LYMPSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Cllr Lisa Staddon
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5th May 2026

To All Members of the Parish

You are invited to attend an Annual Parish Meeting of Lympstone to be held **6.30pm** on **Monday 11th May 2026 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.

L. Staddon

Cllr Lisa Staddon
Chairman to the Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - AGENDA

2026/1	**Apologies**
2026/2	**Minutes** To confirm the minutes of the APM Meeting held 7th April 2025 (attached pgs 2-21).
2026/3	**LPC Chairman**
2026/4	**LPC Clerk** – financial summary 2024-25, 2025-26 attached (attached pg 22)
2026/5	**Devon County Councillors** – County Cllr Trail report (attached pg 23)
2026/6	**East Devon District Councillors**
2026/7	**LPC Committee Lead Cllrs**
2026/8	**Phone box book swap –** report attached (pg 24)
2026/9	**Lympstone Living Advent Calendar event** – report attached (pg 25)
2026/10	**Cleaning The Green** – report attached (pg 25)
2026/11	**Lympstone Ladies** – report attached (pg 25)
2026/12	**Lympstone Sailing Club** – report attached (pg 26)
2026/13	**Community Hub lunches** – report attached (pg 27)
2026/14	**Lympstone Film Society** – report attached (pg 27)
2026/15	**Wild About Lympstone** – report attached (pg 28)
2026/16	**Heathfield Allotment Trust** – report attached (pg 29)
2026/17	**Lympstone Water Quality Group** – report attached (pg 30-31)
2026/18	**Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG)** – report attached (pg 32)
2026/19	**Lympstone History Society –** report attached (pg 33-34)
2026/20	**Lympstone Website and Social Media** – report attached (pg 35)
2026/21	**Lympstone Parish Charity**
2026/22	**Any further questions**

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 6.30PM ON MONDAY 7TH APRIL 2025.

PRESENT:	
Councillors	D Atkins (DGA), S Culhane (SC), 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	B Ingham (BI) and G Jung (GJ)
Public	15 members

2025/1 Apologies

None

2025/2 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the APM meeting held on the 8th April 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SF proposed. RGH seconded. Unan

2025/3 LPC Chairman

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and the many groups who had submitted reports.

2025/4 LPC Clerk – financial summary 2023-24, 2024-25

The Clerk presented the financial summary for the last two years *(See Appendix 1).*

2025/5 Devon County Councillors

None, due to Purdah regulations.

2025/6East Devon District Councillors

The District Cllrs would report in the PC meeting after the APM.

2025/7 LPC Committee Lead Cllrs

SC, lead Cllr for the Environment Committee read her report *(See Appendix 2)*

2025/8 Phone box book swap

LS read the report regarding the phone box book swap *(See Appendix 3).*

2025/9 Lympstone Garden Club

Suki Commin read the Garden Club report *(See Appendix 4).*

2025/10 Wild About Lympstone

Rebecca Abrahams read the Wild About Lympstone report *(See Appendix 5).*

2025/11 Lympstone History Society

Dick Francis read the History Society's report *(See Appendix 6).*

2025/12 Lympstone Website and Social Media

SF, link Cllr for the Website and PC Facebook page read the report *(See Appendix 7).*

2025/13 Lympstone Singers, Lympstone Legends, Christmas Tree Festival

Wendy Reynolds read the reports for the Singers, Legends and Tree Festival *(See Appendix 8).*

2025/14 Heathfield Allotment Trust

Ian Scott read the report for the Allotment Trust *(See Appendix 9).*

2025/15 Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG)

Helen Dimond read the report for the Flood Resilience Group *(See Appendix 10).*

2025/16 Gulliford Burial Ground Joint Committee

LS read the report for Gulliford Burial Ground *(See Appendix 11).*

2025/17 Community Hub lunches

Linda Lyons read the report for the Community hub lunches *(See Appendix 12)*

2025/18 Parish Tree Warden

LS read the Parish tree warden report *(See Appendix 13).*

2025/19 Lympstone Art Group

Judith Carter read the Art Club report *(See Appendix 14).*

2025/20 Lympstone Water Quality Group

Justin Smallwood read the Water Quality Groups report. (See Appendix 15). He added a special thanks to Sara and Clem Davies, the water guardians and SWW for all their hard work.

2025/21 Any further questions

None.

Meeting closed: **7.18pm**

Chairman: Date:

Appendix 1:

LPC Clerk – financial summary 2023-24, 2024-25

Financial Statement - Cashbook

Statement of receipts and payments between 01/04/23 and 31/03/24 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year 1st April 2023 **Current Account** Total	**£164,857.47**
RECEIPTS **Total Receipts**	**158,868.75**
PAYMENTS **Total Payments**	**100,366.03**
Closing Balances 31st March 2024 Current Account	**£223,360.19**

2024/2025

Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary of receipts and payments between 01/04/24 and 31/03/25 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£223,360.19
Total	£223,360.19

RECEIPTS	Net	Vat	Gross
Council	£170,219.42	£0.00	£170,219.42
Total Receipts	£170,219.42	£0.00	£170,219.42

PAYMENTS	Net	Vat	Gross
Council	£124,647.17	£5,336.89	£129,984.06
Total Payments	£124,647.17	£5,336.89	£129,984.06

Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£263,595.55
	£263,595.55
Total	£263,595.55

Appendix 2:

LPC Environment Committee

Environment Committee Report for Annual Parish Meeting 7th April 2025

Over the past year since declaring our acknowledgement of the Climate and Nature Crisis, we have been learning and sharing information about the current situation and some of the proposed solutions, as well as supporting and working with community groups on celebrating and monitoring our natural environment.

Sharing information through reports such as -

- how to report pollution in the Estuary (Lympstone Herald, Facebook and Notice Board)
- Met Office Climate Change and Community Resilience (meeting presentation, minuted)
- Highway runoff and the water environment (Report by Stormwater Shepherds and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management) (meeting presentation, minuted)

Working with community groups -

- *Lympstone Flood Resilience Group* - we work closely with LFRG who are a working group of this council, and who continue to provide a fantastic service to our village. Recognised by the EA and EDDC as a 'gold standard' community group, LFRG also shares its knowledge and experience regionally, presenting at events organised by the Devon Community Resilience Forum and the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.
- *Wild about Lympstone* - we supported WAL's second event "Stronger Together" which was held on 30th January 2025. This event was held to share the energies and ideas of many of our local community groups. LPC is also supporting a village wildlife event on 17th May, organised by WAL in conjunction with the Heathfield Allotment Trust, Lympstone Water Quality Group, Eco-Church and others, and supported by Devon Wildlife Trust.
- *Lympstone Water Quality Group* - we supported LWQG in setting up a voluntary team of Water Guardians to monitor Wotton Brook and its tributaries for pollution. Wotton Brook, Harefield and Sowden streams all have very low base flow which makes them highly susceptible to pollution (there is clear ongoing sediment pollution during dry weather) and as all eventually flow straight into our SSSI Exe Estuary, there is a recognised community need to protect water quality on behalf of our shellfish business, LHFA, Sailing Club and all water users.

  I attended a recent introductory meeting between SWW and their Project Management Contractor Arcadis and several of our community groups (Lympstone Water Quality Group, Wild about Lympstone, Lympstone Harbour and Fisheries Association and LFRG), to learn about the impact of the upgrade works to the Maer Lane Treatment station on Lympstone.

SWW's AMP8 project, a £22M investment in the Maer Lane Sewing Pumping Station, has the overall objective of providing betterment to the existing system.

AMP8 has 2 phases - firstly to separate surface water runoff from sewage in order to ease pressure on the sewage system, and secondly, to design and implement improvements to the whole system. Separating surface water from the existing drainage system means more water running into Wotton Brook and its tributaries, so LMQP have been working in conjunction with LFRG and other community groups to ensure SWW uses a 'Green First' approach ie using nature-based solutions to clean and filter untreated surface water before it enters our catchment system.

We are also working with the *Environment Agency* to secure Biodiversity Net Gain from the Flood Wall upgrade planning application. 20 trees will be planted in Candy's Field over the next few years, mainly around the perimeter. Some to provide succession for older trees, some to soak up excess water where drainage is poor, and all to support wildlife, provide shade, help with flooding, cleaning air and filtering surface water runoff, as well as (eventually) absorbing carbon.

This past year, we benefited from membership of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership, and also the Countryside Charity, whose advice on planning in the countryside provided helpful information for our Council response to the East Devon Local Plan. This response included a Landscape Proposal for the future, mapping new pedestrian and cycle routes, effectively creating wildlife corridors from the Estuary via woodland, green space and hedgerows to Yonder Oak Wood and beyond to Lympstone Common. With major residential development sites proposed both on the northern and southern boundaries of the parish, construction of the Dinan Way Extension on fields in the Wotton valley, we are looking to work with developers, our District and County Councillors and local partners to help improve access to the local countryside.

Lead Councillor Susie Culhane

Appendix 3:

Phone box book swap

Phone Box Book Swap: A Sorry State

The Lympstone phone box book swap in Gibraltar Road has been very well used over the past year with many villagers making regular use of it, donating and borrowing a wide range of different books for adults and children.

Unfortunately it had to be closed in early December as a result of damage caused by storm Darragh, which left it in an unsafe state.

All the books had to be removed and the door roped shut to ensure it is not used. A number of water damaged books had to be disposed of, and six boxes of good quality books were donated to Hospiscare. Two crates of books are being stored in my shed, ready for reopening once repairs have been completed.

I hope that the parish council will be able to arrange for these repairs to be carried out, and perhaps also do something to reduce leaks, so that fewer books are water damaged in the future.

Mary Turner

Appendix 4:

Lympstone Garden Club

Lympstone Garden Club Garden Club report for Lympstone PC (2)

The Show The third Saturday in August

Lympstone Garden Club was formally formed in !983 but we can date a Flower & Vegetable Show back to 1947. Over the years the name has changed several times. For many years it was known as the 'Flower Show'. However, latterly it was felt that there is so much more than just flowers, fruit and veg so we now call it The Lympstone Garden Club Annual Show.

Last year was the 76th Annual Show. The sections were
Vegetables 25 classes
Fruit 7 classes
Flowers 18 classes
Pot Plants 7classes
Under 16s 16 classes
Home Cooking
Preserves 6 classes
Baking 11 classes
Drinks 4 classes
Handicrafts 10 classes
Photography 2 classes
Creative Arts 4 classes
Go Green 4 classes
That's 114 classes altogether, from class 1.1 - 3 carrots to 10.4 - A homemade suet cake for birds
We like to think that there is something for everyone.
Each section has a judge and steward(s). We aim for the highest possible standard whilst still being a very friendly show. We occasionally have to say NAS - Not As Schedule. For example, when Twelve raspberries are asked for and the exhibitor includes 13 that would be NAS and disqualified.
This year we were blessed with wonderful weather on the day and good attendance. It had been a difficult growing year and the flower entries were definitely down but the vegetables were as amazing as ever.
For many years we've liaised with the school who choose many of the Under 16s classes. We collect the school entries at the end of the summer term and they are displayed in the Meeting Room The art and craft entries from the youngsters are truly amazing.
At the end of the Show it's the giving out of the cups, 26 in all.
For us, the organisers, it is always a joy to see so many enjoying a drink and home-made cakes and sitting and chatting in the community Room or outside.
The 2024 Show was a huge success and greatly enjoyed by all.

The Show takes a year to organise
Plant Sale and Coffee Morning the second Saturday in May

This is our mayor fund-raiser to help fund the Annual Show and the programme of Talks. We were very uncertain when the Methodist Hall closed that our Plant Sale and Coffee Morning would survive the move to the Village Hall. However, we have managed to go from strength to strength. We started in the Community Room and last year moved to the Main Hall which was just as well as there were so many plants to sell.

We have flowers on one side of the hall and veg on the other. The flower plants are purchased and brought on in a greenhouse. Geraniums (pelargoniums) always sell out really quickly.

The veg are grown from seed and our growers do a fantastic job with the different varieties and quality of the plants.

We also accept donations. Many of us grow surplus plants and it's a good place to move them on.

People queue up outside the Hall and the doors are open at 10 am sharp. Then there's a frenzy of buying activity.

Nearly everything is sold by 12 noon.

2024 was a bumper year for us.

Talks

We hold talks during the Autumn and winter. This year we had

October 2023 Dahlia Mania Bella Given
November 2023 AGM followed by the film of the 2017 Open Gardens in Lympstone
March 2024 Plants for Shade Saul Walker
April 2024 Wildlife on our organic farm Martin Godfrey

Book

Ongoing is the sale of our book 'The Lympstone Show' which celebrates 75 years of the Show now held in August in the village hall.

Appendix 5:

Wild About Lympstone (WAL)
Report to Lympstone Annual Parish Meeting, April 2025

Supported by Devon Wildlife Trust, WAL is passionate about celebrating and supporting local community initiatives that protect, restore and enhance our local nature and wildlife.

Our approach is one of partnership and community-connection. Working in this way, our hope is to deliver positive impact that improves the health of our natural local wildlife and environment as well as our own health and wellbeing, sense of community cohesion and pride.
Our first public event was a Wildlife Festival in June 2023. Run by 50 volunteers from the village, and attended by over 500 people, it was hugely successful. Since then, we have been busy -

- writing and distributing, for free, several hundred copies of an inspiring Nature, Health and Wellbeing book (full of local personal stories)
- launching a beautiful Lympstone Wildlife Map with local artist Louise Banks
- co-hosting a 1000 Plant Giveaway day (now in its second year) with the Allotment Group
- taking part in the 2024 Garden Festival offering gardening for wildlife events and activities
- supporting the establishment and ongoing work of the Lympstone Water Quality Group
- collaborating with various other groups and projects in the village such as the new environmentally-friendly wildlife management plans for the church
- writing regular Lympstone Herald articles; expanding our network of direct supporters (>70); creating a Wild About Lympstone Wildlife Watch Facebook page to share the joys of nature sightings (>200 members).

Most recently, on 30th January, we facilitated a 'Stronger Together' evening. Some 40 people, representing 13 village groups all concerned with our natural environment, met to share ideas and experiences.
Supported by DWT, this lively social event was a thank you to everyone for what they already do as well as an opportunity to consider how we might work more collaboratively together for the benefit of our local environment and wildlife. We explored how greater connection between us could create a more holistic approach - bringing together key issues of flooding, water quality, biodiversity and health and wellbeing - to achieve greater and more sustained impact.
We weren't short of participant feedback for collective community action. These included the creation of Mini Forests, wildlife corridors and local wetland sites; a village 'nature consultancy' hub for sharing in-village expertise and knowledge; a developer's guide to Lympstone's natural resources; Biodiversity Net Gain-ready sites across the parish; a biodiversity baseline to better support monitoring and impact and greater community veg growing and wildlife-friendly gardening.
More will be shared on this at WAL's Lympstone Environmental Action Day (LEAD) and 1000 Plant Giveaway event on May 17th this year - a community get-together day for positive community environmental action, connection and wellbeing.

The high level of engagement in WAL's work is evidence of Lympstone's collective passion for its nature and the desire to protect and enhance it. We share in the pride and desire that came out of our Stronger Together evening – to see Lympstone become a shining example of community strength, thriving nature and natural landscape.

With increasing threat from development, environmental damage and pollution, WAL is keen to work in partnership with others to help mitigate negative environmental impacts and expand our wild spaces and biodiversity. We are grateful for the support we've received from the Parish Council and, knowing its commitment to safeguarding as much green space as possible, we look forward to collaborating further for the benefit of our local nature and wildlife.

Appendix 6:

Lympstone History Society report to the Annual Parish Meeting April 2025

Membership numbers of the Society have remained broadly unchanged through the past year. The unfortunate serious illness of our Treasurer prompted some changes in the Committee and in some of our activities.

The activities for the year, and hence also the structure of this report, were divided into two categories: Bi-annual visiting speakers held at Lympstone Village Hall (open to all), and History Society projects.

Visiting speakers

On 19 April 2024 we organised an illustrated talk by Todd Gray, Honorary Research Fellow at Exeter University, entitled “Exeter’s Lost Buildings”.

On 18 October 2024 we organised an illustrated talk by John Allan, Consultant Archaeologist to Exeter Cathedral, entitled “Recent Archaeology of Exeter Cathedral”.

On 21 March 2025 we are organising an illustrated talk by Graeme Wheeler entitled “Sea Wolves – British Naval Heroes in the Age of Sail”.

History Society Projects

The Lympstone oral history project, in which local residents are asked to recall their memories of the village in days gone by, has been paused due to the illness of the lead coordinator. However, it is hope that it will soon resume under a new coordinator.

Membership of the Lympstone Family History Interest Group stands at around 25. The members exchanged items of interest via email throughout the year and met in person on 31 October 2024 when they shared their own individual interests and ideas for future research.

A new book entitled “Keeping Score: The Story of Cricket in Lympstone Village”, which author Tony Day has been working on for some time, is about to be published and should go on sale in time for the annual Lympstone Cricket Match on 12 June. It describes cricket in the village from 1891 to the present day.

The Lympstone Legends project, culminating in performances in June with songs and narratives about our local history and legends, is well advanced. It will be the subject of a separate presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting.

The History Society archive has been maintained in the Village Hall with several additions through the year, notably including the village’s Jubilee Quilt. Access can be granted to anybody through prior arrangement with the History Society committee. The archive continues to receive regular enquiries, and is well used by local residents carrying out their own research. There are tentative plans to consider putting some of the archive material – in particular items that are in digital form or can be readily scanned or digitised – onto a dedicated web site accessible to all.

Appendix 7:

Website, Lympstone Village Facebook Report for AGM 2024/25

Webmasters: David Young, Mary Turner Link Councillor: Sue Francis

The Lympstone village website continues to be well used, providing both essential and mandatory Parish Council information in addition to general information and items of interest about the village for residents and visitors.

The major upgrade has been very successful, and the site is now operating more efficiently. Both Webmasters are able to access it easily now which is far less frustrating and time consuming for them.
The new design and layout look good and are easier to navigate. Especially positive is that the whole site works better on tablets/mobile phones now.

Posts can be scrolled through easily, and the new what's on page enables people to view future events easily. On the downside, it is not obvious that new items have been posted, and site users need to click into an entry. Facebook is therefore used to draw attention to some posts by sharing them there.

Website usage: March 10th to 17th Human Traffic 2182 and Bot traffic 1176
Lympstone Village Facebook page has 1.6k followers, a reach of 6.15% and engagement of 5%

Lympstone Notices on FB, where people can post direct, now has 1,088 followers. There have been some issues with unsuitable posts leading to the screening of some participants, and business posts (which it is not intended for) being rejected, with alternatives suggested.

Lympstone Village Facebook use their larger following to boost and increase the reach of the posts of the dedicated PC Facebook page. The PC Facebook account has a much smaller 243 followers and has a narrower publication remit so the sharing of posts is much appreciated by the PC.

There is a new dedicated area on the website for LFRG. This is a very positive development and useful for information to the community. It seems to be working well, and the group seem pleased with the addition.

Unfortunately, after consideration, a request from the LHS to have an area where family history materials can be posted had to be declined. It was felt that the material risked overloading the site and the increased need for plugins could cause the site to crash. However, there is a dedicated village groups page linked from their group to the community page which can provide more information about any village group and links to external sites if groups have them.

The Webmasters meet regularly together and with the Clerk and Link Councillor as necessary and formally during the summer break to review operations and discuss any matters arising. As both webmasters are volunteers, it cannot be stressed enough how appreciative the PC are of their efforts on behalf of us and the whole village.

Appendix 8:

Lympstone Legends

We launched our project to highlight the history of the village in January with an Introductory Meeting and were delighted to welcome 85 people! It has taken off so well: an enhanced Lympstone Singers choir of 40, a small group of young singers and a few instrumentalists are learning the 16 songs Lin Marsh, our composer has written. We all agree that they are eminently singable and enjoyable to listen to – 3 of them provided a 'taster' at the Village Concert.
The passage of time is moved along by short stories told by actors portraying different characters who may have lived in the village. These are written by Jenny Moon.
There will be an Exhibition of pictures, photos and artefacts from the History Society Archives in the Village Hall at the same time where refreshments will be served!
The church Flower Guild is going to decorate the windowsills with displays related to our songs.
The Cubs are planning on helping to paint banners and we are also hoping the Scouts will be involved.
We are putting on 3 performances in the church on June 13th and 14th and all are welcome.
We are grateful for financial support from East Devon Creative Arts, the Parish Council and Lympstone Entertainments. I was sorry not to get a grant from any of the National Funds, but they basically said we would not touch the lives of enough people. However, I reckon we will have touched quite a few!!

Lympstone Singers

Having started out life as a ladies' choir, we were delighted to welcome a strong group of men to add to the volume for our D-Day Songs at the well-attended picnic on the Front Green in June last year.
After a summer break we resumed rehearsals to prepare for a short Christmas concert to launch the Christmas Tree Festival, which had the church packed out!
We have now turned our attention to Lympstone Legends.

The Christmas Tree Festival

For the first time, we invited local groups to provide a tree and decorate it for a display in the Church in the first week of December. The response was amazing, and 27 groups turned up trumps. The church looked so bright and colourful when all the lights were lit. Every day there was a steady stream of visitors, enjoying the humour, skill and craft of the decorations. Thank you to all who joined in. We did not ask for donations – it was just for the pleasure of our village, but perhaps, if we were to do it again, we could support a worthwhile charity.

Appendix 9:

Heathfield Allotment Trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 202075

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MARCH 2025

This year has been one of mixed emotions and it wasn't all about the weather. Since my previous report, in March 24 the site suffered a serious break-in. Unfortunately, over 30 plots were affected with significant damage to sheds and several thousands of pounds worth of tools, garden furniture and memorabilia stolen. Following this, the Trustees installed remotely monitored cameras and external signage but this unfortunately this was not enough to deter, we think the same perpetrators, returning in October. This time for small pickings but still causing damage to opened sheds on a very windy night. Despite good photos on both occasions the police were unable to secure an arrest.

On a lighter note, teaming up with Wild About Lympstone, in May we organised the 1000 Plant Givaway. Over 1300 plants were distributed free to bring pollinators to Lympstone gardens for years to come, and we followed up with a foxglove seed giveaway in the autumn.

The season was not that kind to us. A very wet, albeit mild spring followed by a pretty dull summer meant that yields on many crops were poor and they shut down early. But we will not be discouraged and the site is already bustling with plot holders preparing for the new challenge!

The Trust is financially sound and all 86 plots are occupied, most being well cultivated and tidy. Our waiting list remains around 25 villagers and we usually let around 5-7 plots a year. Much of the maintenance of the common areas including road repairs and grass strimming is completed by Trustees and this year that has included the planting of 125 native hedging whips on our boundary, great for wildlife and very thorny to deter unwanted two-legged visitors entering the site outside the view of our cameras.

We look forward to the new growing season and hopefully a lovely hot summer.

Carrie Darby

Chair of Trustees

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

Appendix 10:

Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

The Lympstone Flood Resilience Group (LFRG) has continued to address all flooding issues of concern to the village both at a strategic level and through the work of the two teams of flood wardens.

We commented on the proposed housing allocation sites in the East Devon emerging local plan and appeared at the EDDC site selection meetings . The sites of particular concern for their flooding impact, on the north side of Hulham Road ,have now been dropped. We have commented on planning applications , most notably the proposal for 42 houses south of Meeting Lane and the various proposals at Thorne Farm. Concerns about the negative impact of surface water runoff from the new Dinan Way project on the Wotton Brook were addressed in meetings with DCC Highways and mitigating measures have been included in the project design.

