MINUTES OF A LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025.

PRESENT:	
Councillors	D Atkins (DGA), S Francis (SF), R Gale-Hasleham (RGH), K Hill (KH), B Pearson (BP) and L Staddon (LS) (Chair)
Clerk	Cllr D Atkins
County Councillors	R Scott (RS) and J Trail (JT)
District Councillors	B. Ingham (BI) and G Jung (GJ)
Public	3 members

Public session:
The Chair welcomed everyone present to the first meeting of the year.
A resident thanked the Council for the PC Christmas tree in the Church Christmas tree event, there had been a total of 27 trees on display from groups in the village and 500 visitors had attended. She gave a special thanks to Mrs Wendy Reynolds for all her help in the organisation of the event.
Another resident raised a number of matters of concern. A) Assets – he enquired as to when the public would get sight and have a discussion in respect of the figures appearing in the PCs budget of £40,500 being set side as the PCs support towards the new Hub building. Noted, this was considered a requirement in respect of obtaining grant aid from other sources. The Chair and Cllr Hill explained details. The resident wanted to know why the building was required, he continued that in his view an article in the Lympstone Herald was necessary to bring the matter to all the Public's attention, not just those near the site. B) CIL funds – a query was raised as to these funds being used towards maintenance, District Cllr Jung advised he would find out and report back.

25/1 Apologies
Cllr Minter, Moffatt and Payne due to other commitments.
Cllr Culhane and the Clerk Miss Tyrrell due to ill health.

RESOLVED that the apologies were accepted.
Unan agreed.

25/2 Minutes
RESOLVED that the minutes of the PC meeting held on the 2nd December 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
DGA proposed. RGH seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and Advisory Committee meeting held on the 9th December 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the lead Cllr.
LS proposed. DGA seconded. Unan.

25/3 To receive any Declarations of Interest
LS declared a personal interest on planning application 24/2486/FUL.
This was recorded in the book.

25/4 Clerk's Report
25/4.1 LPC 5 year action plan - Deferred to next PC meeting.

25/4.2 LPC Policies - Deferred to next PC meeting.

25/4.3 Heathfield Allotments Trust (HAT)

RESOLVED that the new treasurer for Heathfield Allotments Trust was agreed and approved by the PC.

LS proposed. Unan

25/4.4 **Casual Vacancy**

One vacancy remained on the PC. Noted.

25/4.5 Finance – Deferred to next PC meeting.

25/4.6 Clerk's Action List

RESOLVED that the Council received and noted the Clerk's action list.

25/5 Reports from the Chairman, East Devon District Councillors and Devon County Councillors

District Cllr Jung read his report *(See Appendix 1)*

Cllr Trail wished everyone present a Happy New Year. He explained that Central Government's White paper on Devolution and the short time frame given for local authorities to respond meant that currently DCC were discussing the various options, but he could not report any outcomes yet. Any outcomes reached would be by the end of January. It should also hopefully be clear by then if the County Council Elections would be postponed.

Traffic lights near Courtlands Cross would again be in operation on the A376 commencing 8th January while work on the new crossing point was completed. However, the new crossing would not be in operation until the new Dinan Way extension was complete and open. Following the crossing work, lights would again be in operation while Wales &West Utilities did further work diverting some of the gas pipes.

Cllr Trail congratulated and thanked Linda Lyons and the team for the very successful and much enjoyed Community Hub Christmas Meal.

Cllr Scott gave his view that the devolution proposals were designed to improve communication between ministers and unitary authorities, but his personal view was that they will mean more work, less money and less input. Unitary authorities seem to work best in urban areas, but this meant rural districts could face more challenges to ensure fair funding.

Cllr Ingham recognised the challenges ahead but felt that it was important to try to have a positive attitude and try to make sure the changes worked for us, our county and our neighbours.

All councillors reiterated the current uncertainty of how the changes would manifest themselves. Various options and models were under discussion and once some decisions had been finalised then the work to effect the changes would begin.

25/6 Planning applications

24/2486/FUL - Removal of front porch, construction of rear extension and addition of first floor. External cladding and replacement garden terrace at 11 Meadow Close *(expires 9th Jan 25).*

RESOLVED that the Clerk send the recommendation of support from LPC to EDDC.

SF proposed. RGH seconded. DGA and KH supported. BP abstained.

25/7 Planning decisions

RESOLVED that the EDDC decisions were noted.

25/8 Reports of Committees

25/8.1 Assets and Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that the contractor was agreed for replacing the soffits and fascia boards at the public toilets.
DGA proposed. KH seconded. Unan.

RGH would follow up repairing the damage to the book swap phone box with the community payback scheme.

25/8.2 Environmental Committee

Met Office Climate Change and Community webinar - Deferred to next PC meeting.
LS reported on the upcoming Wild About Lympstone event *(see Appendix 2)*

25/8.3 Planning and Transport committee

Traffic data survey - Deferred to next PC meeting.
A resident raised the query of what this would achieve when volunteers had already completed this survey a few years ago. Mr Stratford explained that the volunteers work had not been followed up by the authorities.

25/9 Items for the next Agenda

Getting Around Group and their next move.
RGH gave his apologies.

Meeting closed: **8.45pm**

Chairman: Date:

Appendix 1:

Lympstone PC 06/01/2024

Devolution

I'm very supportive of genuine devolution of powers from Whitehall to local government, but the Devolution White Paper, and various statements from various Councils, suggests that there are many variations to how councils will be run in the future.

As a Councillor of more than 10 years I do recognise the system of how Councils and their relationship with Government needs a radical overhaul.

The government's white paper sets a clear direction of travel, and I recognise we need to work collaboratively. Any changes must be carefully considered, transparent, and inclusive, ensuring that residents and businesses are fully engaged in shaping the future governance of Devon or maybe an even wider area.

My view is we must get this right, and this cannot be achieved if we make rushed decisions to comply to this ludicrous 3-week deadline set by this Government. I am also most concerned that this tight deadline has meant no liaison with Town and Parishes, who seem to be left behind without much thought.

It was 50 years ago the Urban Districts in Devon became joined up into Districts and I have experienced the poor consequences of that in how governance was arranged, and we are still suffering from those mismatch arrangements now.

We also have ongoing problems at County Council level with Highway and Transport underfunding and the massive issue of Social Care that will be now subject to a 3-year Government year review.

I do hope Devolution will work but I do not believe this will resolve all our problems and definitely not straight away. It's going to mean hard work, many changes, substantial upheavals, and substantial costs, and at the end let's hope a Unitary Council or a Mayoral Authority will be better than what we have now!

What has been experienced in other Rural areas is that the Towns especially and Parishes by a smaller degree will be required to step up to bridge the gap, and there is not going to be a reduction in costs!

Interesting times.

District Cllr Geoff Jung.

Appendix 2:

Wild About Lympstone
Positive Community Environmental Action - '*Stronger Together'*
6-8pm 30th January, Lympstone Village Hall, Community Room

What is this

Wild About Lympstone, Devon Wildlife Trust and many of our amazing village groups are getting together for a New Year's evening of food, drink and conversation about positive environmental action in Lympstone.

We'll be celebrating all those who work so hard to help us appreciate, protect and enhance Lympstone's natural environment and offering a space to mingle and connect with other groups and projects.

We hope the evening will be a positive step towards creating a more connected community of like-minded people. With your input, we aim to create a shared vision and a stronger voice that can speak out on behalf of Lympstone's precious natural environment.

Village groups

Wild About Lympstone; Lympstone Parish Council, Lympstone Flood Resilience Group; Lympstone Water Quality Group; Garden Club; Allotment Group; School; Church; School; Art Group & Seaglass Gallery; Gulliford Burial Ground; Railway Garden Group.

We'd love your group to join us for the evening. Would you like to take one of our tables and bring along some information (perhaps a poster) that helps people understand what your group does to appreciate, protect and enhance Lympstone's natural environment. Be as creative as you like and use the evening to help you …

- *Are there specific events you'd like people to know about?*
- *Do you need input and ideas for areas of your work?*
- *Would you like to link up with another group and work together for mutual benefit?*

Please let us know if you have any questions and if you need any additional resources to display your information.

Hope you see you there!

With thanks
The WAL Team