

Lydford on Fosse Parish Council

(Parish website: lydfordonfosseparish.gov.uk)

Ordinary Council Meeting



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

Present: Parish Cllrs Frampton (Chair), Purcell, Seehra, Sloggett and Cllr Sully
Also the Clerk and 7 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.

31/26 **Public participation session**

A representative of the Parish Hall Committee advised that this year is the 20th anniversary of the major refurbishment of the Parish Hall. The intention is to celebrate this anniversary with several events in June & July to promote the hall, facilities and hall users. It is also hoped that this event will make people aware of plans to update the audio-visual equipment for users, and therefore the committee would welcome support from the Parish Council.

Council Session

32/26 **To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies received from Cllr Fielding

33/26 **Parish Councillor Vacancy**

A volunteer to join the PC was welcomed, and after a brief introduction Mr Everson was proposed, seconded and unanimously co-opted on to the council. After signing the appropriate form, Cllr Everson was welcomed to join the members.

Cllr Sully joined the meeting.

34/26 **Declaration of Members Interest**

Cllr Frampton declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 45/26 when discussing the Church Bells.

35/26 **Councillors' Reports at the Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chair reminded council that the meeting is for the parishioners and not a council meeting. It is an opportunity for residents to be heard and for the council to report on their portfolio's, of which were confirmed with the representative members present.

36/26 **To approve and sign the minutes of previous meeting**

The February minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

37/26 **Planning**

New Planning Applications this month (0)

Applications decided since previous agenda (1)

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

Prior Approval is Not Required – Application for prior notification of demolition of 2 agricultural buildings.

Land at 357086 132355 Dials Gate Lane West Lydford

38/26 **Neighbourhood Plan update**

Cllr Frampton reported on the NPPF Update Consultation, increasing housing delivery and support of renewable energy development, likely to come into force this summer. To try to have some influence on the planning decisions it may be prudent for the parish to now consider creating a Neighbourhood Plan. This would be a significant commitment for the PC and it would need to be

supported by and with the engagement of the parish. Professional assistance may have to be sought, and a referendum would have to be conducted for the Neighbourhood Plan to be formally adopted. The benefits would be to limit housing numbers and better retain the character of the village. Cllr Frampton will come back in the next couple of months with options and recommendation.

39/26 **Himalayan Balsam & Sedge Control Update**

Mr Rowbottom explained that the Jake Rake purchased by him has proved useful in a trial of removing dormant Sedge that was blocking the Mill Race. However, there are two tools that are more substantial that would make the job easier in the growing season to reduce excessive sedge growth. It is hoped to mount a working group for pulling the Himalayan Balsam out later in the spring. Cllr Sloggett proposed, seconded by Cllr Seehra and unanimously agreed, to give £250 towards the purchase of the appropriate tools.

40/26 **Flood Risk Management**

Cllr Frampton advised that an application has been submitted for the Community Flood Action Fund (CFAF) run by Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) to enhance flood protection at Bridgefoot. This would be for a bund along the perimeter by Bridgefoot Lodge to channel flood water into the Brue and the open culvert by Bridgefoot Farm.

A Flood Wessex meeting, recently attended by Cllr Frampton, gave lots of useful tips and links, flood advice, etc. It was proposed that this information, along with other emergency advice, may be useful as links on the PC website. To be discussed at a later meeting.

41/26 **Playground Fundraising**

Cllr Frampton has received advice on successful grant submission and lots of potential sources of grant funding for new playground equipment. Further discussions are required with Lydford Sport Club before proceeding with any grant applications.

42/26 **Highways**

- **Meeting with SC Highways**

Cllr Frampton reported having a site meeting with SC Highways representative and the Speedwatch team leader. It was a constructive meeting discussing extending 30mph zone towards West Lane junction, Village Gateways, SID's, and road markings at Chapel Lane. Also, the restricted access sign will be moved down to the entrance of Lydford Lane.

- **LCN Highways WG Update**

Cllr Everson, newly agreed to take on the highway's portfolio, attended the LCN Highways meeting at Castle Cary and reported that it was very well attended covering many topics including road repairs, drain and culvert clearing, and pavement parking.

