

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20/10/2025

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

Also Present: Two representatives from the Sports Club Committee and Mrs. S. Ferguson, Clerk.

The meeting opened at 7.42 p.m.

LPC79/25

Cllr. H. Allsopp sent apologies which were accepted.

(Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and T. Grimes joined the meeting at 7.43 p.m.).

LPC80/25

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of 8th September 2025 - Unanimous.

LPC81/25

Public Speaking – The Chairman suspended the meeting at 7.44 p.m. to allow questions and responses from a representative of the Sports Club in relation to Item 6 (to consider a grant towards changes to layout of the Pavilion changing rooms, improvement of toilets and installation of safety nets).

(The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.55 p.m. and reordered the Agenda so that Item 6 was discussed before Planning (Item 4))

LPC82/25

Planning Applications:

- 31/25/00017 Ranscombe House, Slade Lane, Lympsham, Somerset. BS24 0DP. Construction of a new dwelling. It was resolved to approve this application as a positive contribution to local housing provision.

LPC83/25

Most correspondence had been sent by email. The clerk mentioned that Scribe Accounts package was increasing from 1st April 2026 by £98.00 per annum.

LPC84/25

The application for a grant from CIL money towards the refurbishment of the changing rooms and toilets, with added protection of nets from cricket balls was considered. It was resolved to offer a grant from CIL Funds of £3,000.00 to be paid on completion of the project in January.

LPC85/25

It was resolved to join Parish Online Mapping Software for a 3-month free trial, and to join the scheme at £80.00 per annum subject to a satisfactory trial.

LPC86/25

It was noted that the Clerk was undertaking refresher GDPR training.

LPC87/25

It was resolved to formally accept a kind offer of a new bench for the play area in memory of a resident.

LPC 88/25

It was resolved to formally accept grants from Lympsham Amateur Dramatics Society which was winding up their financial affairs. £250.00 would towards the hall hire for a new venture which would pay for 12 sessions. £300.00 was for the Sports Club for the project to improve facilities and the remaining £333.86 to Chatty Tuesdays.

LPC89/25

The Grounds Maintenance Contract Tender 2026-2029 would go out this week with a closing date of 28th November, to be decided at the December meeting.

LPC90/25

It was resolved to purchase a new laptop which would be Windows 11 compliant. This would be added to the Budget for 2026-2027.

LPC91/25

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

LPC92/25

The Clerk presented an update on the spending so far this year and predicted spend to 31st March 2026. A draft Budget for 2026-2027 was shown and an alteration was made to the elections fund line. The Clerk had added a line for SID Management after discussion with Chairman, as one of the devices' contracts with the Management Company ended on 31st December, and would need to be paid for by the Council from January onwards. The Budget will be considered further in November with a final decision on Precept demand being made in December or January.

LPC93/25

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve the October 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 = £991.72
- Tax/N. I. = £147.62
- PGC Contracting = £532.80
- Unity Bank Charges = £6.00
- Somerset Council (Play area Bin) = £101.40
- Chatty Hour Expenses (J.Rosser)=£450.64
- LADS Grant for Hall hire= £250.00
- LADS Grant for Sports Club= £300.00
- Chatty Hour (yoga)= £30.00
- Elan city Ltd Solar Panel (for SID) = £595.02*
- SLCC (Training)= £18.00

The balances of accounts after October payments are as follows:

Current Account = £1,459.16

Deposit Account= £74,552.68 **Breakdown:** Lympsham in Bloom Funds £391.95, Gardening Club Funds £467.20, CIL £6,224.37, Chatty Hour £1481.80, Old photos Group £530.00, Play Area Refurbishment Fund £25,100, General Reserves £25,000.00 and remaining precept 2025 £15,357.36

VAT (to reclaim) = £1,287.97

LPC94/25

Clerk Report

The Autumn edition of the Lympsham News has been well received. Invoices have gone out to all advertisers and so far, £1,815.00 has been received in revenue.

Our MP, Tessa Munt held a surgery in the village on Tuesday 30th September from 09.30 -10.30 am at the Pavilion Bar and Kitchen.

Lympsham Amateur Dramatics Society met to wrap up their financial affairs, and a sum of £833.86 has been transferred to the Parish Council to be split three ways. Lympsham Sports Cub will receive £300.00 towards the changing room alterations, a sum of £250.00 is for the expenses of setting up a new Theatre Group in the village (Ashley Godfrey- Keytes launched a Musical Theatre Group this week on Monday evenings and has asked for the grant to be used for Hall Hire for 12 sessions). Chatty Hour will benefit from the remaining £333.86. The Clerk will set the payments up to be authorised to distribute the money accordingly, and record it in the Minutes.

The Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2026-2026 is due to go out for tender. The Clerk has updated the previous Contract details and the Tender will go out this month with a deadline of 28th November. A decision will then be made in the December meeting.

Lympsham Pavilion Bar and Kitchen has put up an awning for the Winter season which will have patio heaters to provide more space for diners while the skittle season takes place. The Committee has sent out a new survey to parishioners to seek their opinion on the new venture after the first three months. The Committee are currently fund raising to provide a better changing room area and refresh the toilets, as well as providing cricket netting to protect spectators on the terrace and roof netting to protect new solar panels which would reduce their carbon footprint. So far, the Committee has secured £15,000.00 towards this project which will cost a projected £25,000.00 in total. The Committee has submitted a grant request to the Parish Council from their CIL Fund of £3,000.00. The Clerk requests that Councillors take time to read the application before the meeting on 20th October, so that an informed decision can be made.

GENERAL REPORTS

- Somerset Council Report: Cllr Filmer gave a briefing on Somerset Council finances and mentioned a consultancy firm had been employed to try and alleviate some of the £1m shortfall predicted in 2026 -27, and £190m showing currently for 2027-2028. The Parking consultation had finished, and a decision was due on Sunday parking charges.
- LCN: No report. The Clerk attended the meeting online, but there were technical difficulties at the Somerset Council end and no sound was available.
- Highways Group: No report
- N.W. and Farm Watch: No report
- Lympsham Academy and Pre-school: No report.
- Shop/Post Office: A stock take has taken place. The new sub-Post Mistress has settled in well.
- Sports Club/Pavilion Bar and Kitchen: An awning has been put in place for the winter months to provide more dining space. Several events have been advertised, such as an Italian Night on 24th October, a Christmas party fundraising evening on 6th December, as well as a wreath making workshop and bottomless brunch in December.
- Manor Hall: Meeting to take place on Monday 20th October at 7.00 pm.
- Highways: The Clerk had reported the need for several repairs to Highways. Graffiti had been noted on the Bus stop, this would need to be removed which was discussed.
- Play Area and Defibrillator: Visual Checks carried out by Clerk weekly. Some litter removed and graffiti cleaned off equipment. Defibrillator status reported to the Circuit.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues: Some debris from trees on Village Green after Storm Amy.
- Drainage Issues: None reported.
- Footpaths: Nothing to report this month.
- Village Events: The Litter pick on 11th September was not well attended, but the Clerk sends thanks to those who did help, a number of black bags were collected and disposed of. Sadly, there were no children for the Scavenger Hunt part of this activity.
- St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering: Cllr Leveridge had no update this month.

LPC 95/25

Items to take forward to next meeting on Monday 17th November 2025 at 7 p.m.

- Further monitoring of Expenditure and 2026-2027 Budget.
- To agree meeting Dates for 2026

The meeting ended at 8.57 p.m.

These Minutes were signed as a true Copy on Monday 17th November 2025.