



LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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12th May 2023

To All Members of the Parish

You are invited to attend an Annual Parish Meeting of Lympstone to be held **7.00pm on Thursday 18th May 2023 in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall.** The business to be transacted is set out below.

Members of the Public are cordially invited to attend.

The agenda and all attachments can be found online at www.lympstone.org.

N. Linfoot

Cllr Nick Linfoot
Chairman to the Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - AGENDA

1	Apologies
2	Minutes To confirm the minutes of the APM Meeting held 4 th April 2022 (attached).
3	Chairman
4	Clerk – financial summary 21-22, 22-23 attached (pg 9)
5	County Councillors
6	District Councillors
7	Link Cllrs
8	Phone box book swap – report attached (pg 10)
9	Gulliford Burial Ground Joint Committee – report attached (pg 11)
8	Heathfield Allotment Trust – report attached (pg 12)
9	Lympstone Flood Resilience Group – report attached (pg 13)
10	Lympstone Parish Charity – Cllr Atkins to report
15	Any further questions

**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MEETING HELD IN
THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2022.**

PRESENT:	
Councillors	D Atkins, D Beatty, S Francis, K Hill, N Linfoot, J Payne, L Staddon and D Tyrrell
Clerk	Miss L Tyrrell
County Councillors	R Scott
District Councillors	B Ingham and G Jung
Public	4 members

22/52 Apologies

Cllr C Eastley and Cllr R Eastley due to ill health.

County Cllr J Trail due to annual leave.

Cllr Atkins proposed to approve the apologies. Cllr Payne seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the Apologies were approved by the PC.

22/53 Chairman

The Chairman had nothing to report.

22/54 Clerk

The Clerk explained that as she reported every month at the PC meeting, she had nothing more to report. Cllr Atkins explained that it was usual to have the last two financial years accounts and new financial year budget presented at the APM. The Clerk thanked Cllr Atkins for bringing this to her attention as the information passed on in the past had not shown this.

22/55 County Councillors

Cllr Scott had nothing to report.

Cllr Atkins pointed out that County and District Cllrs should present number of meetings and committees attended.

22/56 District Councillors

Cllr Ingham explained that year on year comparisons should be made and compared.

He explained that EDDC Cllrs were in year three of a four-year leadership. He explained that last year allegations of intimidation and bullying from Officers were made against Cllrs but he could not disclose the outcome of the report. Cllr Ingham felt that it was difficult to compare years due to Covid19 but Officers had been superb throughout. It was his opinion that the Council should carry a debt not the taxpayer, for example he felt car park charges should not have been increased and public toilets should not have closed. Cllr Atkins reminded all that the poor fund in Lympstone was still going and currently had £5000 in its account.

Cllr Jung explained that due to the pandemic LED had lost 1.8million and as a charity it had received no government support. EDDC had kept the facilities running due to employment, mental, physical wellbeing and rehabilitation reasons. There had been a large loan applied for by EDDC to refurbish or rebuild public toilets with changing facilities. He would refer and update in a years' time on this progress.

22/57 Link Cllrs

Nothing to report.

22/58 Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

Mr Brewer and Mr Corcos were present and delivered their report to all present. (See Appendix A)

The Clerk thanked all the groups for their continued hard work and read the following reports:

22/59 History Society

(See Appendix B)

22/60 Lympstone Community Hub

(See Appendix C)

22/61 Gulliford Burial Ground

(See Appendix D)

22/62 Telephone box book swap

(See Appendix E)

22/63 Lympstone Village Hall CIO

(See Appendix F)

22/64 Heathfield Allotments

(See Appendix G)

22/65 Lympstone Village Website

(See Appendix H)

22/66 Lympstone Youth Club

(See Appendix I)

22/67 Any further questions

None.