Regarding the additional section of flood wall to be constructed at the upstream end of the walled channel, the Environment Agency (EA)have indicated that this work may be scheduled to start in September

We have attended meetings between Lympstone Water Quality Group and South West Water (SWW) to discuss any alterations SWW may be considering to some of their surface water outlets, with a view to reducing the flows that are pumped to Exmouth. LFRG are concerned about any resulting additional flows into the Wotton Brook

Perhaps the most noticeable achievement during the year has been the final resolution of the high tide pooling problem outside the shop and The Swan in The Strand. This problem had plagued the village for at least a generation, although not quite as long as the previous problems in Chapel Road. New valves have been installed with the cooperation of DCC Highways and The Environment Agency, and waters are no longer able to surcharge from our regular tides into the roadway at these locations. We are aware that a similar remedy is possible for the Underhill roadway between the rail bridge and the surgery and this is our next challenge. Sadly the pooling further along Underhill does not offer an achievable solution because the roadway there is effectively part of the floodplain .

The Estuary season thus far has been kind to us. Despite some severe weather conditions these have not coincided with high tides. The Estuary Warden Team have operated the gates efficiently and promptly ensuring minimum disruption to villager's estuary access. We have, however, continued to experience difficulties with the increasing age of the floodgates making their operation problematic at times. We suffered from some inept maintenance by the Environment Agency contractors, which took months to rectify. With the cooperation of the Lympstone Harbour Board an experimental regime of mechanised beach dragback got underway in October. This shows promising results for easing the clearance of shingle build up behind the gates when closed. A new telemetry box showing floodgate status has been installed at the Sailing Club replacing the 20 year old predecessor.

We have worked with the Parish Council in a protracted process of negotiation with The Environment Agency on the renewal terms of the partnership agreement enabling the

Estuary Wardens to legally continue operation of the floodgates for the forthcoming five year term.

The Inland team has seen a change in the way it operates this year. Towards the end of last year we were advised by DCC Highways that due to health and safety concerns and environmental risks we should no longer lift road gully covers and clear the sumps ourselves. Fortunately, we received a Locality Grant from our DCC Councillors that enabled us to use a Jetvac contractor to clear the gullies at most of our surface water hotspots. On December 6th two members of the Inland team accompanied the Jetvac around the village, managing traffic, and clearing twenty nine gullies in ten different locations, removing nearly a ton of sump debris. It is likely that a small number of hotspot locations will require a second visit from the Jetvac, which we will try and achieve with the balance of funds available.

The Inland team also spent time in December clearing the roadside ditch and undergrowth along the upper end of Underhill to reduce the pooling that regularly occurs there due to inadequate drainage infrastructure.

Finally, most of a day in November was taken up clearing the bed of the stream in the field adjacent to the road at Sowden Corner. The stream takes the highway run off from six gullies at Sowden Corner and can be overwhelmed in the event of heavy and sustained rainfall causing backing up of the surface water on to the highway, resulting in significant pooling.

As an established community group of some eight years standing the LFRG has gained significant experience in managing the local flood risk and planning future resilience measures. We are very happy to share and exchange our experiences with other communities and on three separate occasions this year we have presented aspects of our work to the Devon Community Resilience Forum and the Exe Estuary Management Partnership.

LFRG would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and the webmasters of Lympstone.org for re-organising the group's information on a dedicated page of the village website. There is now significant new content, and we hope the information is relevant and easily accessible. We will endeavour to keep the site current with a reasonable number of new posts each year.

Appendix 11:

Annual report for Gulliford Dissenters' Burial Ground

It's been a quiet year for both the Friends of Gulliford Burial Ground and the Joint parishes committee. Firstly, we lost our treasurer through ill-health. Graham Banks has always been a stalwart of the group and we hope to see him at events as his health improves. Thankfully James Moffatt has taken over as treasurer and set up online banking so that it is easier and less time-consuming to make payments etc.

Various small groups of volunteers have again been working in the burial ground to maintain the paths, noticeboards and manage the flora and fauna. We are still looking for a few more people to help with the gardening and planting side of the work we do. We have one or two visits from local history groups organised for this year and have other ideas for talks in the pipeline. If you think you could help either by coming onto our committee or volunteering with gardening ,maintenance or helping when groups visit we would welcome you with open arms.

The Joint parishes committee is tightening up its procedures. A history of the burial ground has been written so that this information is not lost and new councillors coming onto this committee can get up to speed quickly. Historically, the Burial Ground has its own bank account as it is owned by both parishes, it also has to be insured separately and accounted for separately. The work to make this more efficient and the procedures clear has started. In addition, we have increased the budget for this historical site so that we forward plan any maintenance expenses that may arise in the near future.

We welcome Woodbury PC assistant clerk, Emily who will be overseeing the administration of this joint committee. As always, a big thank-you to all those who help preserve and look after this little gem. Whether you are a volunteer, committee member, clerk or councillor, everything you do is much appreciated.

Jane Moffatt

Appendix 12:

LYMPSTONE MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCHES

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025

The current Lympstone Monthly Sunday Community Lunches have been taking place for about 10 years, providing a hot 2 course lunch for our more senior and vulnerable residents. Half of our diners meet monthly at Churchill Court to eat and socialise while we deliver the other half to resident's homes, usually as they have mobility issues. Currently we serve between 35 and 45 meals each month though nearly 60 (including our volunteers) sat down to a full turkey dinner at the Village Hall in December. We also cater for all dietary requirements.

Those who can, donate up to £5 for the meal but this does not cover the full cost. Our Devon County Councillors, Richard Scott and Jeff Trail continue to generously support this village initiative which enables us to provide free meals to about half of our diners, who are usually the most vulnerable. We have also received a number of individual donations, including a legacy from one of our former diners. The cooks, drivers and volunteers provide their services free of charge. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for letting us use their bank account to enable us to access the DCC funds. In September the Parish Church gave us half of their Harvest Festival donations which were distributed as appropriate.

The feedback we get from our diners is very positive. They often comment that it is so heart warming that other people are not just thinking of them, but are prepared to give up their time for them, providing a hot meal.

Due to cost restraints, we have this year moved the lunch to the Churchill Court Community Room for all except the December meal. This does limit the number who can sit down to a meal to a maximum of 14 people, but so far we have managed with the cooks and volunteers eating in the kitchen.

We advertise the coming meals monthly in the Herald and always welcome new participants .

Appendix 13:

Annual Parish Meeting – Parish tree warden report

I have been the tree warden for Lympstone parish for nearly 33 years. I have had a lifelong understanding of trees and was saddened by the loss of so many trees through many man made mistakes and natural events I wanted to actively get involved in trying to help. At the time of taking on the role of Parish tree warden I was supported by the Parish Council and successive Parish Councillors.
The role of a tree warden is to support the health and welfare of trees, the fauna and flora and the wildlife that trees support in our area and shared concerns of trees elsewhere.
The tree warden scheme is helped by East Devon District Council with the backing of the tree council.
over the years, I have been involved with the heartbreaking mistakes of introducing Dutch Elm Trees which wiped out many thousands of mature elm trees throughout the country. I was involved with the mid 1980s gales which brought down thousands of trees especially in the south of the country. I have given up countless number of voluntary hours sorting out tree problems for the Parish Council and EDDC.
I have had the pleasure of either planting or getting local people to plant around 15,000 trees in our parish. I have attended many tree warden workshops and the great pleasure at being invited to great Windsor Park after the storms to view their religious trees.
I have spoken to many of our local tree wardens in the past who have all had one thing in common mainly not being listened to by EDDC.
Sadly in recent years the tree population of the parish has been decreasing at an alarming rate with also the loss of wild areas of the common. Trees have been cut down at bird nesting time and flailing completed at a time when ground nesting birds would have been nesting. This concern has been highlighted by me to our District councillor with the response that these are experts who have special licenses.

Recently I have been informed by District Cllr Jung that EDDC would be removing the parish tree warden scheme which saddens me further when the local tree wardens are the eyes and ears on the ground whose words should be listened to and respected not treated with dismissal and made to feel irrelevant in a democratic society.

