

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

(Parish website: lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk)

Ordinary Council Meeting



Meeting of the above named Parish Council held on
Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 1900 hrs in the Parish Hall, West Lydford.

Present: Parish Cllrs Frampton (Chair), Fielding, Sloggett, Steel
Also the Clerk and 12 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.

18/26 **Public participation session**
No comments made

Council Session

19/26 **To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies received from Cllrs Purcell and Seehra

20/26 **Declaration of Members Interest**
Cllr Frampton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 28/26 when discussing the Parish Hall

21/26 **To approve and sign the minutes of previous meeting**
The January minutes were approved and signed by the Chair

22/26 **Planning**
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Update on Consultation
Cllr Frampton attended this video conference to assess the likely impact to the parish. He reported that Towns & Parishes will lose considerable leverage in residential & business development decisions in order to make it easier to build, and that we must pro-actively engage to maintain as much leverage as possible. We should therefore consider developing a 'Neighbourhood Plan' as part of this approach, however, we cannot do this with a shrinking pool of PC members and without a supportive Parish population. It is a c.3-year commitment and must be passed by a referendum within the Parish to be adopted. Further discussion was proposed at the March PC meeting.

New Planning Applications this month (2)

26/0052/FUL (Case Officer – Anna Blackburn)

Proposed erection of a single storey dwelling

Land at 356960 130759 Honey Pot Lane, Lydford on Fosse

After briefly outlining the details of this application, and input from the applicant's Planning Consultant, the applicants and neighbours, the PC members voted to recommend approval of this application by a split vote (3:1) on the basis that the applicants would become fully invested in maintaining and improving the track, the condition of which was the main point of concern with the proposed development, raised by a number of local residents, as it provided access to their sole residence. A second safety concern was the lack of a suitable area away from the junction of Honey Pot Lane and the B3513 on which to place waste containers awaiting collection. Finally, members accepted that the submitted drainage scheme meets the Planning Authority's requirements on paper but were concerned that the development might nevertheless exacerbate the regular flooding experienced in the vicinity, and potentially as far as at Perry Hill and Rubbery Farm, due to the persistently high winter water tables that have been experienced in the area of the proposed development recently.

2026/0237/DEM (Case Officer – Anna Blackburn)

Application for prior notification of demolition of 2 agricultural buildings

Land at 357086 132355 Dials Gate Lane, West Lydford

This matter is for notification only, as the decision for this application is delegated to officers, and only provided to the parish council for awareness.

Applications decided since previous agenda (2)

2026/0066/AGB (Case Officer – Lorna Elstob)

Prior Approval is Not Required - Application for prior notification of permitted agricultural development of a proposed building.

Land at 357484 133539 Off Dial's Gate Lane, West Lydford

2025/2147/VRC (Case Officer – Kelly Pritchard)

Approved - Application to remove conditions 11 (No extension or enlargement without approval), 12 (No garages or freestanding buildings without approval) of planning approval 107334/009

(Demolition of existing

dwelling (Converted barn-use established through certificate of lawful use ref. 107334/005) and erection of replacement dwelling and garage. Teeds Barn Fosse Way West Lydford

23/26

Himalayan Balsam & Sedge Control

Mr Rowbottom was invited to speak to the council regarding the marked increase in the past 2/3 years of the rise in Himalayan Balsam along the banks of the river Brue, as it erodes the edges of the riverbanks. The formation of a working party was suggested to help control this invasive non-native plant, and also including the careful control of sedge growth during periods of low river water levels due to its adverse effect on fish. It was suggested that this be brought before the council next month with details of any support required from the council.

24/26

Highways

Cllr Frampton reported that a site meeting with SC Highways representative will now be taking place on the 18th February regarding the possible siting of village gateways, SID's, road markings, flood bund construction to relieve possible further flooding on A37, and the deterioration of the forest garden/church foot bridge footings.

25/26

Speedwatch

The summary of Dec/Jan speed report was presented by the Speedwatch representative and discussed.

26/26

Neighbourhood Watch

The NHW representative reported that, in her absence, a PC member and a NHW representative from the village had attended the PCSO 'drop-in' session at Shepton Mallet.

The recent spate of local burglaries was mentioned, particularly the one in East Lydford which has caused concern in the neighbourhood. It was suggested that it would be good to invite someone from the local Community Police Team to come along to speak about home security.

A spate of fly tipping within the parish was reported; these incidents should be reported to SC as soon as spotted.

- **Motion** – to make a £200 donation to the Crimestoppers Charity.

A request has been received from Crime Stoppers, seeking funding to promote the call to action into parishes to help people speak up about crime, guaranteeing anonymity, and helping to keep our community safe. This was supported by the NHW rep, and Cllrs present unanimously agreed.

27/26

Flood Risk Management Update

The Chair reported attending an Environment Agency video conference on Groundwater Flooding. There is a website that anyone can sign up to for flood warnings at

<https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings>. The PC reported to SC three local areas of flooding during Storm Chandra - Southwood, West Lane and Perry Hill. The PC are looking into the possibility of a Community Flood Action Fund grant for a flood bund installation at Bridgefoot, to channel the surface water that amasses on the A37 into the River Brue, thus reducing the risk of it entering

properties in that area. There is an aim to re-invigorate the Flood Risk Management Working Group in the next few months.

28/26

Financial Planning

Payments due (See appendix 1)

To agree accounts for January '26

Payments due and bank balances were agreed and signed

- **Motion** – to make a donation of £500 to the Parish Hall Committee

The Chair of the Parish Hall Management Committee presented a short presentation of the upgrades required to keep the Parish Hall space and equipment protected and accessible for the ongoing enjoyment of users of the hall. Cllr Sloggett proposed to make this donation, and after consulting the voting councillors, this was unanimously agreed.

29/26

Matters of Report:

- **Lydford Sports Club AGM**

The Chair reported attending the AGM. It highlighted the opportunity to work together to improve the play area and support the Sports Club's fund-raising efforts.

- **Local Community Network Update**

The Chair reported attending a LCN meeting with Cllr Purcell. There was a good update from Highways WG; a session with the Arts & Engagement Outreach Program; a Local Plan update; and details of the new bus route from Castle Cary to Glastonbury.

- **Councillors Report**

Full details of Cllr Sully's report can be found on the parish website.

- **General Correspondence**

An issue has been raised by a resident regarding the surface condition of their property's shared access and problematic vehicle parking. This will be discussed at the next meeting due to time constraints.

The chair has also been approached regarding the state of Mardi's Lane and this too will be discussed at a future meeting.

30/26

Agenda items for next meeting

- Highways site visit outcome
- NPPF update
- Flood Risk Management
- Playground Fundraising
- Himalayan Balsam Control
- Mardi's Lane
- Assertion 10 Compliance

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

Meeting finished at 2109 hrs

Minutes prepared by Ann Parkhouse, Parish Clerk

Appendix

1) Payments Due

Name of Payee	Description of Payment	Amount
Somerset Council	Dog and Litter Bin emptying 3 rd qtr	£304.20
A Parkhouse	Clerk salary Jan	£311.20

DRAFT

Signed: _____