

WEST LAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL



03/07/2025 at 1900
GILES ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, SANDFIELD.

Serving the communities of
West Lavington and
Littleton Panell

MINUTES

Present:	Councillors: Mr G Harrison, (vice chair), Mr P Blundell, Mr R Scott, Mr R Oglesby, Mr D. Muns, Ms L. Gough, Mr A Koval-Radley, Mr M Swarder.	
25/26/057	Also present: Mr J Skillman (clerk) and members of the public	
25/26/058	Apologies for absence Mr P West (Chair), Mr S Pattisson	
25/26/059	Co – Option of one new parish councillor. Two candidates attended and made presentations to parish councillors. Parish Councillors then voted for Angela Spencer to be the new parish councillor. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and GDPR forms. Clerk to set up email address and add to Register of Interests with Wiltshire Council. Cllr Harrison to add Cllr Spencer's biographical and photo to the website.	Clerk GH
25/26/060	Declaration of interests Cllr Scott: PL/2025/04569 Cllr Muns: Church Street. Cllr Blundell: 63-65 High Street Cllr Harrison: 76 High Street.	
25/26/061	The minutes of the parish council meeting held 05.06.2025 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 Vice Chair.	
25/26/062	Vice Chair's announcements Cllr Harrison reported: 1/ Area around bus stop by defibrillator in LP: A resident has contacted us asking for the area to be kept tidy and foliage to be maintained (for sight line access). Cllr West to add to the Parish Steward's routine rota. 2/ Bus stop at Gore Cross: A resident has reported that on several occasions school children have not been picked up / dropped off at the stop. Cllr Muns has engaged with the relevant WC departments and has: 1) arranged for temporary signage to be installed, 2) will enquire about permanent signage & 3) will report back to the PC so that we can either engage with LHFIC or pay for them to be installed ourselves.	PW DM
25/26/063	Wiltshire Councillors report Cllr Muns reported: 1/ Black Dog: Timings have slipped by two months. Electricity supply was supposed to be done in June; it is now scheduled for August. The installation of the lights is now scheduled for September. He noted that on the current timeline, it will be installed during term time & that if there is an opportunity to advance works, he will encourage it – into the school holidays. 2/ 8 Russell Mill Lane: Response received from both departments in Wiltshire Council. A formal planning enforcement investigation is now underway & he will keep Cllrs updated with progress. Cllr Harrison asked whether Cllr Muns will	 DM

	reengage on the contact number enquiry for local residents – which he reported was already underway. Cllr Muns now chairs the Devizes Area Board and asked councillors to think about things that they would be interested in discussing – he also indicated that the Area Board will travel around the villages – which was met with broad support.	All
25/26/064	Public Participation One resident: Objection to the 63-65 High Street planning application below. All other residents: They asked for the Parish Council's view on the 'Community Consultation pre planning for 47 houses on land between Orchard Place and White Street' in planning, below. Whilst there was no formal view, the Parish Council encouraged the community to engage with the contractor at the consultation at the Churchill Arms & to return to the meeting in September 2025.	
25/26/065	Planning – to receive those decisions notified, and to consider PL/2025/04569 - Dauntseys School, High Street, SN10 4HE Listed building consent (Alt/Ext): Proposed alterations to existing spaces to create a Middle School Common Room and a Sixth Form Study space https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000EKhFR Consultation deadline 03/07/2025. No objection PL/2025/05059 - The Haven, 63-65 High Street, LP. SN10 4ES Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Bay tree - reduce to 12ft Chestnut tree - fell Conifer tree - fell Group of mixed trees - overall reduction by 4m https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000EiaFt Consultation deadline 02/07/2025 Objection immediately – Clerk & follow up by Cllr Muns asking for an Officer to review. PL/2025/05281 - 34 Sandfield, West Lavington, Devizes, SN10 4HN Householder planning permission. Two storey side extension and proposed off road parking for 3 cars. https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000EuH1J Consultation deadline 22/07/2025. No objection. PL/2025/04694 - 76 High Street, LP. SN10 4EU Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Reduce the crowns of three mature Beech trees T1, 2 & 3 by selectively cutting back the outer branches to suitable secondary growth points, to achieve a reduction in overall height and spread of approximately 4m. The finished height will be approximately 10m. Works will not exceed a 30% reduction in crown volume. https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000EPxpd Consultation deadline 24/06/2025. No objection PL/2025/04732 - Strawberry Lee, 27 White Street, SN10 4LW Consent under Tree Preservation Orders. T1 - Ash tree - fell - tree has signs of Ash die back - reasons for work - tree is close to road and over driveway https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000ER4Nd Consultation deadline 23/06/2025. No objection	Clerk Clerk / DM Clerk Clerk Clerk