When I first became tree warden for the parish there was concerns to protect trees and I am proud to say that, due to the local connection, over the years and on many occasions, I have given sound advice and persuaded individuals not to cut down a particular tree.

In my time as tree warden and to my knowledge EDDC have managed to plant one Jubilee oak tree in Candys field where it took two vans and three men nearly three hours to plant one tree which never came into leaf and died.
In the past winter I have voluntarily planted 500 trees and EDDC want to get rid of us.

Thank you.

David Tyrrell
Parish tree warden.

NOTED that during the Parish Council meeting 7th April 2025, Min ref: 25/33 (Appendix 2) Cllr Jung responded to this report.

Appendix 14:

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7TH APRIL 2025
LYMPSTONE ART GROUP

Lympstone Art Group has membership of 85 people mainly from Lympstone but some from adjacent areas. It has been in existence for at least 40 years and it Annual Exhibition is a regular Village event
Each year we organise several workshops and talks on art subjects.

Workshops and Talks in 2024:
4th October - Louise Banks -Techniques for Making Marks in the Landscape
22nd November -Jenny Moon -Collage using Paper and Material
24th January – Louise Banks - Layering Water Colours
7th February – Jane Welsh- Basket Weaving
6th March - Jeremy Diggle – Development of Abstract Compositions
3rd April - Lynda Kettle - Using Pastels
Talks
21st November – Naomi Hart – Beneath the Surface of the Sea
9th January - Emma Allen – Making Paint
12th March – Barbra Janssen- the History of Indigo

Our programme for 2024 2025 covered a similar number of workshops and talks. Our subscription is £10 a year and charge of £35 is made for workshops and fee of £20 a term for the Art and Craft Sessions.
During the year we run two morning Art and Craft sessions at the Village Hall on a Monday and a Tuesday.
The highlight of the year is our Annual Art Exhibition which is held over the May half term week when the Village Hall is available to rent. We typically have over 100 items displayed and around 500 visitors over the week.
We manage make money by selling refreshments having a raffle and a secret auction. This together with a £1 entry fee for adults covers the hire cost allowing us to break even. Entry for under 16's is free.
We run a Young Peoples Art Competition with Awards going to different age categories when these are judged at the end of the week.
This encourages young people and families to come to the Exhibition.
We hold a Preview on the Saturday before we open where the judge announces the winners of different categories. This year our Judge will be Lynda Kettle a well know Artist
The Preview is on Saturday 24th May 2025 at 7pm and members of the Parish Council are cordially invited to attend.

Judith Carter

Chairman

Appendix 15:

Lympstone Water Quality Group Annual Report to LPC, April 2025

The Lympstone Water Quality Group was established in December 2023 due to growing concern about pollution in the Wotton Brook and Exe Estuary. With the support of the Westcountry Rivers Trust and other Lympstone groups (particularly Wild About Lympstone, the Flood Resilience Group, Fishery & Harbour Association, and Parish Council), we developed a catchment-based project to assess, protect, and improve the water quality in the Brook and Estuary. Our approach has been to:

1. Recruit and train community volunteers to help monitor the water quality in the Wotton Brook, observe the Brook and Estuary, and raise awareness in the community.
2. Investigate the sources, pathways, and receptors of pollution, and the specific risks and opportunities, in our catchment.
3. Identify and engage with key decision-makers that can influence water quality, e.g., the Environment Agency, South West Water, East Devon Planning, Devon County Council, and landowners.
4. Identify opportunities to prevent pollution and improve water quality and biodiversity.

The work has been supported by grants from the Parish Council (£1,000) and East Devon National Landscapes' Communities Project Fund (£4,000), and support in kind from various national and regional organisations, incl. the Rivers Trust, Riverfly, Stormwater Shepherds, and the River Restoration Centre.
We now have a better understanding of the problems and solutions relating to water quality, and have made progress in raising awareness and building partnerships to protect and improve the Brook and Estuary. However, there are some fundamental problems in the national policy and regulatory framework that we cannot address locally. So, we are also communicating with national and regional organisations that are lobbying government for change, and submitting comments to relevant consultations - including the East Devon Local Plan consultation and the national Independent Water Commission's call for evidence on the water sector (the Cuncliffe Review).
Our monitoring has helped us confirm that the main pathway for pollution in our catchment is surface water runoff, which picks up a range of pollutants from roads, agriculture, construction, and residential property and related infrastructure. The runoff either flows to the Wotton Brook and on to the Estuary, or into the combined sewer system which increases the risk of sewer overflows in an already overloaded system. These problems are increasing due to climate change and development.
One practical solution is to slow and treat the surface water runoff by using natural processes such as bioretention ponds or constructed wetlands. If designed well, these 'nature-based solutions' can improve water quality, increase biodiversity, and reduce flood risk. They are the focus of our work with the Woodland Trust at Yonder Oak (at the top of the catchment), with several other landowners, and now with South West Water. We have also been trying to raise awareness in the planning process of the need to incorporate these solutions in new residential and infrastructure developments, as recommended in the Sustainable Drainage Systems standard (SuDS). Integrated water management is the key to success, bringing multiple benefits (see https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Planning-Advice-Note.pdf). Without it, the risks are high.
Relatively good progress has been made with South West Water – with a strong focus on increasing transparency and agreeing on the necessary improvements to the sewage system (using nature-based solutions where possible). Together with members of the Lympstone Flood Resilience Group and Wild About Lympstone, we have had several constructive meetings with members of the company's natural resources, operational, and strategic teams. Lympstone is now part of SWW's AMP8 investment programme (2025-30), and the project manager is a specialist in nature-based solutions. An initial meeting with the AMP8 project team was held on 14 March, including representatives of the Lympstone Water Quality Group, Flood Resilience Group, Fishery & Harbour Association, and Parish Council.
In conclusion, much has been achieved by the Water Quality Group and Water Guardians over the past year – with the support of many others - and our plan is to consult with the community on the project findings and recommendations during the 17 May environmental action event. We will then report more widely, including to the Parish Council.
We appreciate the Parish Council's support in both providing funding and raising awareness of water pollution risks.

2026/4 **LPC Clerk** – financial summary 2024-25, 2025-26

2024/2025

Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary of receipts and payments between 01/04/24 and 31/03/25 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£223,360.19
Total	£223,360.19

RECEIPTS	Net	Vat	Gross
Council	£170,219.42	£0.00	£170,219.42
Total Receipts	£170,219.42	£0.00	£170,219.42

PAYMENTS	Net	Vat	Gross
Council	£124,647.17	£5,336.89	£129,984.06
Total Payments	£124,647.17	£5,336.89	£129,984.06

Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£263,595.55
	£263,595.55
Total	£263,595.55

2025/2026

Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary of receipts and payments between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 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	£83,932.32	£0.00	£83,932.32
Total Receipts	£83,932.32	£0.00	£83,932.32

PAYMENTS	Net	Vat	Gross
Council	£131,419.87	£8,732.15	£140,152.02
Total Payments	£131,419.87	£8,732.15	£140,152.02

Closing Balances at 31/03/26

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£76,379.83

Short Term Investment Accounts

Savings Account	£130,996.02
Total	£207,375.85

26/5 Devon County Councillors

Firstly, I would like to thank those residents who supported former DCC Cllr Richard Scott and myself at the DCC Elections last May. It was not the outcome we expected and sadly Richard was not re-elected. I would publicly like to thank Richard for all he did within the Ward, especially Lympstone. We were a hard-working team who worked for the local community and put residents before politics.

Since the elections it has been a difficult time for local communities and me, due to the Governments changes to Planning, Finances and Governance.

The Government has given Local Planning Authorities a difficult time by changing planning legislation which has meant developers are able to submit planning applications on Green Belt land, and if the local authority has not produced a full quota of land supply (5 years). Local objections, to some applications, are not being listened to and I urge residents to continue to fight for their communities. Where you and the Council do have a say I have been lobbying for extra works which will benefit the Village.

Rural Grant funding for DCC and DSFRS has been withdrawn by the Government along with a change in Investments and Pensions which is costing ratepayers extra for the services it requires and its responsibilities to its staff and pensioners throughout the County.

