

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

(Parish website: lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk)

Ordinary Council Meeting



Meeting of the above named Parish Council held on
Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 1900 hrs in the Parish Hall, West Lydford.

Present: Parish Cllrs Frampton (Chair), Fielding, Purcell, Seehra, Sloggett, Steel
Also the Clerk and 5 members of the public

Minutes

The Chairman opened the meeting. He advised that the minutes would be recorded, and that if anyone who did not wish to be recorded should make that clear to the Clerk.

1/26 **Public participation session**
No comments made

Council Session

2/26 **To receive apologies for absence**
None received

3/26 **Councillor Vacancy**
Unfortunately, a second vacancy will arise shortly, so the PC need to attract two new potential councillors to ease the current workload. An article will be put forward for inclusion in the parish newsletter.

4/26 **Declaration of Members Interest**
None declared

5/26 **To approve and sign the minutes of previous meetings**
The November and December minutes were approved, and signed by the Chair

Cllr Fielding joined the meeting

6/26 **Report from County Councillors**
Cllr Sully sent in her report – full details of which can be found on the parish website –

- **SC Finance** – SC leader Bill Revans has called for fairer funding, despite the Local Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme - SC supports households with the lowest incomes through its CTR Scheme, and next year's Scheme (from April 2026) will include a 3.8% increase in income band thresholds. A Task Group will also explore the Government's changes to benefits and how these have adversely affected some of Somerset's vulnerable residents.
- **Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)** – SC is investing £3.78 million from the government to (EV) charging. Residents can suggest locations for at least 1,606 new charge points (3.5kW and 7kW), focusing on serving those without off-street parking. Residents are invited to propose sites near homes, local roads, or busy areas through the Council's webpage on Electric vehicle charging.
- **Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)** - A recent review calls for urgent measures to enhance support for adults facing homelessness.
- **Sunday Parking Charges** - Councillors have deferred the proposal to introduce Sunday parking charges across Somerset following public consultation. Feedback led the Council's Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee to recommend against implementation.

- **Yeovil's Octagon Theatre** - Plans for a £15 million redevelopment have been submitted for Planning Permission, aiming to establish it as a premier cultural venue in the South-West.
- **International Volunteer Day 2025** – SC has celebrated and the vital contribution of over 1,400 volunteers supporting 20 different services across the county. For those interested in starting their volunteering journey please e-mail volunteer@somerset.gov.uk.
- **Tumble Dryer Safety Warning** - Residents are being warned to stop using certain integrated heat pump tumble dryers after a national safety alert revealed a serious fire risk. The warning affects models produced by Haier and sold under brands such as Baumatic, Candy and Hoover, with c.85,000 affected appliances.

The Built Environment

7/26

Planning

New Planning Applications this month (1)

2025/2226/VRC (Case Officer – Kelly Pritchard)

Application to vary conditions 2-7, 14 & 16 (Plans List, Materials, Access, Biodiversity & Landscaping of planning approval 2023/0734/FUL (Erection of 1no. single storey dwellinghouse.) to retention of existing access, landscaping, parking, cladding & biodiversity enhancement measures. Land At 355328 131038 Castle Cary Road West Lydford

The applicant was present to explain the reasons for the request to vary conditions as mentioned. After discussion members unanimously agreed to recommend that the application to vary conditions be **approved**, regarding all the proposed changes as pragmatic, beneficial changes of a relatively minor nature to the design that had already been approved under 2023/0734/FUL

Applications decided since previous agenda (3)

2020/0851/OTS (Case Officer – Josh Cawsey)

Approved - Application for Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved for the construction of five dwellings and associated vehicular access with details of access & layout Land At 357342 130886 Church Lane East Lydford

2025/1996/CLP (Case Officer – Kelly Pritchard)

Refused - Certificate of lawfulness of proposed development for carrying out and occupation of the development approved under planning references 2021/1975/OTS and 2024/1335/REM without retaining access, parking and turning or the area of garden land.

Land At 356804 130886 Castle Cary Road West Lydford

2025/0531/FUL (Case Officer – Trudi Gallagher)

Report on SC Planning East Committee findings

Demolition of existing barn and erection of a 5-bed residential dwellinghouse and carport/bat loft Rubbery Farm Rubbery Lane Lydford On Fosse

The PC was offered the opportunity to attend SC Planning East Committee on 6th January when it considered the application. This application was previously recommended for rejection by the PC, however most of the issues have since been addressed. However, the SC Lead Planning Officer deemed the impact on the local water supply not to be a planning matter, which the PC rep believes to be incorrect (under the Local Plan Part 1, DPs 16-19 which includes ensuring adequate infrastructure provision, including utilities) and this will be followed up with our Ward Cllr. The PC's Planning Rep also raised concerns over the planned roof lighting. The Panel agreed that an additional condition would therefore be applied to the approval requiring bat-friendly roof lighting that would not compromise local dark skies. The PC Rep also highlighted the inconsistency of residency calculations used to determine foul water production and water consumption, and their potential impact on local residents.

UK Draft NPPF & Planning Reform (December 2025)

The UK Government published a draft revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and enacted the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 in December 2025. These changes aim to create a faster rules-based planning system to deliver housing and infrastructure at scale.

Strategic Impact:

- Supports target of 1.5 million homes and 150 major infrastructure decisions.
- Expected £7.5 billion economic boost over 10 years.
- Accelerates clean energy projects to meet 2030 net-zero goals.