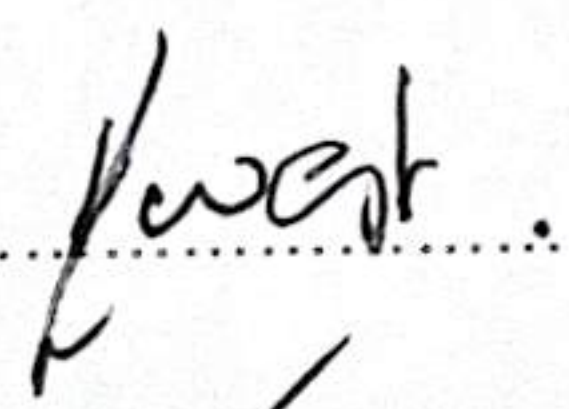
	PL/2025/04779 - Milton Brook House, 5 Duck Street, SN10 4LG Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. T1 Cypress Conifer - Fell. T2 Birch - Remove low limb overhanging driveway area. https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000ESN6T Consultation deadline 24/06/2025. No objection PL/2025/04862 - Little Paddock House, 48 High Street, SN10 4ES Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. T1 (Conifer) - Crown raise to 2-meters above ground level on the south side of the tree. T2 (Conifer) - Crown raise to 2-meters above ground level on the south side of the tree. https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000EXNiX Consultation deadline 26/06/2025 No objection PL/2025/04878 - Dauntseys School, High Street, SN10 4HE Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. T1 and T2 - Pine Trees to be Felled due to poor form and shape due to being suppressed by neighbouring trees - no value in retention. G1 Deadwood all Trees. Crown lift 2m away from BT lines and up to 5.5m over road. https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000EXmdh Consultation deadline 26/06/2025. No objection	Clerk Clerk Clerk
25/26/066	Planning decisions confirmed PL/2025/04382 - 123 High Street, LP.SN10 4EU Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. Corylus Avellana (Hazel) - Reduce multi stems by 50% due to branches getting top heavy. Prunus Avium - Removal. Tree looks diseased and dropping dead branches. No Objection https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000ECTqz	
25/26/067	Planning monitoring updates Hedges House Hayfield Both moved to the September agenda	Clerk
25/26/068	Highways Issues and updates Sewerage (overload/raw sewage into Semington Brook) Black Dog crossroads Winter Closure of the Byway Black Dog covered by the Wiltshire Councillor Report, Winter Closure of the Byway covered below. Discharge into Semington Brook moved to September agenda. Cllr Muns commented that the LHFIG meeting had no project for Church Street, therefore we need to send a Highways Improvement Request Form. To be added to September agenda.	Clerk DM / Clerk
25/26/069	Receipt of Working Groups and project reports Communication update, incl. staging website to update our website. Cllr Harrison reported no updates	

