MINUTES OF A LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL ASSETS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 1.00PM ON TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2026.

PRESENT:	
Councillors	S Culhane, S Francis (SF), R Gale-Hasleham (RGH), K Hill (KH), J. Payne (JP) and L Staddon (LS) (LPC Chair)
Clerk	Miss L Tyrrell
County Councillors	None
District Councillors	None
Public	None

Public session:
None present.

AAC 26/1 Apologies

Cllr Atkins, Coleman and Roberts due to other commitments.

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

AAC 26/2 To receive any Declarations of Interest

None.

AAC 26/3 Front Meadow – To receive an update:

AAC 26/3.1 Correspondence received

The Chair referred to the letter received by a resident regarding Front Meadow. The Chair reported that the EA vans parked in the car park at the time were clearing the Brook. The car park was currently closed due to H&S reasons. KH stated that the PC has access over the private road to the car park for members of the public and contractors to use when entering and exiting the car park. The Chair explained that the one remaining bollard at the entrance would be removed. The general waste bin had been relocated to just inside the site which had encouraged responsible dog walkers. She suggested that an advisory reminder for dog walkers could be added to the PC Facebook page highlighting the responsibility of clearing up after your dog.

ACTION that the Clerk would respond to the resident answering the issues raised.

AAC 26/3.2 Car park

Mr Jeff Morrish (JM), the PCs contractor was present and reported on the following:
Car park surface – JM felt the surface laid was not up to spec to be used. The base soil was of poor quality which did not allow for grass to successfully take and grow. He believed it needed completely removing and replacing. The cost of this would be in the region of £50,000. He felt laying chippings was not ideal as these easily spread across the grassy areas and were a H&S risk when strimming and cutting around the area.
Footpaths – JM felt these pathways all worked well for the area.

SC felt a tree survey of the area was necessary as what was planted had not been what was on the proposed plan. She asked JM to remove all remaining tree supports bar two.
LS asked if the PC could give the car park to the church. KH explained this could not happen as the church would build on it. SC pointed out that the PC could not give the asset to the church directly but may be able to donate to an independent organisation set up by the Parochial Parish Church (PCC).
JP reiterated the overall process from development to date and queried how other car parks in similar situations operated. SC added that the NT often use grass-crete car parking for temporary over-flow parking in summer.
RGH referred to the email received from EDDC regarding the certificate of completion which did not confirm that the construction was approved. LS shared concerns of a lack of legal documentation. KH felt that if the water running from the Highway down the footpath was rectified then this would help the car park dry out. RGH suggested that a couple more quotes were sought for the car park surface.

ACTION that RGH would source a couple of additional contractors for additional advice and to quote for a resurfacing of the car park.

SF suggested a sign was erected at the entrance to the drive to the car park for users.

RESOLVED that a A4 sign was erected at the top of the car park access drive stating 'This car park is intended for use of those visiting and using the Church. No overnight stay.'
SF proposed. LS seconded. Unan.

AAC 26/3.3 Wildflower Meadow area

JM reported the following:
Wildflower Meadow Area – This area is currently looked untidy. If grassing over, then the area would need slightly levelling and re-seeding. The wild area in its current state needs a lot of management.
Stones – Large stones were being collected by dogs from the Brook bed and dropped into the area which posed a H&S issue when trying to strim and cut the grass.
Brambles – These are increasing from the boundary line and encroaching into the area.
Double hedge by car park – The double hedge was becoming problematic due to both hedges becoming entwined. The PC could consider digging out the newer hedge and replanting elsewhere.
Bollards at drive entrance to car park – Bollards were too small and suggested a vehicular access gate was considered instead to open and close the car park.

SC reminded all that a working group for the area was being set up to make recommendations for the long-term maintenance of the wildflower meadow area. JM explained that he would not be able to cut and bale the wild meadow area. He would be only able to regularly flail; this type of cut would mulch the cuttings and over time get rid of the weeds.

