

MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20/04/2026 DRAFT

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

Also Present: Unitary Cllrs. B. Filmer and T.Grimes (from 7 .32 p.m.) and Mrs. S. Ferguson, Clerk.

The meeting opened at 7.23 p.m.

LPC1/26

Cllr. H. White sent apologies. There were no declarations of Interest.

LPC2/26

It was resolved to approve the Minutes of Monday 16th March 2026 - Unanimous.

LPC3/26

Public Speaking – There were no residents present.

LPC4/26

Planning Applications

- 31/26/00003 Elmfield, South Road, Lympsham, Somerset.BS24 ODY. Erection of 1No. dwelling with associated parking. It was resolved to offer No Observations on this application and to accept the informed decision of the Planning Officer, Highways and The Internal Drainage Board with respect to access and the close proximity of the ditch to the proposed build.
- Appeal/E3335/6007539 Appeal against refusal of Change of Use from single traveller family plot to parking of vehicles in connection with Aqua Blast Drain Services. Mores Building, Bridgwater Road, Lympsham, Somerset. BS24 OBN. It was resolved to comment that the Traveller plot had been sold on the open market, presumably on the basis that it was no longer required as a Traveller facility by the previous owner. Members raised concern as to how such a sale was permitted in the absence of a restrictive covenant. The Parish Council expressed its support for the proposed change of use in respect of the local business.

LPC5/26

All correspondence had been sent by email.

LPC6/26

There were no updates received in relation to the School lease.

LPC7/26

It was resolved to accept the Cyber Insurance Quotation.

LPC8/26

The recent Road Safety meeting was discussed, during which the potential use of body cameras as part of a Community Speed Watch initiative was raised. It was resolved to seek further clarification on this matter prior to the next meeting. The Clerk reported that any signage would require permission from Avon and Somerset Police. The Chair undertook to seek further advice from the representatives of Highways and the Police who had addressed the meeting.

LPC9/26

The Internal Audit Report was received and noted. There were no actions required.

LPC10/26

The Annual Governance Statement 2025 -2026 was approved and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

LPC 11/26

The RFO presented the signed Accounting Statements 2025 -2026. It was resolved to approve them and the Chairman signed the Statements. The dates for the exercise of Public rights was noted as Wednesday 3rd June to Tuesday 14th July 2026.

LPC12/26

FINANCIAL REPORT AND EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING:

It was resolved to approve the April payments shown below:

- Whitehouse Kennels (Dog bin servicing) = £168.00
- Clerk Salary = £1,058.18 (Tax code change)
- Tax/N. I. = £101.44
- SALC (Annual fee) = £433.73
- Somerset Council (Play area bin) = £101.40
- Vista print (dog signage)- £14.19
- Hewish Print (Lympsham News) = £625.00
- Mr. R. Young (Internal Audit) = £50.00
- It's a Goal (replacement key) =£24.54
- Replacement Noticeboard Keys = £12.46
- Unity Bank Charges = £7.00
- Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance =£200.00
- Ground Maintenance (PGC)= £640.80
- Chatty Hour lunch subsidies (T. Reynolds) =£101.00
- HP Smart Ink /Paper=£20.48
- Scribe Accounts Annual Fee= £532.80

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

Current Account = £868.40

Deposit Account= £ 76,572.99

Breakdown: Lympsham in Bloom Funds £594.50, CIL £2,996.37, Chatty Hour £1,297.65, Old Photos Group £683.40, Play Area Refurbishment Fund £27,500.00, Road Safety Fund £1,500.00, Election Fund £2,000.00, General Reserves £30,000.00, General Funds 2026-2027, £10,001.07 (with £19,750.00 of Precept still to be received).

VAT (to reclaim) = £246.96

LPC13/26

Clerk Report

The renewal quote for Cyber Insurance has been received at £218.76, representing a modest increase of £25.00 compared to last year.

A resident raised concerns regarding litter on the field and the supervision of children at the Pavilion. The Clerk liaised with both the school and Pavilion management. The school has since issued a letter to all parents addressing the issue of litter, and signage has been installed at the Pavilion requesting that children are supervised at all times.

Mr. Bishop reported that the goalposts require unlocking. Currently, a lock is fitted to part of the frame. This is separate to the chain and padlock used over the winter period. The replacement nets cannot be installed until this is resolved. The Clerk has contacted the manufacturer to determine whether a replacement key can be obtained, as the whereabouts of the original key are unknown.

The road safety briefing with Dan from Avon and Somerset Police and Nick Cowling, organised by our Chair, was attended by representatives from East Brent and Woolavington Parish Council, as well as four Lympsham residents. The village is frequently used as a "rat run" to Brean. With very limited pavement provision, walking through the village can feel extremely unsafe. While the two SIDs currently in place have had a positive impact on vehicle speeds, we have seen an increase in careless driving.

With this in mind, there is an item on this month's agenda to discuss the potential purchase of body cameras as part of a Community Speed watch initiative. These can be invaluable in providing evidence to the Police and footage can be used to prosecute offenders. One of our residents was driven at and ended up in a hedge. The Clerk has been hit by a wing mirror whilst walking her dog.

In advance of the meeting, the Clerk has written to Traffic Management to ask whether it would be possible to install signage at the main access points to the village, along the lines of:

“Community Speed watch Area – See it, Report it, Stop it.”

A resident has kindly donated plants for village displays, and the Clerk has distributed these around to volunteer gardeners.

The Internal Audit was favourable, with no points to action.

The first half of the Precept, £19,750.00 has been received, and the Clerk has transferred £18,000 to the deposit account which earns interest.

General Reports:

- LCN- No update.
- Highways Working Group Update- Chair had attended a brief meeting that day and noted that the meeting was not well attended.
- Unitary Councillor Report – Unitary Cllr. Filmer presented an overview of news from Somerset Council. The recruitment of a permanent Finance Officer had not been successful; the Interim Officer would remain in place until next March. There was opposition to the introduction of a Tourism Tax from local business struggling with increasing costs and Visitors having less disposable income for leisure activities. The Edithmead Roundabout project was predicted to start in September.
- Shop Committee-AGM has had date changed to avoid clash with Parish Council meeting.
- Neighbourhood / Farm Watch-Cold Calling in village reported to Police.
- Lympsham C. of E. Academy and Pre-School-Summer Term Commenced.
- Manor Hall- Manor Hall Committee Meeting on Monday 20th April.
- Sports Club, Pavilion Bar and Kitchen and Chatty Club-Successful Fish Night on Good Friday, a Greek night coming up this week, and evening food would be introduced in May from Wednesday to Saturday with the commencement of the Cricket season.
- Highways –Clerk has requested road markings and white lines are refreshed. There will be a resurfacing of the road from the Brean Road junction to The Brambles, Rectory Way taking place in June.
- Play Area and Defibrillators – The Clerk reported that the play area inspections had been carried out. A small amount of litter had been collected, and a duck was found nesting within one of the hedges; the area had been cordoned off and the school duly informed. It was noted that the Annual Safety Inspection had been scheduled for June. Both Defibrillators were checked and reported to the Circuit.

LPC14/26

Items to take forward to next meeting on Monday 11th May 2026 (The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council):

- Journey/Body Camera update as part of a Speed Watch Scheme.

The meeting ended at 8.22 p.m.