Meeting closed at **7.35pm**

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDICES:

A.Report of the Lymptone Flood Resilience Group - April 2022

The Flood Resilience Group have continued with their activities during this reporting year, with the Estuary Warden Team working the flood gates under agreed revised procedures to minimize any COVID risks. Two new members have joined the Estuary team

The succession of storms in February were manageable with respect to flooding and although dramatic, caused no serious threat of waters entering the Village, however they provided a very vivid illustration of how much the estuary waters can batter the village frontage. During March we had a full week of Southerly and East of Southerly wind, fortunately on a low part of the tide cycle. Winds from that direction funnel water into the Estuary, and had these conditions occurred during the February stormy weather and high tides the Village's flood resilience would have been seriously tested.

A number of improvements are being agreed and progressed with the Environment Agency at the tidal flaps platform by the Sailing Club, and to highway drainage outlet flaps into the Walled Channel of The Brook. Some agreed experimental modifications to the flood gates to improve their sealing are still outstanding due to reduced manpower availability with the EA contractors. Moving to the Inland Warden Team, during this year they have fortunately not been troubled with any major flooding incidents from the brook. However the months of May and October 2021 produced nearly three times the average rainfall, causing serious volumes of surface water on the roads and run off from the fields in the upper catchment. Due to the team's preparatory work on clearing gullies, there was little disruption, and we have begun a scheduled 'preventative maintenance' program of gully clearing in November and February each year.

Thanks to funding support from our Devon County Councilors and the LPC we have been able to add an equipment storage box in the Car Park, accessible to all wardens, and some additional tools used in our surface and river flooding resilience effort. The same funding has also seen the addition of a robust and accurate weather station, recording rainfall, wind speed and relative humidity, sited in the grounds of the Village Hall. This facility, which is remotely accessible, is now installed and functioning and will assist in predicting and monitoring severe weather conditions. Our thanks to the Village Hall for allowing us to site the weather station in their grounds.

The Flood Group have been engaged with the Environment Agency's consultants in the matter of the completion of the hydraulic model of the Wotton Brook catchment area and this work is now due to be finished by the end of this month. Following an assimilation of the final report and discussions with the EA, we look forward to presenting the results to the Parish Council and following that, a presentation to the village at large. We well remember that at the start of the modeling project we held a successful village "Drop in" session in the Methodist Hall which was very well suited for such an event but I guess that's another subject.

We'd like to give our thanks for the continuing support of the Parish Council, and to the good works being carried out by our Flood Wardens, and also to our Devon County Councillors for their ongoing support during the year. THANK YOU

John Brewer
LFRG

B. Lympstone History Society

Lympstone History Society activities include talks, activities associated with the LHS archive, the production and sales of written material of relevance to history and the village, specific projects and some linking with other bodies with similar interests on this side of the Exe. In terms of events of particular note this year is the agreement of the Parish Council to take on support for the archive. This has relieved the Society from ongoing pressure to earn from running talks (see below). Speakers cost increasing sums and since covid the audience numbers have been smaller.

A project that will have a direct impact on the village is the History Points project, which is near to completion. Nine small plaques will be attached at locations of historical interest in the village. These will show a QR code and the viewer will be 'taken' to information on the topic on the village website. A map and introduction to the locations will be provided in the first of these sites so it can be seen as a 'trail'.

The less good news is that as a committee, as with other organizations in the village, we are struggling to fulfil the tasks we have traditionally set for ourselves. The number of us on the committee has dwindled and unless we can find some more people to join us, we will be unable to run the series of talks as we have done in the past. It would be possible to run talks on a less regular basis, but we will have lost our 'slot' at the Village Hall and so then accommodation for any such talks will be a problem.

Jenny Moon
Lympstone History Society

C. Lympstone Community Hub

Despite ongoing COVID restrictions, the Lympstone Community Hub was able to support a number of initiatives over the past year

Monthly Community Lunches Apr21 - Mar 22

A hot 2-course Sunday lunch has been delivered to isolated village residents every month over the past year. In December, a full turkey roast dinner, with a Santa 'goody-bag', was made and delivered for over 40 village residents. The monthly lunches will continue this year.