SC asked JM to provide the PC with a cost of doing this. SC shared safety concerns of increased access to the attenuation pond area. If the ecological plan had been followed correctly by the contractor according to planning conditions, the meadow area would not be in such a poor condition.
SC asked JM if the boggy corner at the bottom of the site was always as bad as it is currently. JM felt the area did get boggy but not as bad as it is now. SC suggested planting a tree there to soak up the excess water.
RGH felt the wild meadow area should be maintained as a grassy area with surrounding wildflower banks. KH highlighted the fact that the attenuation pond belonged to the management company of the houses, so the PC was not responsible for it. SC explained that changing the maintenance regime for the wildflower area would equate to downgrading the land to amenity grassland and the landscape plan was a planning condition. RGH felt if the area was cut and maintained at 4inches and the banks remained wild then the PC could review this again in March 2027. SC felt the area should remain as it is, it could be managed by the working group and baled once a year. SF preferred to a regular cut with wild meadow banks. KH felt the area could be cut 4-6inches, he added that the vision of the previous landowners was to see a managed wildflower meadow not left to its own devices. He felt they would like to see a more managed area. SC felt the previous landowners wanted a wildflower meadow. SF felt the entire vision of the whole site had changed. JP felt the area could benefit from being grassy with landscaped pockets of wildflowers. LS asked if the working group could work with SC to create a new vision for the area. SC agreed and invited JM to contribute with practical insight.

RESOLVED that the wildflower meadow area would be cut to a minimum of 4inches regularly and area reviewed in March 2027.
RGH proposed. LS seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that a new landscape scheme to improve the biodiversity of the area for long term aspirations was created.
JP proposed. LS seconded. Unan.

RESOLVED that SC and RGH wrote a management plan for the future of the area.
LS proposed. JP seconded. Unan.

AAC 26/4 Cliff Field

AAC 26/4.1 Risk assessment of field.
The reviewed risk assessment for Cliff field was agreed.

AAC 26/4.2 Trees in hedge.
SC explained that low-growing or dwarf Juniper (Juniperus horizontalis) trees were good for stabilising the cliff edge and creating a natural barrier. The National Trust had recommended the use of natural barriers rather than fencing. KH felt as LPC were stewards of the field that this was allowed.

RESOLVED that low growing juniper trees would be planted along the Cliff edge to create a natural barrier and help stabilise the Cliff edge.

SC proposed. LS seconded. Unan.

AAC 26/5 Trees in the Parish

SC explained that there was a total of twenty trees being gifted to the PC from the EA. She highlighted that five were already agreed to be planted in Candys Field. There were fifteen more to be located.

RESOLVED that the following trees and locations would be:
Front Meadow - three replacement trees, an additional Aspen (near other two in situ) and an Alder in the boggy corner of Front Meadow.
Cliff field - Ten low growing juniper trees planted along the cliff edge.
SC proposed. RGH seconded. Unan.

SC added that she would write a work spec for planting and five-year maintenance of trees for contractors to quote. Planting would take place in November 2026.

AAC 26/6 Telephone box in The Strand

LS reiterated the residents' ideas for a seed swap in the old telephone box. The PC also welcomed their future ideas for the rest of the year.

RESOLVED that a seed swap project was set up in the telephone box in The Strand.
LS proposed. SF seconded. Unan.

AAC 26/7 Candys Field - Replacement light quotes.

The Clerk explained that she had contacted two contractors for quotes for replacement light bulbs in the streetlights along the pathway in Candys Field. Only one contractor had returned a quote.

RESOLVED that the quote from Enerveo was accepted.
LS proposed. SC seconded. Unan.

AAC 26/8 Cemetery

JM reported that the easiest way to level the graves would be to fill dips in with topsoil and re-seed. He did add that some of the headstones would need straightening. LS asked that once a grave was levelled how long would it last. JM explained that once a coffin disintegrated then dips appeared. Work would initially be a larger job to complete but then could be easily and regularly integrated.
RGH suggested he could ask the Community Payback scheme to consider completing the work. Unan agreed.

AAC 26/9 Items for the next Agenda

Laying hedge in Cliff field – add to PC March agenda.

Meeting closed: **2.51pm**

Chairman: Date: