MINUTES OF A LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2026.

PRESENT:	
Councillors	D Atkins (DGA), S Francis (SF), R Gale-Hasleham (RGH), K Hill (KH), J. Payne (JP), A Roberts (AR) and L Staddon (LS) (LPC Chair)
Clerk	Miss L Tyrrell
County Councillors	J Trail (JT)
District Councillors	G Jung (GJ)
Public	10 members

Public session:

Two members of the public were present and spoke about the empty telephone box in The Strand. They felt a seed/plant/vegetable exchange could be set up and would be happy to lead a project. Another resident explained that the Garden Club already did this at their coffee morning to help raise funds for the club. DGA queried what had happened to the history project previously planned in the phone box. LS explained this was an ongoing outstanding project.

A resident asked about the trees proposed to be planted in Candys field and wanted more details on this. The Chair explained that there would be more update at the appropriate item on the agenda.

Tom Walling from the EA was present regarding the flood defence wall work at the lower end of the village. He explained that the access was in and the alternative bridge over the Brook was being constructed. The proposed road closure on Burgmanns Hill was an issue, but Strawberry Hill would be used instead for materials delivered to and removed from the site. The restricted but alternative parking in the public car park was working well. District Cllr Jung (GJ) added EDDC were in discussions to provide additional disabled parking bays.

A member of Lympstone Water Quality Group (LWQG) was present and read his statement regarding recent rainfall damaging land and wildlife. He explained that in the last two years there had been fifteen water pollution incidents in Wotton Brook and lessons must be learnt. He wanted all parties including the community to work together for solutions and manage the water environment. He felt a holistic view was essential. He requested that LPC included water quality in the new neighbourhood plan. He added that LWQG had applied for external funding and would update LPC with the progress of applications.

Another member of LWQG spoke and thanked the PC for passing on queries to DCC but felt the response from them had been disappointing. The group wanted to work with a partnership approach. There had been numerous pollution incidents regarding the Dinan Way Extension (DWE) and rainfall had not been that heavy. She believed that the contractor, Octavius, and DCC had simply not been able to cope. Any request for a meeting by LWQG had been refused so the group had not been able to see any planning designs or procedures. The continuous discharge into the Wotton Brook still looked like sediment discharge. The system should have taken climate change into account and DWE is the primary source of this pollution. The group were considering taking this concern to a higher level.

A resident asked what had happened to the sand blown from Exmouth beach onto the road. GJ explained that sand on the Highway was contaminated and taken away to landfill and the sand from the pavement had gone back on to the beach. The resident hoped the sand taken away would be recycled and shared concerns of all road water

run off going back on to the beach regardless and the pollution from the sea still ending up on the beach.
Another resident raised an issue with the state of the Church car park and highlighted that this had been the second winter where the car park had been closed due to health and safety issues. He felt the water causing the issue with the car park was a Highways issue and should be investigated by DCC. He added that the entire car park surface also needed looking into to improve its viability. KH explained that EDDC had signed the entire site off as suitable. DGA suggested that Highways considered installing a slit drain to take the highway water away from the pedestrian entrance to the car park to rectify the problem. County Cllr Trail (JT) explained that he would speak to Highways about the issue and report back to the PC.

26/1 Apologies

Cllr Coleman, Culhane, District Cllr Ingham and County Cllr Brown due to other commitments.

RESOLVED that the apologies were accepted.
LS proposed. SF seconded. Unan.

26/2 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PC meeting held on the 5th January 2026 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
RGH proposed. LS seconded. Unan.

26/3 To receive any Declarations of Interest

None

26/4 Clerk's Report

26/4.1 Management Policy and Risk Register.

It was agreed to keep this in draft form until the additional section of the Hub rebuild was written and added.

26/4.2 Correspondence received – Telephone box at The Strand.

Postponed and to be discussed further at the next Assets and Amenities committee meeting.

26/4.3 Gov.uk emails

The Clerk reported that the transfer of Cllrs and Clerk gmail email accounts to gov.uk accounts had begun. It was a slow process and there had been many issues with different devices.

ACTION: That the Clerk contact Parish Online to request an in-person training session with Cllrs to troubleshoot issues.

26/4.4 Casual vacancies

The Clerk explained that there were two vacancies on the PC and no election had been called. It was up to the PC to co-opt a new member.

26/4.5 Finance – December 2025 Payments / Financial summary / Budget report

The Clerk explained that a VAT refund claim had been applied for in January 2026 to HMRC for £7,055.92 for VAT paid by LPC between 1/4/25 – 31/12/25. DGA felt the VAT should be claimed back quarterly. AR suggested the direct debit to EDF was cancelled and the TSB account was closed.
AR countersigned the bank statements for December 2025.

