

LYDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held at Nicholls Hall, Lydford on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs K Lenton (Chair), L Lenton, Gilpin, Purnell, Cook, Moyse. Cllrs Mott and Southcott (WDBC), Cllr Fife Cook (DCC)

1. Public Session (15 minutes)

Cllr Fife Cook introduced himself as the new Devon County Councillor for the ward. Please feel free to contact me, the Clerk has my email address.

There was a round discussion about the needs of the parish, particularly around repairs to the road surfaces locally, which Councillor Fife Cook promised to work to resolve.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Hulett – Holiday

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Moyse declared a personal interest in the application 0171/25 Lydbells - applicant is a neighbour.

4. Minutes of the monthly and annual meetings held on 8th May 2025

After a minor change to the names of Cllrs present, the minutes were agreed and signed.

5. Matters arising from the meeting 8th May 2025 which are not part of the agenda items. (See also Action Points from meeting)

a. Disability audit – Councillors asked what the Council is hoping to achieve with this survey and what are the Council responsibilities towards the disabled in the village? What are we going to do with any information? It was suggested that the Council should act as a source and conduit of information from any audit, passing any information obtained to the appropriate authority. It was agreed that the Council should use the website, its Facebook page and the newsletter to raise the question with parishioners rather than commission an expensive audit which will likely produce a large report and quantities of action points which would be of little use to the Council. (**AP1** – Clerk to raise the questions for the different media).

b. The Council acknowledged with gratitude that the hedge at the top of Gorge Hill had been cut back by the owners of the property. However, Councillor Moyse suggested that the hedge at the bottom of Gorge Hill belonging to the National Trust, was also in need of cutting back. (**AP2** – Clerk to consult with Simon Thompson).

c. The content of the letter to RoSPA regarding issues identified with the last two surveys was approved by Councillors. It was suggested that the matter might best be raised through their complaints procedure as they did not reply to the Council's emails last year. (**AP3** – Clerk to raise complaint).

d. Reference the requirement to migrate away from Google mail or similar, the Clerk provided the following information – for Parish Online to set up Council emails with a gov.uk domain. All messages will be ported across and diverts set up. £260 + VAT per year, but with a £100 grant for the first year. Councillor Gilpin asked for that information to be forwarded so that he can evaluate the provision. (**AP4** – Clerk to forward DALC link).

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e. Referring to the correspondence with Devon Highways about cleaning up to disabled bay opposite the cycle path. Cllr Mott assured the Council that the matter is Highways responsibility and nothing to do with WDBC. (**AP5** – Clerk to return to Highways on the matter).

6. Armed Forces Veterans Support

Councillor Purnell introduced the motion -

“That the Parish Council considers supporting the Armed Forces Covenant (Approved by the LGA) which ensures that those who have served their country are treated fairly and not disadvantaged through their service.” To that end he has included a question to that effect in affordable housing survey.

Councillor Cook challenged the need for the question as the survey was surely directed towards first level qualifiers for housing needs.

Councillor L Lenton proposed that the survey and its content be put back to next month when Katie West from WDBC comes. Councillor Purnell agreed to this proposal and asked that the link to the questionnaire be forwarded to Katie West for her information prior to the meeting. (**AP6** – Clerk to forward link to Katie West and re-agenda).

Councillor Mott asked what Cllr Purnell was hoping to achieve with the question, when the matter is already addressed by the housing team at WDBC?

Councillor Moyse felt that people need to know that the process will take a long time. That needs to be made apparent in the questionnaire.

(**AP7** – Clerk to forward WDBC needs survey from 2023 to Councillors).

7. Recent heritage crimes at Lydford Castle.

Councillors noted with regret the damage caused to the site but felt that there was little that the Council has the authority or responsibility to do in response to the alleged offences.

8. Planning

a. For the council to agree a formal response to the following application:

0171/25 Lydbells, South View, EX20 4AH. Conversion of existing conservatory to living space with change of roofing materials. (Extension granted to Council until 13.6.25)

Councillors agreed unanimously to support the application as the proposal would have a very minimal impact upon the fabric or appearance of the village, and that it was a natural progression in the development of the property. (**AP8** – Clerk to respond to DNPA Planning).

b. For the council to note the following decisions:

25/0019 Dalloway, 12 Hawthorn Park EX20 4BD. Approval of application to remove leylandii trees (x3) to ground level.

25/0008 Beech Trees, EX20 4AU Proposal to remove failed limb of beech tree and remove weakened eastern stem to ground level. Part approval – remove failed limb, part refused – remove weakened eastern stem.

25/0007 Heatherlands, EX20 4AU Proposal to fell four ash trees to ground level. Part approval – fell two trees. Part refusal – fell two ash trees.

0947/25/CLP (West Devon) & Planning Enforcement Case 028973. Forest Lodge, Lydford, EX20 4BP Approval of application for certificate of lawfulness for siting a static caravan to provide ancillary accommodation. Enforcement case closed – no further action required.

Councillors noted these decisions.

9. Finances

a. Councillors resolved to approve the following payments:

- | | | |
|--------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| i. J. Bright | £675.82 | June salary + overtime |
| ii. HMRC | £206.24 | PAYE June + Employer NI contribution |

Proposed Cllr K Lenton, seconded Cllr Gilpin. All in favour.

b. Banking reconciliation for period 1.4.25 to 31.05.25

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|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Opening balance 1.4.24 | £10,606.72 | Bank holdings at 31.05.25 | |
| Add receipts | £5,726.79 | Deposit Account | £14,030.89 |
| Less payments | <u>£2,224.02</u> | Current Account | <u>£78.60</u> |
| | £14,109.49 | | £14,109.49 |

(**AP9** – Clerk to forward all reconciliation documents to Cllr Cook for oversight).

c. Payments made by the Clerk under the Scheme of Delegation

Sue Powne – approved grant: VE Day Celebrations. £100

Councillors noted the reconciliation and approved the payment.

10. Urgent business not listed on the agenda below, by permission of the Chair.

NIL.

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded by the Chair at 19:45

Next meeting: July 8th, 7.00pm