Afghan Refugees Donation Appeal Sept 22

Donations were collected in the Parish Church over 3 days in September and about 12 car loads were delivered to Exmouth Churches for immediate distribution

Freecycling in October 21 and March 22

The Hub supported the introduction of 'Freecycling Days' in the village

Advent Calendar Windows Dec 21

The Hub facilitated the second very successful year of windows in the village

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations June 22

The Hub is planning and organising this very important 4 day event in the village

Linda Lyons
Lympstone Community Hub

D. Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground Report (Since 2020)

Dear Chairman & Parish Councillors

This is the end of year report from the Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground. As you re aware, the Heritage Lottery Fund paper work has now been completed and signed off, I would like to record thanks to Justin Smallwood & Lucy Tyrrell for their help. This means any repairs in the future ie on going repairs to the top course of the boundary wall, will have to be raised elsewhere. The site has a wildlife project to improve the wildflowers, this is being dug over and new varieties including Yellow Rattle added. Last summer the bird box was used with a family of Blue Tits successfully rearing its chicks, however the Wren family still used its traditional spot without any help. The compost heap/ rock pile provides wildlife homes, with the bug hotel still on going. Events to draw people to Gulliford are in the planning stage for this summer, last year we were part of the Heritage Open Days arranged by the National Trust. Plus, power point presentations given to groups for free, as was the talk to Lympstone History Society recently. Finally, the Gulliford Book is on sale at Sussanah's Cafe or available at Amazon for £10, packed with stories such as how Bonnie Prince Charlie's actions stopped marriages at Gulliford for roughly 90 years, to people in Burgmann's Hill complaining about the smell of boiling whale blubber, and Charles Baring buried at Gulliford, who featured on Who Do You Think You Are ? with Josh Widdecombe, who had an even more famous relative that Josh.

Angela Coles,
Chairperson of the Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground

E. Gibraltar Road Phone Box Book Swap

The phone box book swap continues to be well used. There are regular donations of books, and there is a considerable turnover of stock.

We ask people to stack books carefully and, when the book swap is full, to bring books back later to avoid damage to the stock.

Thank you to all those who donate books, and to all those who give the books a tidy-up every now and then.

kind regards

Mary Turner
Volunteer

F. LYMPSTONE VILLAGE HALL - REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The newly-formed management team of eight, supported by the other Trustees of the Charity, have embarked on a comprehensive programme of improvements at the Village Hall this year. We are proud to report:

- Introduction of Blue Science UV technology in our air conditioning system to sanitise circulating air. This has been wholly funded by a grant from Devon County Council, for which we are very appreciative.
- Completion of our major electrical works upgrade to the Above Stage Lighting, a new Main Hall Projector, and a new electric screen in our Community Room. These improvements were part-funded by grants from some of our Village Societies, East Devon District Council, and Lymington Parish Council for which we are very grateful.
- Further improvements to our AV technology. We can now offer full AV facilities (Projector/Electric Screen/Audio) in all of our three lettable rooms, and also for major events (for example the Garden Show); audio can now be linked between all three rooms.
- New signage, a new .org domain and website, a new Hirer Guide, and a simplified bookings procedure.
- Redecoration throughout to give a more contemporary feel.
- Smart new seating in our patio area, and a stunning mural completed by Debs Mitchell.
- Carpeting in our Community Room.
- Outside CCTV, 150 Mbits/second Wi-Fi provided by Jurassic Fibre, and the introduction of smart technology to control our systems remotely.
- Replacement lighting in both the Community Room and the Meeting Room.
- Loan of a Smart card reader to Clubs and Societies.
- Completion of a Fire Safety audit, with the audit recommendations already undertaken and planned.
- Finally, we are currently upgrading the AV connectivity and hardware in the Main Hall to facilitate a “plug and play” capability for film shows and presentations. This will allow for multiple inputs.