RESOLVED that the payments in Appendix 1 be approved.
LS proposed. RGH seconded. Unan.

26/4.6 Clerk and LPC's Action List including master correspondence list**.**

The Clerk presented the new style which listed all actions and resolutions made by LPC for the last six months.

RESOLVED that the LPC list of actions and resolutions for the last six months continued.
DGA proposed. LS seconded. Unan.

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

26/5 Reports from the Chairman, East Devon District Councillors and Devon County Councillors

The Chair shared heartfelt condolences from the PC of the sad passing of former Parish Cllr, Mrs Terri Scott.
GJ read his report (See Appendix 2).
AR felt that EDDC would not stop future developments except issuing Grampian Orders, he felt EDDCs report did not make sense and was not tackling the sewage problems. GJ explained that the report was a base figure for EDDC to work from. He added that the failure was the infrastructure not the process. KH added that frequent sewage spills did equal a problem. JT highlighted the fact that Maer Road sewage works were meant to have completed back in June 2025 and were still ongoing.
JT report the following:

Hulham Road-

- Roundabout work would begin night closures (6pm-6am) from tomorrow.
- Drainage works put back due to unforeseen circumstances – fibre optic cables had to be located before work could begin. Work now due to start in March.
- DWE reports had been sent to LPC.
- DWE due to finish end of January 2026 but now looking at the end of March 2026.

- Once road was completed then utility companies would be allowed on site to complete their work.
- Correspondence regarding DWE could be answered by contractors and officers via him.
- Vehicle activation signs installed and would monitor speed of traffic. A review would deem whether a speed camera was necessary.

Higher Hulham Road –

- A gully had been filled in outside a residential property diverting water to run down the road. DGA highlighted that there had never been a ditch outside the referred to property but wanted it noted that the ditch on the Exmouth side of the road had been filled in causing the water to run out into the road and damage the surface. AR shared concerns of the entire Hulham Road surface breaking up.

A376 -

- Courtlands Cross pavement to pedestrian crossing would be widened for cyclist due to begin February 2026. A resident queried whether cyclists would use this cycle path. JT felt reports showed they would.

JT added that there were 600 potholes reported daily to Highways. RGH enquired about the warranties of pothole repairs to which JT explained they were guaranteed for a year. He had attended a meeting which reported that DCC had a £355million gap in Highways funding. JT highlighted that Highway issues must be reported to DCC 'Report a problem' page online. If the same problem was reported more often then it would be automatically generated as more of a priority.

26/6 Planning applications

26/6.1

25/2443/FUL - Change of use application for the existing three-bedroom flat into a space for educational use at St Peters Preparatory School, Harefield, Lympstone.

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

SF proposed. RGH seconded. Unan.

26/6.2

26/0135/TCA - T1, Lombardy Poplar : Crown reduce to previous pruning points, approximate 4m reduction; attending to all parts of the canopy; maximum diameter of cut 75-100mm at Eleanors, Church Road.

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

LS proposed. SF seconded. Unan.

26/6.3

26/0097/FUL - Removal of existing extension and conservatory and the construction of new single storey extension on rear on the same footprint/ foundation at 3 Bakers Cottages Longmeadow Road.

RESOLVED that the Clerk send the recommendation of support from LPC to EDDC.
SF proposed. RGH seconded. Unan.

26/7 Planning decisions

RESOLVED that the EDDC decisions were noted.

26/8 Reports of Committees
26/8.1 Assets and Amenities Committee

RESOLVED that new signage would be erected on all three entrances to Cliff field to warn users of the cliff edge and no cycling in the field.
LS proposed. RGH seconded. Unan.

Cliff field risk assessment would be reviewed by Cllrs and added to the Assets and Amenities committee meeting agenda.

26/8.2 Community Committee

26/8.2.1 Herald production date and content.
DGA raised concerns of the Herald content. LS raised concerns of who read the publication and who just recycled it. She felt that it needed someone to lead and host a public consultation about it.

ACTION that JP would produce an online survey monkey to assess the Herald's effectiveness in the public domain.

Once created, the survey would be accessible via the Herald, notice boards, Facebook page and website.

26/8.2.2 Update on the Hub rebuild project.
LS reported that there would be a meeting with Hilton Barton (Architects) regarding build update and building control tomorrow. The charity status was still being considered, and the working group had just been notified by the Charity commission that the waiting list had been extended

26/8.3 Environment Committee – Trees in the Parish.
LS reported that due to the EA offsetting the flood wall extension build that they would be gifting the PC 20 trees for the Parish. There were five trees agreed for Candys field and the rest would be planted around the Parish. The planting would not begin until Autumn 2026. A work specification was still to be written and contractors sought. All information regarding contractors' costs would be sent to the EA.