With the impending change to Local Governance known as (LGR) we are still unclear how or what is to happen, but we will be losing DCC, other Authorities and all District Councils. Elections are to take place May 2027 and the new Unitary Authority to be in place by 2018. What will this mean? I wish I could tell you, but in my opinion, I do not think it can work in an area such as Devon, purely because of the geography we live in unless it falls under one administration (One Devon).

Locally, I have continued to work as hard as before the elections and have kept the Parish Council informed at Parish Council meetings and extra meeting when and where necessary for the benefit of residents within the Parish.

Highways issues have been an issue but again I have been working with Managers at DCC to try to minimise the inconvenience caused, especially with the New Dinan Way Link Road.

With development within the village, I am trying to keep you informed and the disruption to a minimum, but Utility Emergencies do happen. We try to limit the time to complete works, but we are unable to stop works.

I hope the following year will be a lot clearer for us all and thank you for listening.

Kind regards,
Jeff
DCC Cllr Jeff Trail BEM
Exmouth Rural

2026/8 Phone box book swap

Lympstone Phone Box Book Swap

The Lympstone phone box book swap in Gibraltar Road is back in use following repairs to the door, which was damaged in storm Darragh in early December 2024. The book swap was reopened soon after the repairs were completed in late November, and just in time for Christmas! We are delighted to have it back up and running.

Book swap reopening on 21st November 2025.

The problem persists, unfortunately, of leaks when it rains. This continues to cause damage to books, and each time it happens a few are so damaged that they have to be thrown away due to water damage.

Thank you so much for carrying out the repairs!
Mary Turner

2026/9 LYMPSTONE LIVING ADVENT CALENDAR REPORT

Lympstone Living Advent Calendar was held for its 6th successive year in December 2025 and proved ever popular, both with village residents and visitors, so much so that it even attracted the attention of ITV West Country News this time around.

It is a very inclusive event, being free and accessible to all which I believe is an important aspect of it. I am very grateful for the funding support each year from the Parish Council to allow the advent maps to be printed, as I also believe it feels more special to both young and old to have a physical map and adds to the magic of Christmas in the village. Special thanks to Sue Mildenhall who has helped me with the design and layout of the advent map each year.

I know from speaking to people that the Advent Calendar has now become part of their family Christmas traditions and so thanks must go to everyone in the village who willingly decorates and lights their window or garden scene, it wouldn't happen without them.
Doreen Murray

2026/10 CLEANING THE GREEN REPORT

With grateful thanks to the 15 volunteers who have helped to keep the Green clean and tidy throughout the last year on a week by week basis.

We were inspired to keep up the good work of Margaret, who had undertaken the task for so many years before ill health prevented her from continuing.

We know that our efforts are valued as so many people stop to chat and give compliments as we sweep, wipe and weed what is a well used and well loved social space in the village.
Doreen Murray

2026/11 LYMPSTONE LADIES REPORT 2026

Lympstone Ladies was set up in 2022 by Fiona Archer following the closure of Lympstone WI. It now numbers between 50 and 60, with a regular core of around 30 attendees depending on the time of year.

It has proved to be an important social and support network in the community for women of all ages, giving them the opportunity to come along individually or in a group to meet and chat with each other.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month from 7-9pm at Lympstone sailing club, allowing us to enjoy the views and sunsets while meeting friends and making new connections.

Everyone welcome!
Anne-Marie Bates
Di Barker
Doreen Murray
Julie Morgan

2026/12 Lympstone Sailing Club

Annual Report to Lympstone Parish Council – March 2026

Introduction

Lympstone Sailing Club (LSC) exists to provide an affordable gateway to the joy of sailing for everyone in Lympstone, from absolute beginners to experienced blue-water sailors.

2025 was a very active and successful year for LSC, highlighted by strong community engagement with a vibrant mix of social and sailing activities. As a result, the club continues to benefit from robust participation, an energetic volunteer base, and has made significant progress in junior development. We successfully delivered our 2025 goal to launch a junior sailing programme, alongside our existing activities, to encourage under 18's in Lympstone to enjoy the water.

Our 2026 goal is to get new sailors out and 'rusty' sailors back on the water, whilst continuing to grow our junior development programme.

Junior Sailing Programme

In 2025 we launched LSC's first structured Junior Coaching Programme, a milestone for the club. The programme was designed and led by Theo Whiter, supported by volunteers and parents. The programme was based around six structured sessions running from April to September which delivered rapid skills development leading to the juniors solo sailing around triangle courses and participating in some introductory racing. The programme culminated in a September mini-regatta which showcased the juniors' progress.

None of this would have been possible without significant community support which included a Parish Council grant which funded the purchase of a boat, a garden party fundraiser and a raffle which each raised significant funds.

Dinghy Sailing & Racing

The 2025 dinghy racing programme, developed by Dinghy Fleet Captain Margaret Turgoose, had to work around an unusually unfavourable tide timetable but still included 97 races across the season.

The club has its own dinghy fleet which, unlike many other clubs, is free to members and continues to be well-used by those who do not have their own boats.

Cruisers & Day Boats

Member-led cruising activity remained lively despite fewer organised group events and notable trips included voyages along the Southwest Coast and to the Isles of Scilly.

Training

LSC retained its status as an RYA Training Centre, demonstrating compliance with all RYA standards. The club maintains a team of fully qualified powerboat instructors and offers powerboat training during the off-season. Formal dinghy training is currently limited by the lack of a senior dinghy instructor, but members can still attend training through our partnerships with other clubs.

Social Activities

Lympstone Sailing Club has a well-deserved reputation for the diversity of its well-attended social activities which include Mariners' Munch lunches (January–March), regular Real Ale nights and newly introduced "Estuary Hour" early-evening bar openings, casual food events in the clubhouse and trips further afield. A major highlight in 2025 was the LSC Regatta, followed by the River Exe Regatta party, which drew almost 150 attendees despite wet weather. The club runs regular community groups including the LSC Art Group, the LSC Families & Lego Club, and the LSC Dolphins Skittles team, which all continued to thrive. The club also continues to support local charities including the RNLI and Macmillan through fundraising events.

Peter Turgoose

Commodore, Lympstone Sailing Club

2026/13 Community Hub lunches

LYMPSTONE MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCHES

APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026

The Lympstone Sunday Community Lunches continue to take place each month, providing a hot 2 course meal. We serve about 40 meals each month with about 12 of those at Churchill Court and the rest delivered to residents homes. For the December meal, we met in the Village Hall with many of our home-delivery diners joining us for the festive full turkey dinner with all the trimmings. As we have much more space there, we were able to invite all our diners and volunteers to join us, Devon County Councillors Jeff Trail and Helen Brown also came along with the Parish Church rector Steve Jones. We also cater for all diet requirements.

Those who can, donate up to £5 for the meal but this does not cover the full cost. Our two Devon County Councillors, Jeff Trail and Helen Brown continue to generously support this village initiative through the Locality grant, which enables us to provide free meals to about half of our diners, some of whom are vulnerable. The Parish Church gave us their Harvest Festival donations to distribute and also gave us a very generous donation towards providing Christmas presents for the 7 children we support. The cooks, drivers and volunteers provide their services free of charge. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for letting us use their bank account to enable us to access the DCC and Parish Church funds.

The feedback we get from our diners is very positive. They often comment that it is so heart-warming that other people are not just thinking of them, but are prepared to give up their time for them, providing and delivering a hot meal.

We advertise the coming meals monthly in the Herald and always welcome new participants and volunteers.

2026/14 Lympstone Film Society

APM report 11th May 2026 - Lympstone Film Society

The Film Society has presented a season of films every year since 2009.

The Society has always been well supported by its members, never fewer than 90 joining and on occasion 140 members. We show eight films between September and April, three matinee films and film at the AGM in May.

Each year we show at least one foreign language film which is preceded by a meal from the country. We have one classic film from the past as well as the best independent films and those which are enjoyable but usually not blockbusters.