We have a challenging project ahead of us, “Project First Serve”, a joint venture with Lymington Tennis Club aiming to improve disabled access to the back of our building and the stage, and from the car park to Candy’s Field. The project also aims to provide terraced seating for the Tennis Club. This will require Grants and a fundraising campaign. It is a challenging time to find contractors, and so the timing of the project is unclear.

A planning application for disabled access to the main door of our Community Room is also in progress.

LYMPSTONE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Ian Bethwaite (Premises Trustee), Greg Crum (Premises Trustee), Carrie Darby (Chair, Trustee), Miles Freeman (Premises Manager), Steve Morgan (Treasurer, Trustee), Doreen Murrey (Vice-Chair, Trustee), Mary Turner (Secretary, Trustee), Caron Winter (Bookings Coordinator, Trustee)

G. HEATHFIELD ALLOTMENT TRUST - REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Another busy year and great growing.

The Trust continues to improve its site with repairs to our road, the painting of our Trustee Shed and Notice Boards and the removal of planting that is not appropriate for an allotment site.

We celebrated the award of a Grant from South West Water for 30 water butts worth over £1000.

There has been great support from plot holders to get these connected and we are so pleased that now there are very few greenhouses or sheds on site that do not have water harvesting in place. Better for the plants, better for the environment and reduces our water bills.

Demand for plots from Lympstone residents is currently around 20 and we anticipate increased demand with the expectation of future increases in the cost of produce. As plots become vacant, large plots are being halved to reduce our waiting list as fast as we can to get everyone growing. The site is actively managed and monitored by the Trustees, who ensure plots are well cultivated and used primarily for the growing of edible crops as required by our Governing Document, and we are pleased with the overall condition the site is currently in.

Carrie Darby

Chair of Trustees

H. Lympstone Village Website - Report to Lympstone Parish Council April 2022

Lympstone.org continues to provide information about and for the village. We do our best to keep the information up to date and accurate.

We also maintain content for the parish council, including meeting agendas and minutes, and planning applications. These can be accessed in several different ways from the home page, as well as on the parish council pages.

We are in the process of contacting all the local groups and businesses to check their details are correct - we usually do this every year. We ask people to watch out for emails from webmaster@lympstone.org and reply to confirm content or make any changes.

The website is maintained by two volunteers. We also have a presence on Facebook and on Twitter (both of which are visible on the home page).

We are the official online presence for LPC and work with our LPC rep Susan Francis to seek to ensure we do this effectively.

We rely on input from local groups and residents, so if you are aware of items that are incorrect or out of date please do let us know!

David Young and Mary Turner

Webmasters

I. Lympstone Youth Club

It was the long awaited opening of The Youth Club this month. We are back to running seniors and juniors.

The hut is now being used 6/7 days for clubs and organisations. Some days we have more than one group in. We also have some courses and parties booked in for the Saturdays. The new bank account is really helpful and making it all run smoothly.

Susan Briggs

Youth Club Leader

4. Clerk

Financial summary 21-22				
Current Account				
Opening balance at 1st April 2021		95,828.47		
Receipts		£134,088.58		
Total receipts		£229,917.05		
less, Payments		£73,666.99		
Net balance		£156,250.06		
Unpresented cheques		£252.74		
Receipts not on statement		£0.00		
	Balance at Bank 31/3/22	£156,502.80		
Unpresented cheque info:				
23/02/22	(2945)Eric's Knob and Lock Shop - replaced lock at public toilets		£112.74	
23/02/22	(2946)Gulliford joint committee - gulliford burial ground contribution		£140.00	
			Total	£252.74

Financial Summary 22-23		
Current Account		
Opening balance at 1st April 2022		156,502.80
Receipts		£235,079.11
Total receipts		£391,581.91
less, Payments		£226,724.44
Net balance		£164,857.47
Unpresented cheques		£0.00
Receipts not on statement		£0.00
	Balance at Bank 31/3/23	£164,857.47

Lympstone's Gibraltar Road Phone Box Book Swap

Report to the Parish Council. March 2023.

