

**WEST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**



The Parish Council of

West Lavington

Serving the communities of
West Lavington and
Littleton Panell

02/01/2025 at 1900
GILES ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, SANDFIELD.

MINUTES

Present:	Councillors: Mr P. West (Chair), Mr P Blundell, Mr R Scott, Mr R Oglesby, Mr D Muns, Ms L. Gough, Mr S. Laister, Mr S Pattison, Mr A Koval-Radley, Mr M Swarder.	
Also present	Mr J Skillman (clerk) and 4 members of the public	
24/25/124	Apologies for absence Cllr Harrison.	
24/25/125	Declaration of interests Cllr Gough - Village Hall, Tuesday Lunch Club Cllr Scott – Sewerage, riparian responsibilities Cllrs West, Laister, riparian responsibilities	
24/25/126	The minutes of the parish council meeting held 05.12.2024 and Matters Arising Minutes of the last meeting – these were agreed to be a true and accurate record. All agreed. They were signed by the Chair.	
24/25/127	Chair's announcements Cllr West reported that a Christmas Card had arrived from Brian Mathew MP. Received with thanks. Cllr Oglesby added that he had delivered the historic minutes to history department of Wiltshire Council. He wanted to ensure that future minutes are logged there too so suggested a diary note every five years as a reminder to do this. Clerk to add this to the shared Outlook calendar.	Clerk
24/25/128	Wiltshire Councillors report Cllr Muns reported: 1/ Government's plans for devolution. They want to remove small councils (i.e. below 500,000 people). The unitary councils that remain will be grouped into strategic authorities with a mayor. The government believes that will give more power to local people and would give better local representation. 2/ Swindon is currently a separate authority but it is possible it will be forced to merge with Wiltshire Council. If so, then Swindon's £35m deficit is likely to impact Wiltshire Council's finances. Wiltshire Council have been told that they will need to act regarding the strategic authority by mid/late January. Therefore, an extraordinary full council meeting has been called for 9/1/2025. Cllr Muns is not in favour of this devolution as he does not believe people will be better represented with a mayor, it is another layer of local government that is not needed and incurs expense. It also puts one person in control of a huge geographical area.	

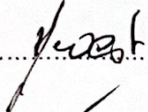
	<p>3/ The government has announced changes to planning. There are changes to housing targets and Wiltshire Council now need to deliver 94% above their previous housing target. The government's view is that changes to the way planning works in the local authority will provide more housing. Cllr Muns disagrees as builders are unlikely to want build that quickly as flooding the market could impact their profits, and there would not be enough builders available to reach such targets.</p> <p>4/ Wiltshire Council's Democratic Services team can step in if there are any conduct issues within parish councils.</p> <p>5/ Working with third parties: Email accounts for ex councillors need to be closed/password changed. Any email to third party consultants should be to their private email address.</p> <p>6/ White Street planning: Cllr Muns is unaware of any planning applications.</p>	Clerk
24/25/129	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>1&2/ Two residents asked if the parish council were aware of planning applications that could impact their property. Cllr West replied that no notifications had been received.</p> <p>3/ One resident asked if the parish council had any questions regarding planning application PL/2024/11129 (to be discussed in the next section) and the removal of the agricultural tie.</p> <p>4/ A representative from the Tuesday Lunch Club discussed their activities and requested a grant. Proposal: £200 grant. Proposed: Cllr Blundell Seconded: Cllr Laister. All agreed except Cllr Gough who abstained due to conflict of interest.</p>	Clerk
24/25/130	<p>Planning - to receive those decisions notified, and to consider</p> <p>PL/2024/11129 A'Beckett's Farmhouse, High Street, LP, SN10 4EN Removal/variation of conditions: Removal of Condition 1 relating to agricultural occupancy on application 73/SX/76/58 https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000BAsIZ Consultation deadline 13/01/2025 No objections.</p> <p>PL/2024/11103 – Land North of 5 to 9 Cheverell Road, Littleton Panell. (St Joseph's Church Car Park) Consent under Tree Preservation Orders. T1 Oak - Reduce lower part of crown away from neighbouring property by up to 3m. https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000BAHvh Consultation deadline 26/12/2024 No objections.</p>	Clerk Clerk
24/25/131	<p>Planning decisions confirmed</p> <p>PL/2024/10102 - Dauntsey's House, 9 Church Street. SN10 4LB Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. T1 Conifer - Fell. T2 & T3 Sycamore - Fell. T4 Elm Prue Lower branches. T5 Pine Fell Decision Date: 04-12-2024 Decision: No Objection https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000AY9RK</p> <p>PL/2024/10154 - The Stables, 22 White Street. SN10 4LP Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Aesculus Parrifolia (Bottlebrush Buckeye) - Fell. Decision Date: 09-12-2024 Decision: No Objection https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000AcocL</p>	

