



# Lydford on Fosse Parish Council Meeting

Meeting of the above named Parish Council held on  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 1900 hrs in the Parish Hall, West Lydford**

Present: Parish Cllrs Purcell (Vice Chair), Seehra, Sloggett, Stankiewicz, Steel  
 Also the Clerk x 2 members of the public

PARISH WEBSITE: [lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk](http://lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk)

## MARCH 2025 MINUTES

Item No.	Subject	Lead
	The Chairman opened the meeting. He advised that the minutes would be recorded, and that anyone who did not wish to be recorded should make that clear to the Clerk.	
45/25	<b>Public participation session</b> It was reported that a regularly parked car, at the Motor Sales by the traffic lights, was causing some concern with regard to possible obstruction of the footpath and visibility on exiting the garage.	
<b>Council Session</b>		
46/25	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> Cllrs Fielding and Frampton	Chair
47/25	<b>Declaration of Members Interest</b> None	Chair
48/25	<b>Report from County Councillors</b> Cllr Sully was not present, however, a report had been received. Articles from the report include – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The increase of Council Tax has been agreed of 7.5%. Nearly 70 percent of the revenue is allocated to Social Care and Children’s Services.</li> <li>• Proposed changes to car parking charges.</li> <li>• Local transport allowances for over 16’s still in education.</li> <li>• Reducing the size of Somerset Council’s workforce by 11%</li> <li>• The severe lack of NHS Dentistry within the region</li> </ul> The full report in detail can be found on the PC website.	Cllr Sully
49/25	<b>To approve and sign the Minutes of previous meetings</b> Unanimously agreed, and signed by the Chair.	Chair
50/25	<b>Matters of Report:</b>	
51/25	<b>Local Community Network</b> Cllr Purcell attended a meeting in Wincanton Town Hall on 20th February to discuss the Somerset Local Plan. Results are still to be collated and minutes to be published. Cllr Purcell also reported completing a questionnaire, as a resident, on what matters to communities within the LCN which covers items such as flooding, footpaths, bin emptying among other issues.	Chair
52/25	<b>VE Day Commemorations update</b> Cllr Seehra reported that a schedule of service had been completed for celebrating the day. Starting at 9am at the church with a short service and reading of the Proclamation, raising of the church flag at 9.30am and ringing of the church bells. Refreshments will be provided in the hall along with an exhibition, and televised screening of national events held that morning. In the evening from 6pm the exhibition will be on show at the Cross Keys pub where a fish and chip supper will be available. At 9.30pm the VE Day Tribute will be read. The next meeting will be on 28 <sup>th</sup> March to finalise events.	Cllr Seehra