The phone box book swap continues to be well used, with regular donations of books and generally good turnover. There are no official volunteers, but a number of local residents tidy the books as they go past.

We ask people to stack books carefully and, when the book swap is full, to bring books back later to avoid damage to the stock. Unfortunately there have been some issues over the past year with books being placed in the phone box when it is already full. The photograph below shows the worst example of this, which occurred in January.



1



2



3

(1) The door wouldn't close, and a large number of books were irreparably damaged and had to be thrown away.

(2) A box containing CDs and DVDs was also left outside - fortunately this disappeared a day or two later.

(3) Tidy again. The clean-up took a considerable amount of time and several boxes of good quality books were donated to charities. It has remained much tidier since then.

The Community Hub arranged and funded the original work to put the shelving in, and it has served us well through lock-down and beyond. However, it has deteriorated over the past few years (it has never been fully water-tight).

It would be really helpful if the Community fund could be used to sort out the current issues as soon as possible.

- **The paintwork is in a bad state**
- **A number of the 'glass' panels are no longer clear**
- **When it rains the floor becomes wet**
- **The door sticks in wet weather and becomes impossible to open**

I feel a smarter and cleaner book swap would be better looked after by the community.

Mary Turner

Chairman's report – Joint Committee for Gulliford Burial Ground 2023

This year has thankfully been a quiet year for the committee after three years of hard work while the repairs to the graveyard were in progress.

Work still progresses however with future planning of ring-fenced finance so that both parishes start to accrue a small pot of money which will be needed for regular maintenance to walls and tombs. We do not want it ever to deteriorate to the extent it had reached by 2018. Many thanks to Andrew for his cooperation with the Friends of Gulliford burial site so that strimming only took place at a time when it wouldn't destroy habitat.

The friends have focused on flora and fauna on site this year. Bat boxes have been introduced and cleaned out at the end of the season with a very successful bat watching evening planned again this year. A local entomologist came and gave an enlightening talk on insect species on the site and how to encourage them. We have asked her to return this year by popular demand. Bee houses have also been introduced. Other open days and events have been planned.

The planting team have worked very hard, planting over 1000 daffodil bulbs and many other species of plant found to thrive in graveyards. I think if you have passed the site this spring you would agree that the display of flowers has been spectacular and enhanced the look of the site, making it feel well managed and well-loved. The planting team aim to concentrate on the mid section of the site this year. We are hoping that the new garden contractor will work as well with the Friends so that strimming is done at the correct times to enhance the planting carried out.

As all the research has been done and Angela's book on the history of the site and those buried in it is selling well, we have turned to making this information more accessible to those that visit the site. With this in mind, the Friends are creating a video tour of the site, giving history at each point. There will be QR codes at certain points which visitors can scan with their phones, taking them to the website with a video explaining that particular spot. This should enhance the visitor experience. The site has been included in the Lympstone History Society's map and tour which we are very grateful for.

Finally, we have been so proud of the Gulliford Burial Ground and the community support behind it, that it has been entered in the 'Best Graveyard in Devon' competition (yes there is such a thing!) We are obviously biased but fingers crossed that this little patch of loveliness gets the recognition it deserves.

Jane Moffatt
Chairman, Gulliford Joint Committee

Heathfield Allotment Trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 202075

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

April 2022 – March 2023

Plot holders are never happy with the weather. It's either too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet or too windy, and we had all of that last year. But despite the very hot and dry spells, our water bill – our biggest expense – stayed manageable. This was due to so many plot holders working hard to harvest their own rainwater, helped by the South West Water grant of 30 water butts the previous year. It's not only better for the purse strings and the environment – but better for the plants too.