	<p>PL/2024/10198 - Old Post Office, 20 Church Street. SN10 4LD Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. T1 Birch- Reduce height and lateral growth by 1-2m. Decision Date: 09-12-2024 Decision: No Objection https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000AfpNN</p> <p>PL/2024/10669 - Hunts House, 40 Church Street. SN10 4LE Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Group 1 (Grp 1) - group of roadside trees. Beech, yew, holly and laurel overhanging road. Crown raise/cut back over road to 5.2m. Remove major deadwood over road. Ash (T2 and T3). Fell to ground level as signs of dieback. Yew (T4) - reduce to below cable (2/3m) and shape crown to match. Group 2 (Grp 2) - 4 x dead Norway spruce. Fell to ground level. Decision Date: 17-12-2024 Decision: No Objection https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000Auo63</p>	
24/25/132	<p>Planning monitoring updates Lavington Lane crossing and drainage: Cllr Muns should have further information next week.</p> <p>Hedges House: £6,000 has now been received from Aster regarding Village Hall car parking. Cllr West's acceptance correspondence to Aster included that the parish council reserved the right to charge £10 per day if Aster continued to use the car park. Clerk to send this £6,000 to the Village Hall. The car park agreement ends on 30 June 2025 as this is when the Hedges House development is expected to be completed.</p> <p>Hayfield: Cllr West reported no updates from Hayfield.</p>	<p>DM</p> <p>Clerk</p>
24/25/133	<p>Highways Issues and updates</p> <p>Sewerage (overload/raw sewage into Semington Brook) The MP has not yet received an update from Wessex Water so his Case Worker will chase this.</p> <p>Black Dog crossroads Cllr Muns reported that this was now moving along and has received a map showing the proposed traffic lights locations.</p>	
24/25/134	<p>Riparian and landowners' responsibilities Cllr West has drafted a letter reminding landowners of their riparian responsibilities. Cllr Harrison has reviewed it with regard to risk. Clerk to obtain contact list from Cllr West and then send the letter out.</p>	Clerk
24/25/135	<p>Receipt of Working Groups and project reports Communication update, incl. staging website to update our website. Cllr Harrison is away so to be added to next month's agenda next month.</p> <p>Risk Committee including items highlighted at risk meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Community Resilience Plan: MSA Environmental email o Neighbourhood Plan: Housing Needs Survey in 2025. o Loss of services of Parish Clerk: Risk Register mentions an Action Plan 	Clerk

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Conflict of Interest: Risk Register adopts a "standards regime" annually reviewed. o Members acting independently: Good Councillor Guide. o Rights of Way Group: Bespoke refresher training for all Cllrs and targeted / NALC training for new Cllrs with other parishes <p>Cllr West will check with Cllr Harrison as to which of the items above should be on next month's agenda.</p> <p>Clerk will contact Market Lavington Parish Council regarding a revised date for the twice cancelled 3-hour training session, as there are another three councillors from West Lavington Parish Council that would like to attend.</p> <p>Community resilience plan Cllr Harrison is away so to be added to next month's agenda next month.</p> <p>West Lavington Village Hall Cllr Gough reported heating still working well. Meeting rescheduled until next week. Cllr West said that we need to understand what the strategy of the hall is, earmark CIL money accordingly, e.g. Village Hall roof and Car Park, over a 2, 5 and 10 year plan, and the CIO needs to be completed. Cllrs Sworder, Blundell and Scott agreed there needs to be a business plan for this.</p> <p>Clerk to check if there is a time limit for spending CIL money.</p> <p>Cllr Gough will request an update from the solicitor regarding the CIO</p> <p>The situation regarding volunteers and how many have been recruited can be discussed at the Corporate Plan meeting and the next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Rights of Way Cllr Laister reported no approaches to the parish council regarding footpaths, fallen trees blocking paths etc. The substitution of the wobbly style needs to be swapped to a gate.</p> <p>Playgrounds Group Cllr Blundell reported that a group meeting is scheduled for a fortnight's time, at which time the new kit to replace the Spika Pole will be discussed. Youth Wiltshire Group used the hall and playing fields, so it was good that the facilities are being used.</p> <p>Speed watch and Speed Indicator Devices installation. Cllr Gough reported that she was awaiting form completion for 5 people, and she will chase up regarding the SID poles.</p> <p>NHP Review Group Cllr West reported a lady in the village has offered to help regarding planning. As Cllr Gamble has resigned, we need somebody the chair the NHP group.</p> <p>Wiltshire Housing Provision including 1 High Street, Littleton Panell development – Update Cllr West reported no updates.</p>	<p>PW/GH/ Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>LG</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>LG</p> <p>LG</p>
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24/25/136	<p>Finance matters: Budget Monitoring Information was emailed to councillors prior to meeting.</p> <p>Disbursements HMRC -Income Tax – December PAYE £111.20 John Skillman Clerk salary December £445.20 Smart Integrated Solutions Annual support £256.80 John Skillman – expenses Mobile phone top up £10.00 James Swell - Step repairs £375.00 – this has now been approved Peter Blundell expenses Guard Post £10.00 paid 13/12/24 Peter West expenses Land registry £7.00 paid 31/12/24</p> <p>Precept decision The percentage increase was discussed. Proposal: Request £37,406, which is a 5% increase. Proposed: Cllr Oglesby Seconded: Cllr Muns. All agreed</p> <p>Earmarked reserves Clerk reported that the internal auditor had suggested that earmarked reserves should be 50% of precept.</p> <p>Calendar/Diary All can now see the calendar/diary on Outlook.</p>	<p>Clerk/PW</p> <p>Clerk</p>
24/25/137	<p>Grants requests – consider amounts and frequencies Tuesday Lunch Club – covered earlier</p>	
24/25/138	<p>Policy reviews Status on policy reviews – continue review process with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate planning • Playground equipment maintenance 	<p>Clerk</p>
24/25/139	<p>Date of next parish council meeting – in the Giles Room, Village Hall. Thursday 6th February 2024 at 7pm</p>	

Meeting closed at 20.59

Signed..........06/02/2025