26/8.4 Planning and Transport committee

SF read her report on the progress to date regarding the Neighbourhood Plan rewrite *(See Appendix 3).*

RESOLVED that a new quote from Devon Communities Together would be sought.
LS proposed. JP seconded. Unan.

SF added that a new neighbourhood plan should be completed to send to EDDC by the end of the year. The EDDC waiting time for approval and adoption of the plan was 6-12 weeks.
A resident explained that he would very much like to be involved with the rewrite and the Clerk would pass his contact details on to the group.
LS thanked SF for all her work to date with the rewrite of the plan.

26/9 Items for the next Agenda

LPC risk assessments of all PC property.

Meeting closed: **8.54pm**

Signed: Date:

Appendix 1:

Finance – December Payments / Financial summary / Budget report

Current account c/f 31st Dec 2025	
TSB	£ 19,106.29
Unity Trust	£ 74,583.40
Total current account	£ 93,689.69
Instant Access savings account c/f 31st Dec 2025	
Unity Trust	£130,100.00
Total accounts	£223,789.69

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Savings Account

Statement Number	2	Bank Statement No.	2
Statement Opening Balance	£50,100.00	Opening Date	01/12/25
Statement Closing Balance	£130,100.00	Closing Date	31/12/25
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£130,100.00		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
11/12/25	UT 11/12/25		0.00	80,000.00	130,100.00

Uncleared and unpresented effects

Total uncleared and unpresented	0.00	0.00
Total debits / credits	0	80000

Reconciled by Lucy Tyrrell

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Current Account

Statement Number	33	Bank Statement No.	33
Statement Opening Balance	£178,998.63	Opening Date	01/12/25
Statement Closing Balance	£93,689.69	Closing Date	31/12/25
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£93,689.69		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
01/12/25	UT 1/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	60.00	179,058.63
01/12/25	UT 1/12/25	Public toilets cleaning	600.00	0.00	178,458.63
01/12/25	UT 01/12/25	PC contractor	665.00	0.00	177,793.63
01/12/25	UT LVH 01/12/25	Lympstone Village Hall CIO	70.00	0.00	177,723.63

02/12/25	UT EA 02/12/25	Environment Agency	0.00	1,964.00	179,687.63
03/12/25	UT 3/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	135.00	179,822.63
03/12/25	UT 03/12/25	Community lunches	204.69	0.00	179,617.94
04/12/25	UT SWW 04/12/25	Source For Business	211.84	0.00	179,406.10
05/12/25	UT 05/12/25	Employment	186.34	0.00	179,219.76
08/12/25	TSB 08/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	63.00	179,282.76
08/12/25	UT 8/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	45.00	179,327.76
09/12/25	UT 09/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	18.00	179,345.76
09/12/25	UT 300004	Employment	788.47	0.00	178,557.29
09/12/25	UT LVHCIO 9/12/25	Lympstone Village Hall CIO	200.00	0.00	178,357.29
10/12/25	UT 10/12/25	Hedge cutting	590.00	0.00	177,767.29
10/12/25	UT DGA2 10/12/25	Hedge cutting	60.00	0.00	177,707.29
11/12/25	UT 11/12/25	Transfer to instant savings acc	80,000.00	0.00	97,707.29
12/12/25	TSB EDF 001	EDF Energy Ref: Toilets	39.89	0.00	97,667.40
12/12/25	UT 12/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	45.00	97,712.40
16/12/25	TSB EDF YC	EDF Energy YC	80.56	0.00	97,631.84
16/12/25	UT 16/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	135.00	97,766.84
16/12/25	UT 16/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	45.00	97,811.84
17/12/25	UT LVH 17/12/25	Lympstone Village Hall CIO	8.00	0.00	97,803.84
18/12/25	UT 18/12/25	Community lunches	574.92	0.00	97,228.92
19/12/25	UT 31/12/25	Employment	223.97	0.00	97,004.95
19/12/25	UT 31/12/25	Employment	2,375.19	0.00	94,629.76
22/12/25	UT 22/12/25	Herald advert	0.00	50.00	94,679.76
22/12/25	UT 22/12/25	Stroma Building Control	900.00	0.00	93,779.76
23/12/25	UT 23/12/25	Herlad Advert	0.00	15.00	93,794.76
23/12/25	UT 23/12/25	Herald Advert	0.00	25.00	93,819.76
31/12/25	UT BGL 730922	British Gas Lite Public toilets	34.86	0.00	93,784.90
31/12/25	UT BGL 730923	British Gas Lite YC gas	51.00	0.00	93,733.90
31/12/25	UT BGL 921	British Gas YC electricity	38.21	0.00	93,695.69
31/12/25	UT fee 31 12 25	Unity Trust Bank service charge	6.00	0.00	93,689.69

