

LYDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the council, held at the Nicholls Hall, Lydford on
Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllrs Hulett (Chair) Moyse, Lenton K, Lenton L, Purnell, Mott & Southcott (WDBC) One member of the parish

1. Public Session (15 minutes)

In order to allow Councillor Fife-Cook to leave early for another meeting, the Chair asked him to make his report at the start of the session. He reported that the disabled parking bay at the Granite Way is to be repainted and re-shaped by Devon Highways. The DNPA are looking into the possibility of charging users of the public toilets. This would allow the Authority to rebuild the toilets and include a disabled facility. Although the site is just outside Lydford's boundary, Councillors were pleased to hear that it has finally been decided that the issues causing frequent flooding at the Mucky Duck are to be addressed.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Cook (medical grounds), Cllr Gilpin (required elsewhere)

3. Declarations of Interest

Nil

4. Minutes of the monthly meeting 14th October 2025

The minutes were agreed by all as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

5. Matters arising from the meeting 14th October 2025 which are not part of the agenda items. (See also Action Points from meeting).

Nil

6. Urgent matters to report

Councillors reported receiving a number of complaints about the impact caused in the village by those visiting the Fireworks night by car. Indiscriminate parking on both sides of the street nearby to the Castle Inn led to the carriageway being effectively narrowed to the point that it was reported that a bus was unable to pass for over 30 minutes, until the offending vehicle(s) were moved. Highway markers erected by the council following similar problems last year and intended to protect the grass verge were uprooted. After considering a number of different suggestions for improving the parking facilities in the village, it was agreed that in the first instance a delegation from the council should meet with the licensees at the Castle Inn to explore how the matter might be resolved in future years. (**AP1** – Councillor K Lenton to set up the meeting)

7. Affordable housing survey

Councillor Purnell reported that, to date, the council has received 19 responses to its survey. It was agreed that the survey will act as an indicative ballot and that consequently at this point there is no need for a paper survey. The survey concludes at the end of November, after which the findings should be sent to Katie West (Affordable Housing, WDBC) for analysis and recommendation on any next steps. (**AP2** - Clerk to send)

8. Disabled parking bay: School Road

Councillors discussed the proposed upgrade to the existing disabled bay. The feeling of the council was that upgrades to the bay's status such that only vehicles displaying a disabled badge may be parked in the bay with those drivers not displaying a badge being liable to prosecution might help to resolve some of the issues that have been identified in the past.

9. Highways

Responses to Bridleway survey. The Clerk outlined the main points from the survey, which concluded at the end of October: Fortunately no collisions or injuries were reported; the biggest concern was the speed of traffic at the junctions, with a large number of riders and pedestrians reporting "close shaves" with passing traffic. A number of users reported that their animals were scared by the noise of passing vehicles as well as their speed. Second only to concerns about the speed of passing traffic was the issue of poor visibility at the junctions. This matter has been reported to Devon Highways, but it is the responsibility of the land owners at these junctions to control vegetation.

The council is working with Mary Tavy parish council on a combined approach to the question of signage or other possible solutions to this issue.

Councillors were pleased to acknowledge the work of Cllr Fife-Cook in ensuring that the disabled bay at the end of the Granite Way is marked in the correct place and to the correct size.

10. Lengthsman

Councillors were asked by the Chair to consider how the council might employ the Lengthsman to help keep the village neat and tidy and reduce the need to place the burden on the same small group of volunteers all the time. Specifically, the question was raised about maintaining the site of the Ancient Spring now that it has been improved by volunteers recently, and whether the council should pay to have the areas around the public seats cleared routinely.

The questions raised by Councillors were:

Can the lengthsman be employed to maintain the Ancient Spring as it is not on the public highway?
Whose land contains the spring? They may have responsibility for maintaining the site.
Does the spring sit by a public right of way?

The Lengthsman is properly qualified for working on the public highway and is consequently expensive to employ. Might a cheaper operator be found for work off the highway?

No decision was made.

11. Planning

a. The council raised no objections to application 0359/25 Retrospective application for surfacing of existing path, Lydford Gorge.

b. Councillors noted the approval of application 25/0074 Tree works at Townend House

12. Disability audit

Disabled bus access. The council has received emails from Stagecoach to the effect that whilst their smaller buses would be able to turn at the junction in such a way as to pull up properly to the shelter, the longer buses that they use on the route would not be able to turn properly here. Consequently they are not able to accede to the council's request to timetable a stop here to collect disabled passengers. Councillors were not satisfied with this response. The large coaches

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collecting students for college are able to make the turning, and a number of Councillors felt that they had seen the larger buses pick up and drop off at the shelter. It was agreed that Councillors would look to collect photographic evidence to support their claims, which can be used in ongoing discussions with Stagecoach.

Councillors were pleased to note that DNPA are looking for ways to bring disabled facilities to the public toilets.

13. Finances

a. Councillors resolved to approve the payments:

- i. J. Bright £412.77 September salary
- ii. HMRC £98.79 PAYE & employers' NI contribution September
- iii. J. Bright £47.98 Wreaths (x2) for Remembrance Day
- iv. Donation of £50 to the Trustees of the hall re Christmas Tree.

Proposed Cllr Purnell, seconded Cllr L Lenton, all in favour

b. Banking reconciliation for period 1.4.25 to 31.10.25

Councillors noted the reconciliation:

Opening balance 1.4.25	£10,606.72	Bank holdings at 31.10.25	
Add receipts	£11,264.93	Deposit Account	£15,662.03
Less payments	<u>£6,207.77</u>	Current Account	<u>£1.85</u>
	£15,663.88		£15,663.88

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

Nil

Meeting concluded 20:05

Next meeting Tuesday 9th December 2025, 19:00

1	Cllr K Lenton	Arrange meeting with management of the Castle Inn to consider possible solutions to parking issues arising from Bonfire Night	Meeting held. Outcome to be fed back to council at the next meeting.
2	Clerk	To invite Katie West (WDBC) to December's council meeting to help develop any action plan on affordable housing in Lydford.	Invite sent 1.12.25. Katie will be attending.