Cllr Frampton asked Cllr Sully if she was aware of the validity of SC having the power (since 2011) to banning pavement parking. Cllr Sully said that she would investigate.

- **Mardi's Lane**

A local contractor has been contacted regarding improving the drainage along Mardi's Lane. This will be reported on when site visit has been conducted and an estimate received.

- **NWA Handover**

This will be postponed to another meeting due to Cllr Fielding's absence.

43/26 **Speed Watch**

There was nothing to report this month.

44/26 **Neighbourhood Watch**

The NHW representative advised going along to a home security talk at Babcary, run by their community police officer. After getting in contact with our PCSO, a similar talk has been scheduled for our parish on 9th May between 10AM and 12PM at the Parish Hall.

45/26 **Financial Planning**

- **Payments due (See appendix 1)**

- **To agree accounts for February '26**

Payments due and bank balances were agreed and signed

- **Motion: to consider contributing to refurbishment of the Church Bells**

The PCC representative advised of the urgent repairs and maintenance work required for the church bells. This is to enable the growing band of bell ringers to continue their training so the bells can be used and enjoyed for services, weddings, and civic and community celebrations. The PC was asked if they would be willing to support this appeal with a donation to preserve this village tradition.

After discussion, Cllr Sloggett proposed the sum of £1000 as a donation and this was seconded by Cllr Seehra and unanimously carried.

- **SC Quotation for Bin Emptying 2026-27**

SC have issued the 2026/27 quotation for bin and litter bin emptying, the cost of which remains the same as last year. After discussion the quotation was unanimously agreed being proposed by Cllr Frampton and seconded by Cllr Seehra.

- **Assertion 10 Compliance**

This is a new mandatory declaration included in the Annual Governance & Accountability Report (AGAR) for this financial year. It confirms our compliance with digital governance, data protection and information management law. In order to respond positively the PC needs to demonstrate –

- Use of a 'gov.uk' domain for email and website
- Website accessibility (WCAG2.2AA)
- Freedom of Information (FOI) and Transparency publishing
- UK GDPR & DPA 2018 compliance
- Having a published IT Policy

Drafts of the Accessibility statement and IT policy will be circulated, for voting and formal adoption at the next PC meeting ahead of the upcoming Internal Audit.

46/26

Matters of Report:

- **Councillors Report**

Cllr Sully was present and said she was pleased to hear about the Highways update and impressed how well organised we are as a Parish Council.

Cllr Sully went on to advise that the SC Budget, after a difficult period, has reduced its funding gap from £110M to £25M.

She advised the importance of sharing knowledge between PC's, and how useful a Neighbourhood Plan is and advised that it would be beneficial to implement one ASAP.

Cllr Sully is also working closely with the Rivers Authority and the Bus Partnership.

- **General Correspondence**

Government's Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) reform proposals regarding Adult & Child Social Care is getting attention and will set the context within which SC will need to reduce its overall SEND costs.

A SC Health & Wellbeing Survey is encouraging people across the county to share their views on health and wellbeing priorities as part of a newly launched SC Public Health team survey.

There is a big push on reducing food waste; also, residents are asked to carefully recycle Vapes by putting them in separate, transparent bags on top of household recycling.

Public Rights of Way are advising councils to contribute to a definitive map of Footpaths and Bridleways. Cllr Frampton will discuss this with Cllr Fielding.

The LG Boundary Commission's final report is out. There will be a reduction in SC Councillors (from 110 to 96) and Lydford on Fosse will move to Castle Cary ward next year when boundary changes come into effect. The ward councillor for Castle Cary at present is Cllr Hobhouse.

47/26

Agenda items for next meeting

Planning Applications received/decided

Adoption of Accessibility statement and IT Policy

**The date for the next meeting was confirmed as 8th April 2026 at 6pm
Followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm**

Meeting finished at 2048 hrs

Minutes prepared by Ann Parkhouse, Parish Clerk

Appendix

1) Payments Due

Name of Payee	Description of Payment	Amount
A Parkhouse	Clerk salary Feb	£311.20
Grave Clean Ltd	War memorial Cleaning (final payment of 5yr contract)	£425.00
Amazon	Logitech wireless mouse	£ 23.99

DRAFT

Signed: _____