53/25	<b>War Memorial update</b> As agreed at the last meeting, after full assurances had been received, the proposed company has been engaged to clean the war memorial. The first stages have already started, and the completed work will be carried out over the next few months.	Clerk
54/25	<b>Local Gov. Boundary Commission for England</b> The clerk advised, in Cllr Frampton's absence, that a response had been submitted suggesting that a property on the outskirts of our boundary be moved into a nearby parish, as discussed at the last meeting. A request has been made to be kept updated of the outcome, which is not expected until the end of the year.	Clerk
<b>The Built Environment</b>		
55/25	<b>Planning</b> <b>New Planning applications this month (0)</b> <b>Applications decided since previous agenda (1)</b> <b>Refused: 2024/2067/HSE</b> (Case Officer: Jane Thomas) Proposed Two-storey side extension and external alterations to existing detached building. Location: Grove Cottage, Church Lane, East Lydford. Reason : "The proposed development by reason of its scale, design, materials and siting is considered harmful to the character and appearance of the host property. It is considered to cause harm to the character and appearance of the wider rural landscape."	All
<b>Highways &amp; Transportation</b>		
56/25	<b>Highways</b> Cllr Steel had forwarded a list of outstanding queries to Cllr Sully, as requested. Disappointed at the lack of any response, after discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cllr Sully with the hope of moving things forward. Cllr Steel to forward details of original queries to the Clerk. Clerk to follow up.	Cllr Steel
57/25	<b>Flooding</b> After 2 flood events at Bridgefoot in early 2024 a Flood Working Group was set up headed by Jeremy Spencer. SC in August 24 and the Axe Brue IDB (Internal Drainage Board) in October 24 completed surveys in the area with no significant outcome. In November 24 a team of parishioners cleared the ditch behind the A37 lay-by, and they may be called upon for more clearance work later this year. Some residents were again affected by flooding early this year. The Flood Working Group will liaise with the PC to finalise the Flood Risk Plan to enable access to government grants to fund flood mitigation measures. Jeremy's full report is on the PC website.	Chair
<b>Community Engagement &amp; Support</b>		
58/25	<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> The NHW representative confirmed that the car that ended up in the ditch by Grove Cottage in East Lydford has been removed.	NHW Rep
59/25	<b>Church car park – Update</b> Mr Berry sent his apologies, however, he did send a report. On behalf of the Car Park Committee and St Peter's PCC he wished to thank the Parish Council for the extra donation towards the cost of the car park improvements. As the total raised is now £8511 they are in a position to contact the contractors to begin work, with the hope of finishing before the summer.	Chair
60/25	<b>Dog Fouling – Update</b> The Clerk reported making a request to SC for two dog bins. The application made in February was chased up on the 6 <sup>th</sup> March. The Clerk will continue to follow up.	Cllr Fielding
61/25	<b>Sports Club Ground Maintenance</b> The Clerk acquired and presented 3 quotes for the ground maintenance of the cricket field for the new season ahead. After discussion, Cllr Seehra proposed and it was unanimously agreed to carry on using SM Landscapes for maintaining the cricket	Clerk

62/25	<p>ground. It was also agreed that later in the year the Parish Council may have to review this funding dependant on impending cuts of services usually provided by SC.</p> <p><b>Annual Parish Meeting</b> It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm, preceded by a short Parish Council Meeting at 6pm that evening. It was suggested and agreed that this year the Garden Club, W&amp;P Charity, Third Tuesday Group and the Scrapbags should be included in the invite for the evening.</p>	Clerk
<b>Governance &amp; Finance</b>		
63/25	<p><b>Financial Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Payments due</b> (See appendix 1) These were duly checked and signed.</li> <li>● <b>To agree accounts</b> for February '25. These were duly checked and signed.</li> <li>● <b>Budget review</b> No unexpected changes since last month, the surplus remains £2,000 against that forecasted.</li> </ul>	Clerk Chair
64/25	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>SC Advice (“SC Snippets”)</b> - include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Councillors agree budget but warned finances remain critical</li> <li>● Somerset residents invited to join flood recovery drop-in event</li> <li>● SC and NHS Somerset to commemorate COVID-19 Day of Reflection</li> <li>● 92% of Somerset children secure first choice secondary schools for 2025/26</li> <li>● More than 100 bikes given a second life thanks to reuse initiative</li> <li>● Hypertension campaign reaches target of 3,000 health checks</li> <li>● Major gas pipe upgrade in the Taunton area</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>All this information is currently available in more detail on the Parish website, with accompanying links.</p>	All
65/25	<p><b>Agenda items for next meeting</b> VE Day update;</p>	All
66/25	<p><b>The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 9<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm</b> <b>Followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30pm</b></p>	All

Meeting finished at 20.38 hrs  
Minutes prepared by Ann Parkhouse, Parish Clerk.

## Appendix...

### 1) Payments Due

Name of Payee	Description of Payment	Amount
The following payments are due:		
SALC	Clerk Training – Essential Clerk part 2	£ 60.00
SALC	Clerk Training – Essential Clerk part 3	£ 60.00
A Parkhouse	Clerk's Salary – February '25	£279.40
Grave Clean Ltd	War Memorial Cleaning	£400.00
PCC	Church Car Park Donation	£500.00