

MINUTES OF LYMPHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 16/02/2026

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 Cllr. B. Filmer (from 7.35 p.m.) and Mrs. S. Ferguson, Clerk.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m.

LPC139/25

Unitary Cllr. Grimes sent apologies. There were no declarations of Interest.

LPC140/25

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of Monday 19th January 2026 - Unanimous.

LPC141/25

Public Speaking – There were no residents present.

LPC142/25

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

LPC143/25

Most correspondence had been sent by email. The Clerk updated the Council on an email from the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, and a telephone call from a Brean resident concerned about changes to the Entrance and Exit roads at Unity Caravan Resort. Cllr. Filmer would follow this up with Highways and Unity.

LPC143/25

It was resolved to make a Community Award to a resident, who would be named at the Annual Parish Meeting on 16th March.

LPC144/25

It was resolved to pay for the Clerk to attend a SLCC regional training seminar in Taunton on 3rd June.

LPC145/25

The Chair reported on the recent meeting at the Bleadon Sluice with representatives from the Environment Agency and the Drainage Board. Fifteen people were in attendance, including representatives from the Environment Agency, the Drainage Board, Tessa Munt (M.P.), three Parish Councils, and local landowners. There was a general consensus that some form of structure should remain in place; however, the overriding concern was the potential cost involved in delivering and maintaining such a solution.

LPC146/25

It was resolved to approve the Asset Register 2025-2026.

LPC147/25

It was resolved to approve a one-point increase in the Clerk's salary for satisfactory performance (29p per hour) from 1st April 2026.

LPC148/25

There was no update this month from WLT and Ashford's Solicitors regarding the lease.

LPC149/25

It was resolved to comment on the Somerset Dog Orders Consultation to request that the current village restrictions are upheld.

LPC 150/25

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve the February payments shown below:

Items marked with an * are from CIL money)

- Whitehouse Kennels (Dog bin servicing) = £134.40
- Clerk Salary = £991.52
- Clerk Quarterly Expenses = £100.00
- Tax/N. I. = £147.82
- Unity Bank Charges = £7.00
- SLCC (Training)= £85.00
- Parish Online= £108.00
- R. Leveridge (Lympham News Expenses) = £100.00
- SALC (training)= £25.00

- Chatty Hour lunch subsidies (T. Reynolds) =£76.00

The balances of accounts after February 2026 payments are as follows:

Current Account = £962.32

Deposit Account= £60,453.23 **Breakdown:** Lympsham in Bloom Funds £594.50, CIL £2,996.37, Chatty Hour £1,635.80, Old photos Group £183.40, Play Area Refurbishment Fund £25,100, General Reserves £25,000.00 and remaining Precept 2025-2026, £4,943.16

VAT (to reclaim) = £1,918.48

LPC151/25

Clerk Report

Following reminders sent out last month, all invoices for advertisements in the Lympsham News in 2025 have been paid. The income amount received from advertising is £2165.00, plus £200.00 from the Nuttall Trust, a total of £2365.00. The Costs, including printing, quiz prizes and Editor expenses will be approximately £2450.00, so the Parish Council contribution will be £85.00 for this financial year.

The toilets at the Pavilion Bar and Kitchen are completed, and the changing rooms are on schedule to be finished.

The Clerk was asked for a quote for the Somerset Cricket Club and Lympsham News:

“The upgrade to the toilet facilities at The Pavilion Bar and Kitchen is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when the community comes together. Thanks to the hard work of our fundraisers and the support of the Parish Council, we’ve been able to deliver improvements that are already being warmly welcomed by café users and sports club members alike. The positive feedback we’ve received shows just how important these facilities are to the village.”

The meeting with the Environment Agency and Drainage Board, for Parish Councils and Landowners, following the Letters of concern about the removal of the Bleadon Sluice went ahead on Friday, 23rd January on the river bank, next to the Sluice. The Chair and Clerk attended and will report back to the Council at the meeting.

There will be works to the sewers carried out from Monday 16th February onwards. The Clerk has been liaising with Wessex Water operations team, as the signage has been somewhat misleading, and is factually incorrect.

Unity Trust Bank charges increase this month by £1.00 to £7.00.

The Dog Order Consultation for Somerset is now open and Parish Councils are invited to comment. There are two orders in the Parish currently. The first is for No dogs allowed in the Play Area, and the second is a Dogs on Leads Order on the Sports field/Village Green. If the Council wish to uphold these, it is advisable for the Clerk to comment. This will be an Agenda item this month.

General Reports:

- Unitary Councillor Report – Cllr Filmer reported the latest financial information from Somerset Council. The Council had applied to the Government to increase the amount of Council tax beyond 4.99 %, but this was refused. This means the Council will be facing a £30- 40 M deficit in the next financial year’s Budget. A new, permanent Section 151 Financial Officer is being appointed. The National Planning Policy Framework is being consulted on, a Local Somerset Plan will then need to be in place within 30months
- Shop Committee- The Committee are seeking funding for improvements to the interior of the shop.
- LCN-The Chair had completed a questionnaire on ideas to improve attendance at network meetings and topics the Parishes would like raised in future.
- Highways Working Group Update- The Chair and Clerk would liaise to organise a meeting with experts on the Accident data collected in the LCN area. This would be held in the Manor Hall during a school holiday, and invitations to the other Parishes would be sent out.
- Neighbourhood / Farm Watch –Quiet this month.
- Lympsham C. of E. Academy and Pre-School- No report.
- Manor Hall- Nothing to report.
- Sports Club, Pavilion Bar and Kitchen and Chatty Club- Fish night, and Shrove Tuesday evening planned.
- Highways –Potholes and sign damage reported by Clerk, some repairs carried out.
- Play Area and Defibrillator checks – Litter picked up, play area checks carried out. The grass was still waterlogged, nothing else of concern. Defibrillator checks and report to the Circuit carried out by the Clerk.
- Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues- Winter tidy up carried out by Contractor.
- Drainage Issues- Nothing reported, sewer maintenance taking place this month.
- Footpaths –Cllr. Gooding mentioned some work had been carried out, including the installation of a bridge.
- Village Events –Weekly Yoga, a monthly Deep rest, plus Musical Theatre classes at Manor Hall. Rugby internationals shown at the Sports Club, and a Quiz, with supper, planned for 28th February.

- St Christopher's Church Re-ordering – It was decided that, due to fewer opportunities being available elsewhere, it would be necessary to apply for a larger National Lottery grant than originally planned. This would require the preparation of a business plan, among other supporting documents.

LPC152/25 **Items to take forward to next meeting** on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7 p.m.

- To consider a grant to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance.

The meeting ended at 8.06 p.m.

These Minutes were signed as a true copy by the Chair on 16th March 2026.