Uncleared and unpresented effects

Total uncleared and unpresented	0.00	0.00
Total debits / credits	87908.94	2600

Reconciled by Lucy Tyrrell

Financial Statement - Cashbook

Statement of receipts and payments between 01/04/25 and 31/12/25 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account £263,595.55

Short Term Investment Accounts

Savings Account	£0.00
Total	£263,595.55

RECEIPTS	Net (£)	Vat (£)	Gross (£)
Council			
10 Precept	56,000.00	0.00	56,000.00
15 CIL	0.00	0.00	0.00
20 DCC re Candys Field	0.00	0.00	0.00
25 Herald Adverts	2,914.27	0.00	2,914.27
30 Burial Fees	1,981.00	0.00	1,981.00
35 Lymp FC	0.00	0.00	0.00
40 Flower Beds	0.00	0.00	0.00
45 Wayleaves	7.54	0.00	7.54
50 Misc	3,301.00	0.00	3,301.00
55 Web adverts	0.00	0.00	0.00
60 Parishes Together	0.00	0.00	0.00
65 External grants	1,683.93	0.00	1,683.93
70 YC Rech	2,364.00	0.00	2,364.00
75 VHMC	0.00	0.00	0.00
80 MoD Comm Cov	0.00	0.00	0.00
85 DCC error	0.00	0.00	0.00
90 Community Hub	0.00	0.00	0.00
95 Woodbury PC	0.00	0.00	0.00
99 VAT refund	675.38	0.00	675.38
100 Guildford BG	0.00	0.00	0.00
105 FLOS	0.00	0.00	0.00
110 Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00
Council Total	68,927.12	0.00	68,927.12
Total Receipts	68,927.12	0.00	68,927.12

PAYMENTS	Net (£)	Vat (£)	Gross (£)
Council			
1000 Employment	29,065.37	0.00	29,065.37
1005 Employment	2,879.98	17.48	2,897.46
1015 Village Hall hire	264.00	0.00	264.00
1020 Chairman's Allowance	0.00	0.00	0.00
1025 Subscriptions	1,713.00	223.09	1,936.09
1030 Courses, travel etc	232.45	17.00	249.45
1035 Insurance, Audit, Electricity	3,195.35	298.20	3,493.55
1040 Misc	3,379.00	658.20	4,037.20
1045 Herald Printing	5,425.00	0.00	5,425.00
1050 PC Maintenance Contractor	10,555.00	0.00	10,555.00
1055 Grass cutting	590.00	0.00	590.00
1060 Other maintenance	973.66	2.73	976.39
1065 General tree work	0.00	0.00	0.00
1070 Bin emptying	1,710.00	342.00	2,052.00
1075 Handyman	0.00	0.00	0.00
1080 Notice boards - maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
1085 Play equipment	128.00	25.60	153.60
1090 Lights in CF	1,445.26	72.26	1,517.52
1095 Toilets	7,560.78	232.91	7,793.69
1100 Flood equip maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00
1105 LFRG expenses	35.00	0.00	35.00
1110 Gulliford cemetery	970.00	0.00	970.00
1115 Burial Ground	0.00	0.00	0.00
1120 YC Maintenance	235.00	47.00	282.00

1125	YC Utilities	1,931.86	96.59	2,028.45
1130	Website etc	165.00	0.00	165.00
1135	Adv Weath	0.00	0.00	0.00
1140	Gully Emptying	0.00	0.00	0.00
1145	Parishes Together	0.00	0.00	0.00
1150	Hub Projects	24,706.09	4,817.00	29,523.09
1155	Cont VH Car Park	0.00	0.00	0.00
1160	DCC / DCF Funding	0.00	0.00	0.00
1165	YC Recharge	0.00	0.00	0.00
1170	Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
1180	FLOS	0.00	0.00	0.00
2000	S137 Funding	100.00	0.00	100.00
2010	Other Grants	4,417.26	205.86	4,623.12
9999	VAT Payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Council Total		101,677.06	7,055.92	108,732.98
Total Payments		101,677.06	7,055.92	108,732.98

Closing Balances at 31/12/25

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£93,689.69

Short Term Investment Accounts

Savings Account	£130,100.00
Total	£223,789.69

Appendix 2:

Water and run off!

