

MINUTES OF LYMPHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 16/03/2026

Councillors Present: Mr. R. Leveridge, (Chairman), Ms H. Allsopp, Mr B. Gooding, Mr. T.Collings, Mr J. Hinton, Mr G. Tuttiett, Mrs H White, Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and T.Grimes.

Also Attending: 5 residents, and Mrs S. Ferguson (Clerk).

Minutes were taken by the Clerk. The meeting opened at 8.00 p.m.

1. Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies.

2. The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 17th March 2025 were approved and signed. The Chairman welcomed all to the Meeting and presented his Annual Review:

'This is my second year of having to give an Annual Parish Report, so I referred back to last year's when I said 'Unfortunately we are living in a world that is swamped with a lot of unrest at the moment, not helped by stringent economic restraints.'

So what's new?!

I'm pleased to report that we've had no changes to my fellow Parish & Unitary Councillors during the year and I thank them for their continued diligence and good humour; and, of course, we are still incredibly lucky to have Sally as our Parish Clerk and Finance Officer.

It would be very easy to spend time just moaning about things in Somerset that seem to crop up regularly: pot-holes, drainage, bad signage, speeding & road safety, dog effluence and price rises: needless to say these are not confined to just Somerset.

Some of you will have heard me say that, after many years of dealing with Somerset Highways, I actually felt sorry for one of its Highways Managers having to deal with the plethora of pot-hole complaints in recent weather conditions and a seemingly non-existent budget.

Similarly having spent 90 minutes on a cold, wet and windy February afternoon in the middle of a field by Bleadon Sluice with our Parish Clerk, M.P. and a dozen others from local councils, the Drainage Board and Environment Agency officials, I am more understanding of possible flooding issues, although lack of budget is still the major issue.

And I could go on but this last year has seen some really positive things happening in our village:

I have to commend the Sports Club Committee for taking the brave step of outsourcing refreshments and catering at the Pavilion which has led to a much needed refurbishment of the facilities there. I encourage residents and visitors to try what's on offer at the Pavilion Bar & Kitchen - I've certainly enjoyed some great meals and snacks there; in less than a year Terry & Stuart have not only embraced the concepts of 'Chatty Cafe' and the Sporting aspects, but have also tried to bring the Pav, literally to a wider appreciation of tastes.

I also have to praise our 'Carry On St Christopher's' Committee for pursuing the challenge of enhancing and refurbishing our Church: I have the honour of Chairing that Committee, but I freely admit that, without the skills and tenacity of each Committee Member, the Project would not get off the drawing board. Hopefully we will see far greater use of a more welcoming and comfortable church building well before the end of this decade. Simon and Kevin, the last two Priests were supportive of

our project, and we look forward to our new incumbent, Reverend Robyn Golden-Hann being involved.

Another valuable asset of Lympsham is our Village Shop & Post Office and Amanda Parrett has quickly become an indispensable, key member of the team.

Suffice it to say, regardless of however you support our Parish, whether you are paid or do it from 'the goodness of your heart', on a Committee or helping in a group of one or two, thank you.'
Robin Leveridge.

3. Mrs Lisa Bishop gave a very well received presentation with slides, entitled 'Dipping into Lympsham's Past'.

4. The Chairman presented this year's Community Champion Award to Mrs. Bishop in recognition of her exceptional historical research of our community.

5. There were no questions from the floor and so the meeting closed for refreshments at 8.38 p.m.