The committee has been little changed over the years which may in time become a problem as we are now finding that we are beginning to lose our influential members such as Harland Walshaw.

Anyone may come to watch a film for £5 but the membership fee gives great value at £20 for the year. Drinks are served from the bar and ice creams at the interval following a number of Short films.

Brian Mather (committee member)

2026/15 Wild About Lympstone

Wild About Lympstone (WAL), supported by Devon Wildlife Trust
Report to Lympstone Annual Parish Meeting, April 2026

Who are we?
WAL consists of a core group of 6 people but is actively supported by > 90 local residents (on our email list). We are about enjoying and appreciating our precious local wildlife and natural environment and supporting community action that protects, restores and enhances it.
We believe that small changes have a BIG impact. We chose the wren for our logo because it is a tiny, shy bird with a surprisingly loud and powerful voice. It reminds us that ordinary people can make a big difference for wildlife, even with small actions. Also, that we must remain courageous and active in the face of increasing threats of local environmental damage and destruction.
Knowing we are stronger together, WAL works with other village groups, individuals and external stakeholders. We aim to deliver positive impact that improves our own health and wellbeing as well as that of our natural local wildlife and environment.
What have we been up to?
Environmental Action Day - on 17th May 2025 we partnered with village groups to run a successful community event in the church and on the front meadow. There was a range of fun and informative activities connecting people with the joy of nature and the importance of taking better care of it. Highlights were a second 1000 plant giveaway, swift tours up the church tower, nature-based art activities and water quality information and testing.
Lympstone Wildlife Wellbeing Walks - partnering with the Ramblers' Association Wellbeing Walks we lead our first walk on 8th November. We offer people an opportunity to come together and enjoy the wellbeing benefits of walking in nature. So far we have led 3 village walks ending at the Swan for drinks and a chat. These have been oversubscribed and enjoyed by 60 people ranging in age from 9 to 97! Our next walk is designed to be inclusive of those with limited mobility. It will take place, as part of a wider wellbeing event, on Sat 27th June, on the front meadow and in the church.
'Gardening for Wildlife' Award, as part of the Lympstone Annual Garden Show is a new initiative launching in 2026. WAL is introducing this award aimed at encouraging people to make small changes in their gardens to benefit wildlife. It has been designed to fit with the more demanding DWT Wildlife Garden Award (7 Lympstone gardens already have this). There is an adult and children's category; the winners of which will receive a beautiful wooden trophy embossed with the WAL wren. These have been hand-crafted and generously donated for free by 3 local artists - Mai and John Welton and Claire Belcher.
Supporting other local groups and initiatives:

- **Lympstone Water Quality Group -** WAL is an active member of this group, supporting the ongoing efforts to protect the Wotton Brook (and estuary) from increasing pollution and biodiversity degradation.
- **Shellfish Equinox event on 21st March -** WAL supported representatives of Tidelines with this event aimed at raising awareness around our mutual responsibility as estuary dwellers to take care of the place we live and its diversity and safeguard it for future generations.
- **People's Climate and Nature Emergency Briefing film -** following a government initiative to cascade this national film and debate to local communities, WAL is supporting Mike Landy to host a viewing in the church on 12th May. We hope that by listening to the 'science on climate change' some productive discussions will ensue about what we want to be doing better, at a local level in Lympstone. This offers a great opportunity to build on WAL's 'Stronger Together' event in 2025, where 40 people, representing 13 village groups all came together to share their concern for, and ideas to help look after, our natural environment.

WAL is happy to support the Parish Council's in its work towards a greener, healthier, more beautiful and biodiverse local natural environment and is open to any suggestions the PC may have on how they might like to support WAL's work.

Heathfield Allotment Trust

REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 202075

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MAY 2026

The Trust remains financially secure and all 86 plots are occupied, most being well cultivated and tidy. This year we have 8 new plot holders and our waiting list is much reduced with a number of people wishing to defer a year.

Much of the maintenance of the common areas including road repairs and grass strimming continues to be completed by Trustees. Sue Snell cuts most of the grass with plot holder Will Mitchelmore kindly doing the bottom section. Our recent road repair was handled by new Trustee Jo Manning with help from staff at 'The Camp'.

The long hot and dry summer was a challenge for us all and also a challenge for our water usage. We reported a broken water meter to South West Water in August 24, they took nearly a year to replace it, despite several reminders. This meant we had a much reduced water bill for quite some time which was a real bonus. But we got quite a shock when it was replaced with over £900 of water used in August 25. That's nearly 1/3 of our annual rental income in one month. We are going to monitor usage carefully this season and try to stop people wasting water by broadcasting water from hose pipes.

Teaming up with Wild About Lympstone last May, we organised the 2nd 1,000 Plant Givaway. This time over 1,700 plants were distributed free to bring pollinators to Lympstone gardens for years to come. There were over 500 plants too small to giveaway in May, so they went to good homes with a stall at the Furry Dance event. We took part in the Christmas Tree Festival; plot holder Nicky Exell did a super job with all her lovely hand-made tree ornaments. Also, we were part of the Open Gardens event and our summer produce collections for the foodbank continued to be a success.

Everyone is busy setting up for the new growing season and looking forward to a lovely hot summer (hopefully!)

Carrie Darby
Chair of Trustees

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

2026/17 Lympstone Water Quality Group

Lympstone Water Quality Group Annual Report to LPC, April 2026

The Lympstone Water Quality Group and our team of Water Guardians have continued to work to protect the Wotton Brook and Exe Estuary. As we've explained before, we're taking a catchment-based approach – building on the flood risk project but focusing on the sources and pathways of pollution into the Wotton Brook, its tributaries, the Mill Leat, and Exe Estuary. There is a strong synergy between our work and the work of LFRG and WAL, and we work closely together. We're also working with others to increase attention to the pressures on the Exe Estuary, and with other river catchment groups in East Devon.

The combined impacts of climate change and developments without adequate pollution controls have been very evident in our catchment over the past year. There have been numerous pollution incidents from the road construction during 2025 (one of the driest years on record) and in the early part of this year. In comparison, there are indications that the runoff of sediment and nutrients from other land in the upper catchment during moderate rainfall is reduced (due to Yonder Oak and better faming practices). So, the road has been a major backward step, has had a significant negative impact, and has taken up a huge amount of our time. More pollution is to come – from the road and other developments (not just during construction but during operation) – unless there is a step change in leadership and awareness, and full implementation of the SuDS standards. We'll continue to do what we can to raise awareness.

SWW's AMP8 project, to reduce CSOs from the Lympstone sewage pumping station (SPS) outfall, continues (currently at the assessing options stage), and we are continuing to push for completion of work on the Sowden Lane SPS.

There are numerous opportunities for nature-based solutions (like wetlands and ponds) in our catchment, which bring multiple benefits to water quality, biodiversity, flood risk, and amenity. We're working well with the Woodland Trust in Yonder Oak at the top of the catchment, and we've had some good conversations with other enthusiastic landowners. But it's impossible to make real progress without funding and support.

Some of the other steps we've taken include:

- Applied for funding from SWW's Nature Recovery Fund (£180K and £10K) and the EA's Water Environment Improvement Fund (the latter with the Westcountry Rivers Trust).
- Talked with other potential funding organisations, including East Devon National Landscapes.
- Continued the water monitoring programme, which now also includes a Bactiquick device to monitor faecal bacteria, and regular observations of the brook and estuary by our Water Guardians.
- Engaged with a company specialising in private sewage systems to explore opportunities for a catchment-wide approach to support people with private systems.
- Submitted further comments on the draft East Devon Local Plan and on planning applications for large scale developments and smaller developments in high risk areas in the catchments.
- Participated in the East Devon Catchment Partnership meetings.
- Spoke at the EDDC committee meeting on the rights of rivers motion, and met with other river catchment groups in East Devon on this issue.
- Had meetings with the EA, DCC SuDS team lead, and DCC's neighbourhood highways team manager to raise awareness of our experience (the problems and opportunities) and seek improvements for Lympstone.
- Continued to work with Jo Bradley (a national expert on highway runoff pollution) and others to lobby government and the EA on implementing existing legal requirements to prevent pollution.