In view of today's incident at the Exmouth (Maer Lane) sewage treatment works were Lympstone's sewage ends up, I thought it appropriate to explain where we are.
Today's quote from the EA "Please be aware that there is currently an issue with Exmouth STW. We received a report at 0400hrs that the treatment works were only taking in 50% of the flow and the rest was going to storm overflows."
We have alerted this on social media and both SWW and SAS have alerts on their APPS.
However, seeing storm overflows continually operated for most of January due to heavy rain this new problem is somewhat lost in all the noise.

The EDDC Water Cycle Study from Haskoning was eventually published in November analysing the current water infrastructure with some wastewater treatment plants currently operating over permit capacity, with specific areas also facing drinking water supply pressures.
Surprisingly Exmouth is classified as 10% below the EA permit which means there is sufficient capacity for another 4000 homes, with a works upgrade planned by 2028.
So how does this relate to what we are continually seeing with sewage breaches and discharges locally.
Back in 2010 there was a previous independent report, saying Exmouth was in danger of being at overcapacity. The disparity between the 2 reports is due to an EA increase to the permit capacity. (there will be fresh public consultation of the permits shortly)

The performance of all sewage works use Dry Weather Flows (DWF) as their performance measurement. So, in dry weather they is sufficient capacity but in poor weather, surface water ingression dramatically effects their performance, but these "storm overflows" are considered legal.
In Exmouth these storm overflows seem to operate anything from a shower!
So, the sewage plant is within permit, but we have witnessed various sewage infrastructure failures. It's a mixture of old infrastructure, poor connections, or insufficient storage, that has failed. Again, these failures are usually considered legal.

What does the future looking like?
The White Paper on the Water Industry has just been published, with major changes proposed to oversee the industry.
Ofwat, EA rivers, and parts of NE are being scrapped and the creation of one new single body.
The proposals for water companies, is to stay as they are but changes are proposed to create a "better investment for shareholders" with less bureaucracy and simpler oversight. simplifying performance commitments to reduce volatility.
The report acknowledges the impact of road and urban run-off as well as agriculture and sewage have on our water environment, and will all be included with the introduction of a partnership to ensure government is taking a full system approach to tackling pollution.

District Cllr Jung
2nd Feb 2026

Appendix 3:
Cllr S Francis - NP Update 2/2/26

For the past three Tuesdays our small working group have been meeting and trying to make sense of and progress on the gargantuan task of updating the plan. In between meetings I have been typing away with tracked changes getting the next document ready for our meeting.
The strategy we have adopted is to review and update each Appendix from the original and when this is complete go to public consultation with them, take feedback, hopefully final revisions and assemble a made plan which can be submitted to EDDC for acceptance. Angela King, EDDC's Neighbourhood Planning Officer, has agreed this is a sound methodology and is helping with guidance and advice as we work our way through each one.
The one thing that we have learned and that might be hard for some members of the community to understand is that the selected sites are selected and there will at some point be development there- no matter how much it is not wanted.
We have to live with it in our plan but we can mitigate this as much as possible by adding into our plan exactly what sort of development we want eg affordable small family homes, footpaths, traffic calming measures. Specific lists that can help shape the sort of developments. We are working on this now in Appendix H.
The one advantage is if we get the plan accepted quite quickly being new it will carry more weight when these development site proposals come forward.
We have actually made quite good progress but some Appendixes are now on their 3rd draft. Appendix K (Village Design Statement) and D Development Policies) have already been circulated to Full Council and Angela resulting in redraft for D. There are another two that are almost ready for you to see and just need tiding up. You should be seeing Appendixes E and F Sustainability Objectives and Project List and Process in the next couple of days. The Plan vision Statement which has grown out of Appendix A and will also should be ready after our next meeting. Some Appendixes like N and O about Goodmores and Exe Estuary Trail are really obsolete as these were about them in the planning stage and now both are up and running.
The appendixes are by no means the final versions but the important thing is we have started on the content of what we want our new plan and therefore our village to look like using the results from the first public consultation in June 2024.
We have managed to get one of the original plan working party to give us the benefit of their experience as we go along which is much appreciated.
Next steps, if you agree, after circulation, revision and advice from Angela is to arrange a public consultation supervised by Devon Communities Together – although a revised quote from them may be needed for this as I believe their original quotes obtained by Susie were for the whole plan Although I might have misunderstood that point.
After feedback from the public consultation, final revisions and drafts can take place and the plan assembled in complete form and with help from Angela and possibly DCT to be submitted for formal appraisal and acceptance.
We'll keep working and trying and it may take a while and some doing but we'll get there.