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.