Our plans include to:

- Work with others in Lympstone to engage the community in a vision and partnership for a sustainable Lympstone - adapting to climate change and achieving multiple long-term benefits. We hope the Parish Council takes a role in this in the development of the Lympstone Neighbourhood Plan.
- Support the screening and discussion of the Public Emergency Briefing film National Emergency Briefing.
- Continue to work with other groups to ensure that SWW's AMP8 project achieves the best outcome for Lympstone, and ensure that improvements are made at the Sowden Lane SPS.
- Seek funding and work with landowners to develop a range of nature-based solutions.
- Communicate formally with DCC on the systemic problems and impacts of the Dinan Way Extension project. We will work hard to ensure that lessons are learned, and action taken.
- Work with others, including NGOs and the other East Devon rivers groups, to raise awareness of our experience in Lympstone and help drive change.
- Engage the Environment Agency in opportunities to work more effectively with communities like ours to achieve their strategic goals (e.g., removing barriers to nature-based solutions).

We appreciate the Parish Council's support, and we believe the PC has a major role to play in helping to create a vision and catchment-based partnership that will bring huge benefits to Lympstone. The Neighbourhood Plan is very important in doing this and in influencing development and green spaces by raising awareness of the risks, requirements, and opportunities. It's easy to be sceptical about neighbourhood plans, but we believe they are an opportunity that should not be missed.

We also encourage the PC to consider water quality and biodiversity whenever it is considering flood risk in planning applications. The three issues are nearly always intrinsically linked, and the new SuDS standards makes this very clear. National standards for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) - GOV.UK. The impact of drought and the importance of the natural spring system for the Wotton Brook (which has a very low base flow) should also be kept in mind.

2026/18 Lympstone Flood Resilience Group

Report of the Lympstone Flood Resilience Group 2026

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. It has 3 members and a team of flood wardens.

This year there has been a re- organisation of the group. A founder member, Phil Corcos, has left and the 2 teams of wardens, Inland and Estuary have been combined to form a single team of flood wardens.

After much discussion with the Environment Agency(EA) it proved impossible to renew the agreement on the operation of the flood gates by local volunteers. As the gates age it is more difficult to close them and since April they have been operated by EA staff. So far this has worked well. LFRG members continue to monitor conditions likely to lead to possible flooding from the Estuary, - wind direction and strength , tide height and possible tidal surge, as well as undertaking a tide watch when there might be flooding.

Devon County Council(DCC), for health and safety reasons, has stopped the Inland team from lifting road gully covers. Clearing gullies had formed a substantial part of their work. Leaves and debris can only be swept from above and any problems with blocked gullies have to be reported to DCC. To supplement the limited regular clearance of gullies by DCC, the Parish Council has paid for a contractor to carry out clearance in problem spots.

As neither the Estuary nor the Inland warden team were able to continue with their former work it was decided to have a single team with a more traditional flood warden role of observation and emergency response. We have a considerable range of equipment in various locations and we are currently looking to provide a permanent store to contain all the equipment.

Work is well underway on the new flood wall which will prevent water flowing out of the flood plain and into the centre of the village. The hydraulic modelling undertaken by the EA showed that this was the most effective means of reducing flood risk. A new non-return valve is to be put in further downstream to prevent pooling near the railway bridge on Underhill. Although the model showed only marginal reduction in flood risk from Natural Flood Management (NFM) in the upper catchment ,the Woodland Trust are undertaking NFM measures on their site which can only help.

We are planning to contact owners of more vulnerable properties in the Strand, advising the installation of Individual Property Resilience of flood boards where this hasn't already been undertaken.

The group responded to proposals in the emerging Local Plan - those for the site north of Hulham Road are of particular concern as the surface water would flow into the Wotton Brook. We have recently had discussions with the 3West Group about the drainage proposals for the sites on either side of Meeting Lane. We continue to comment on planning applications on an ad hoc basis.

We are working with the Water Quality group in discussion with South West Water on their Asset Management Plan 8 (AMP8). This is principally concerned with reducing sewage spills but the means of doing this involves removing surface water from the combined sewer. This is of major concern if the water is simply re-directed to the Brook. We have stressed to SWW that we need to be engaged in their decision making process on this matter.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continuing support.

2026/19 Lympstone History Society

Lympstone History Society report to the Annual Parish Meeting May 2026

Lympstone History Society is thriving. In the past we have suffered, for example when we lost the use of the Methodist Church, but now, with our decision to host bi-annual visiting speaker evenings with a bar at Lympstone Village Hall, open to all, we have fared much better.

Membership numbers of the Society have remained broadly unchanged through the past year and our committee has been active, meeting every quarter. We have engaged in several projects to further the aims of the society including being a major contributor and coordinating group for the very successful Lympstone Legends.

Like many in the village, we were extremely saddened by the death of Harland Walshaw, who was not only a great friend of the History Society but also a stalwart of researching and recording Lympstone history in its many forms.

Visiting speakers

On 17th October we organised a presentation by our Treasurer Brian Mather who shared his "New Films of Old Lympstone".

On 20th March we organised an illustrated talk by Graeme Wheeler entitled "Longitude", telling of how John Harrison's clocks revolutionised navigation at sea.

Lympstone Legends

The Lympstone Legends project culminated in two days of public performances in June 2025. It was a wonderful celebration of Lympstone's colourful heritage in words and music by Lin Marsh and LHS Chair Jenny Moon, performed in the village Church. The performance featured Lympstone Singers along with other musicians and actors and was directed by Wendy Reynolds.

History Society Projects

The year has seen the publication of three new books by Tony Day to add to our list of publications. Firstly, his book entitled "Keeping Score: The Story of Cricket in Lympstone Village", was launched in June for the annual village cricket match (which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the weather), and this was followed in November by volume one of "Lympstone Memories" in which Tony and Harland collaborated to capture stories of village life from the past, gleaned from the archive. Such was the success of this volume, and thanks to the quantity of material unearthed, Tony went on to publish a second volume in April.

The History Society archive has been maintained in the Village Hall with several more additions through the year. The value of the archived material for the activities of the Family History Interest Group prompted an investigation into whether we could convert some of the archive material into digital form, suitable for sharing, and also to the setting up a website to provide access to it. This has culminated in the creation of a new History Society website at lympstonehistorysociety.org.uk. Initially, only a small amount of archived information is available via the website but, as more is digitised by scanning and transcribing, the content will grow steadily. An application for a Lottery Community Grant has been submitted which will hopefully fund the purchase of dedicated computers, scanners and storage devices.

2026/20 Lympstone Website and Social Media

Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Report – Lympstone.org

This year has seen a change for the Council as they have changed their e mail accounts from g mail ones to:- .gov.uk.
This change was precipitated by direction from our Internal Auditors and we couldn't procrastinate over it any longer. The .gov.uk addresses are more secure and the transfer was reasonably smooth.

However, it is also recommended and probably will only be a matter of time that the Parish Council must have a .gov domain for the website. This is something we are not happy about as lympstone.org is definitely a Community site. It has two parallel functions being the archive and information centre of Parish Council along side the Community features and information pages.

The transfer to a .gov domain will be to fulfil the requirements of **Assertion 10** which sets out new digital and data compliance requirements. The AGAR assessment we must under go each year calls for Councils to confirm whether they meet all four of these requirements-

- A council-owned domain-based email address
- A website that meets accessibility regulations, the relevant Transparency Code, and documentation as specified in the Freedom of Information Act
- Clear arrangements for data protection (DPA and GDPR)
- An IT policy

Actually, the webmasters are confident lympstone.org does fulfil all these requirements but it is unclear if they will be accepted in the tick box exercise because we do not use one of the expensive recognised consult providers.

We will try to retain lympstone.org in the parallel form we know for as long as possible. The PC Face book Page has 263 followers and remains grateful that our reach is extended by Our village Facebook page has 1.8k followers and has 24.8k views in the last month. Lympstone Notices has 1.7k members.