- Greater certainty for developers and investors.
- Faster approvals for housing and infrastructure.
- Stronger alignment with climate and sustainability objectives. A shift to rules-based decision-making, reducing discretionary delays.

The PC will now need to engage in the consultation process and fully understand the new NPPF's potential effect on developments within the Parish.

Highway & Transportation

- 8/26 **Highways – Village Gateways**
A new point of contact has recently been established with Highways. The Chair advised that a meeting will hopefully be taking place in the next few weeks, principally talking about Village Gateways and SIDs.
- 9/26 **Flood Risk**
The Flood Working Group leader is currently more available and hopefully able to join the local organised flood meetings, along with the chairman, to engage more with flooding issues.
- 10/26 **Speedwatch**
The Speedwatch representative sent his apologies. The Speedwatch report for the last 2 months was received and discussed, and is available on the website.

Community Engagement & Support

- 11/26 **Neighbourhood Watch**
The NHW representative advised her disappointment regarding the lack of communication with the Shepton Mallet Community Support Team since the changeover. To encourage good relations, the Chair agreed to write a letter of invitation to the PCSO team to come along to a PC meeting.
- 12/26 **Defibrillator**
The Chair reported that last month someone collapsed at the Cross Keys and required CPR and extensive use of the community's defibrillators. The pads and battery therefore needed to be replaced, for which funds had already been allocated in the budget, and this had now been actioned. It was also advised that the Defib WG will seek to organise some more CPR training.
- 13/26 **Tommy Figure**
Cllr Seehra reported that he is looking into ways of securing a replacement figure by the War Memorial in East Lydford and will report back with further details when these are known.
- 14/26 **Annual Parish Meeting**
After discussion it was unanimously agreed that this would take place on Wednesday 8th April at 7pm, following the April PC Meeting which would start at 6pm that day.

Governance & Finance

- 15/26 **Financial Planning**
Payments due (See appendix 1)
To agree accounts for November/December '25
Payments due and bank balances were agreed and signed
- Grass Cutting**
The Chair of the Sport's Club was present and explained the club's financial situation in the running of the club and the importance of the continued support from the Parish Council. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to continue supporting the Sport's Club with the grass cutting. It was also agreed this would be revisited when preparing the Budget for next year.
- Budget**
Budget figures circulated last month were presented
Motion – To confirm the Budget figures which were unanimously agreed
- Precept**
Motion – to confirm 2026/27 Precept of £14,000 which was unanimously agreed
- 16/26 **Correspondence Received**
Letter from the Leader of SC (15 Dec 2025)

- **Service Devolution** – SC do not anticipate having to ask TCs/PCs to take on any services that they can no longer afford to deliver. But they remain open to transfers where councils believe it is in their residents’ interests.
 - **SC Community Engagement and Development** – the research phase into a new SC approach will include LCNs in its scope. The aim is to better reflect best practice and emerging national policy.
 - **Change to Precept Payment Schedule** – proposal is that in future Precept payments will be made in 2 tranches - half in April & half in September.
 - **SC’s planning service Capacity** - In July, SC Planning entered a 12-week “Prioritising Decisions Period” to try to clear the known backlog of planning applications, reducing it from 1,600 applications awaiting determination to 1,300. The ‘steady state’ position is estimated at c.900 applications, so more work is still required.
 - **Charitable collection licensing policy** - The Licensing service of Somerset Council is seeking to create a ‘charitable collection’ policy and to standardise the way collections are regulated in Somerset. Changes from existing arrangements which are proposed in the policy include:
The Council will only grant permits and licenses to street and house to house collections being carried out by or on behalf of registered charities.
Street collections may take place on any given day of the week, 365 days a year.
There will be no restriction on the number of street collections carried out in any one place on a given day.
Removing the need for the proceeds of street collections to be published in a local newspaper.
- The PC response to this consultation was that House-to-House collections should not be permitted outside of daylight hours**

SC Parish Information Sheet –

- **Aim:** Clarification of costs for ordinary & national elections.
- **Summary:** TCs & PCs only contribute to the running of a combined poll (ie. When the PC election occurs at the same time as a General Election or Unitary Authority election), and only pay for their own elections, not towards the cost of other elections.
- **However,** there is a ‘small’ preparatory charge for the PC where a combined poll is planned but the PC element is not subsequently contested (i.e. same or more seats than candidates). This is to cover the publication of notices, etc., before it is known that the PC poll will not be contested,

17/26

Agenda items for next meeting

- LCN Update
- Himalayan Balsam and Sedge Control
- Highway issues – Gateways, SID’s, Church Footbridge
- Flood Risk Management update
- Invitation of Shepton Mallet PCSO
- Playground

The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 11th February 2026 at 7pm

Meeting finished at 2035 hrs

Minutes prepared by Ann Parkhouse, Parish Clerk

Appendix

1) Payments Due

Name of Payee	Description of Payment	Amount
SLCC	Affiliation Fee	£110.00
BWP Creative Ltd	Parish Council Websites hosting, support	£314.64
Lydford Parish Hall	Hall hire Oct/Nov	£ 36.00
A Parkhouse	Clerk salary Nov/Dec	£622.40

Signed: _____

A Parkhouse	Expenses Norton Antivirus 2026	£ 39.99
J Frampton	HCE Defib Battery replacement	£296.46
J Frampton	HCE Defib Pads and Start Kit replacement	£ 88.97

DRAFT

Signed: _____