Plots are still very much in demand, with a waiting list of over 20 Lympstone residents throughout the year and we are doing our best to keep this down by halving large plots when they become vacant.

Trustees now undertake much of the annual maintenance themselves. At the beginning of the year, we embarked on a mammoth task of reclaiming a large section of ground in the centre of the site, work largely carried out by Trustees with the help of other plot holders and volunteers from the village. This included felling a 40ft rotten non-native tree. This land now has three thriving plots.

We were thrilled to have a Lympstone Primary School visit in 2022, with over 30 children collecting fruit and vegetables to make natural dyes, part of their Ancient Britain curriculum. It was a delight to see the young ones so engaged; we all ended up with brightly coloured fingers, and we would be keen to extend our association with the local schools with further activities.

We were grateful to Reverend Steve Jones who joined us as a Trustee in 2022. This is an ex-officio role as required by our 1873 Indenture and therefore not appointed by the Parish Council.

We had a busy year of social events and we are in planning mode for the remainder of 2023, celebrating our 150 years anniversary at Sowden Lane, starting with a Cream Tea and Talk about the History of our Charity.

Carrie Darby
Chair
On behalf of the Trustees

Trustees: David Atkins (Parish Council link), Carrie Darby (Chair), Reverend Steve Jones (ex officio), Mandy Mitchell (Treasurer), Ian Scott (Maintenance), Nigel Skinner (Secretary), Sue Snell (Social Secretary & Maintenance), Andy Wadhams (Maintenance), Claire Whiter (Waiting List & Plot Allocation Secretary).

Report from the Lympstone Flood Resilience Group 2023

The Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG) was formed in late 2017 to develop a more coordinated and strategic approach to flood risk management in the village - based on understanding the risk and facilitating action to minimise the risk. In addition to the 4 members of the Flood Group, there are two teams of flood wardens, an Estuary team and an Inland and surface water team.

High tides and bad weather have occupied the Estuary Wardens and required FloodWatch on a number of tides during the year, but no serious risks of flooding resulted due to fortuitous timings, the worst weather arriving when tides were manageable. Flood gate operation has continued without difficulties.

The Estuary Warden strength remains at 12 with some re-equipping of PPE has taken place during the year. New trollies for sandbag deployment have been sourced and paid for by the EA.

Some further modification of our very much already modified flood gates has been decided upon to reduce leakage and a trial implementation will initially be undertaken on Gate.

The Inland Warden team of 10 have focused on reducing the surface water flood risk in the village by a sustained and systematic program of road drain (gully) clearing, mainly from October to March each year. Nearly 70 roadside drains have been inspected and/or cleared in the last twelve months, and a further 6 have been referred to DCC Highways for camera inspection or jetting. The 'prevention is better than cure' approach has meant that there have been no road closures in the village due to surface water flooding in this period under review.

Our tools and equipment list has been supplemented by a heavy-duty brush cutter which has been used to clear undergrowth encroaching on to highways and potentially blocking drains.

This is the first full year we have had access to our very own weather station at the Village Hall. We have used it extensively to track and record rainfall, wind speed and barometric pressure; thus far it has been a reliable and accurate source of met data. It is freely accessible on any mobile device; just download the 'Weatherlink' app, create a username and password, and follow the prompts.

We responded to the Local Plan consultation with regard to the flooding concerns raised by the proposed housing sites. We are in discussion with the County Council regarding the flood mitigation works associated with the Dinan Way extension.

A presentation updated the Council on the outcomes from our Catchment Modelling work., Preparations have started for rolling out the information to the community at a Drop - In event on Saturday 2nd September.

Costing, design and funding of an important flood wall improvement to retain waters in the floodplain, first identified by LFRG from catchment model data, is progressing, with implementation possible in 2024.

LFRG have commenced engagement on the DCC DRIP initiative which offers some funding support for environmental improvements to Wotton Brook.

LFRG would like to thank the Parish Council, County and District Councillors for their continued support.