Play Area Refurbishment Fund £25,100, General Reserves £25,000.00 and remaining precept 2025 £12,766.01

VAT (to reclaim) = £1,399.17

LPC108/25

Clerk Report

The Clerk has sent out invoice reminders to the five advertisers who have yet to pay for their Lympsham News adverts. Eden Greenery has also commissioned an advert for Christmas tree sales which will be invoiced in December.

The Grounds Maintenance Tender has been issued and three Contractors have so far expressed an interest. The closing date is 28th November and a decision will be made at the December meeting.

There was recent incident of cold calling in the village, involving two males who also visited Bleadon and Brent Knoll. The Clerk became aware of this through a Social Media post and contacted PCSO Millie Hale who subsequently patrolled the village. Residents have provided Ring doorbell footage to the Clerk which has been passed to the Police. CCTV images were also supplied by the Queen's Arms in Bleadon. Residents are urged to report any further incidents directly to the Police via 101 or 999 as appropriate. The Clerk and the Chair have now got contact details for the new PCSO and Beat Officer.

General Reports:

- Unitary Councillor Report – Cllr Filmer reported that Somerset Council is facing a budget gap, and would be applying to Central Government under 'exceptional circumstances' to help them cover the difference. All staff will have their roles reviewed and regraded to protect their TUPE rights. A new interim Chief Planning Officer was being recruited in a temporary post costing £250,000. The Sunday Parking Consultation had now closed and will be going before the Scrutiny Panel this week. Winter Gritting would take place with a new targeted system to utilise the team more effectively.
- Shop Committee - The shop staff took part in a BBC Somerset quiz.
- LCN-No report. The next meeting is on 16th December.
- Highways Working Group Update - Chair Leveridge attended a meeting where new accident tracking software was demonstrated. The One Network was discussed, with options to sign up for alerts on diversions and roadworks. Attendees expressed frustration with Somerset Council's reporting portal, as issues like damaged signs, hazards, and potholes were marked 'actioned' and closed without being resolved.
- Neighbourhood / Farm Watch – Incident of cold callers in village reported to Police. Clerk and Chair now have contact details of new Beat Police Officer and PCSO for the future.
- Lympsham C. of E. Academy and Pre-School - No report.
- Manor Hall - Bookings are steady.
- Pavilion Bar and Kitchen and Chatty Hour - New menu and reduced opening hours to reflect slower trade in Winter months. Cllr Gooding attended the Committee meeting and reported that Member loans and culvert grant money would be paid back over the next 24 months.
- Highways – New posts for SID have been installed this month, and the solar panel has arrived to be set up by Nicholls Facilities Ltd.
- Play Area and Defibrillator checks – Litter picked up, play area checks carried out, grass has been mown and nothing else to report. Defibrillator checks and report to the Circuit carried out by the Clerk.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues - Two broken benches at Copse Corner. Cllr Tuttiett has sourced a quote for repair.
- Drainage Issues - Nothing new reported.
- Footpaths – No report.

- Village Events – Hallowe'en party had taken place. 'Eat Out to help out' for FOLS and 'Christmas Bash' planned in early December.
- St Christopher's Church Re-ordering – Efforts ongoing to reduce costs before re-tendering process.

LPC109/25 **Items to take forward to next meeting** on Monday 15th December 2025 at 7 p.m.

- To formally approve the restoration of two benches at Copse Corner at a cost of £140.
- Further monitoring of Expenditure and 2026-2027 Budget.

The meeting ended at 8.08 p.m.