	Risk committee Cllr Koval-Radley reported no updates. Cllr Harrison suggested that the Parish Council considers whether or not to consult drainage experts – and will follow up with the consultant again re examples. Revisit in September agenda – for a decision. Community resilience plan Cllr Harrison reported no updates. West Lavington Village Hall Cllr Gough reported that their bank balance is very good. Ongoing works outside the building, although the edges still need to be tidied up. The parked Transit has been reported. Gaile and Paul will step down in October 2025. Rights of Way Cllr Harrison reported that there was a successful work party last Saturday, which cleared over 1.5km of footpath. He has produced a targeted intervention flyer, which will now be put through residents' letterboxes as and when required. The Big West Lavington Landscape tidy up will take place on Sunday 24/08/2025. Posters will be placed on the noticeboard / bus stops. The Village Hall have kindly allowed us to use it for free. Cllr Sworder suggested hi-viz should be worn – which will be added to the risk assessment. Cllr Harrison arranged a site visit from one of the WC Access Officers – he reported that it was absolutely brilliant. The visit focused on a number of issues: 1) The bridge that connects us to Market Lavington by the railway line. He thinks it is owned by Wiltshire Council – and if it is, they will repair it. Once the bridge has been repaired, we can try to reconnect both villages in the north. 2) Russell Mill Lane: The footpath that runs NE is impassable as it is so steep. Work is ongoing with all of the stakeholders, to re-rout the path further towards the bridge and then around the farmer's field. 3) Russel Mill Lane: The cutting, is very boggy for 3 or 4 months of the year. He recommended a scrape as there might be hardcore cobbles underneath – it was a cart track. We will engage with ML in the wetter months and decide whether it is something that both Parishes would like to do. 4) Byway at the Warren. The ancient chalk track byway that runs from the end of the bridleway towards New Zealand Farm camp. The landowner would like the track to be closed through the winter months and chalk to be put back down to restore it. The owner of the oil pipeline that runs through the middle of the byway has said that if there is any further degradation to the track then they will concrete over the top to protect the integrity of the pipeline. Wiltshire Council suggested three options; 1) Do nothing and let it continue to get eroded, and the oil pipeline will get concreted over. 2) Repair with chalk – but without ongoing closures, this will be quickly damaged. 3) Repair the two-wheel tracks with aggregate, which WC will do free of charge – MS to contact the landowner. Cllr Harrison would like to establish a Facebook page called Pathfinders of West Lavington. All councillors were supportive.	GH Clerk MS GH
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	Playgrounds Group Cllr Blundell reported that the Youth Club Leader had asked if the Recreation Ground could have another bin at the Eastern end. Cllr Blundell's advice would be to not provide any further bins. However, quotes are: Bin quote 1/ Cost, including delivery, would be £207.00 excl. VAT from Glasdon. This bin has a 90 Litre capacity & is the same as the one in the car park. Bin quote 2/ Cost, including delivery, would be £336.00 excl. VAT from Kingfisher Direct. This bin has a 90 Litre capacity & is the same as the one by the BMX track Parish Councillors agreed to use the bin that is there – and monitor the situation. BMX Track Shelter: The shelter now looks a mess with graffiti and paint. Quote for repaint is between £700 and £950, including the primer. As an interim fix – pending the broader Playgrounds Project (below) the Parish Council agreed to give the Youth Club £50-£60 for repaint. Recreation Ground Development: Cllr Harrison would like to explore options to upgrade the entire site to make it a much more attractive place to entertain both children and adults alike. This would involve: A new wet-pour rubberised surface under some of the existing play equipment in both park areas. Investment in an adult "trim-trail" equipment. New fencing around Robert's Playground to make it more visually appealing. New main piece of equipment in Robert's Playground and a general landscape (incl. benches etc). Resurface the BMX track. This will require a large source of (external) funding, that Cllr Harrison has agreed to apply for. Cllr Blundell & the Playgrounds Committee will obtain quotations from three suppliers and will have all the figures ready for the September meeting. This project seeks to buy 15 years of space for the Parish Council to generate a sustainable maintenance and replacement fund – and buy out the current situation – which is unsustainable and will result in a degradation of service over time. Remembrance Avenue Metal Gate: Cllr Blundell has finished painting this gate and the two posts and has ordered new signs. William Warden is aware that the gate is ready for collection and hanging. Cllr Sworder suggested wrapping an uncuttable chain around one end. Cllr Blundeell will purchase the chain. Speed watch Cllr Gough reported that 3 sites have been sanctioned: Rickbarton, Rutts Lane, and Orchard Place. Volunteers still needed.	GH / PB PB
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	Speed Indicator Devices installation No updates NHP (Neighbourhood Plan) Review Group - Housing Needs Survey in 2025 Cllr Pattisson reported no updates	
25/26/070	Finance matters: Budget Monitoring Information was emailed to councillors prior to meeting. Audit – Internal audit is now complete, and files have now been sent to the External auditor. Clerks pay rate increased therefore back pay has been calculated. This calculation has been checked by Cllrs West and Oglesby Proposed: Cllr Oglesby Seconded: Cllr Blundell All agreed. Disbursements John Skillman Clerk salary June (incl. back pay) £772.70 HMRC -Income Tax PAYE June £193.20 HMRC - Employers NI - June £82.33 Village Hall inv 25-108 - Room hires and projector £20.00 James Swell - Fitting Betty's bench £100.00 George Harrison expenses: Flyers, leaflets, posters £41.98	Clerk
25/26/071	Charity Scarecrow Trail one day in September geographically centred around the Youth Club at the Village Hall. Cllr Harrison and his wife will put up posters and are looking for volunteers to make scarecrows – it will be advertised on SM, the Parish Notice Board, the Village Hall and in News&Views.	GH
25/26/072	Policy reviews No more to review.	
25/26/073	Date of next parish council meeting – in the Giles Room, Village Hall. Thursday 4 th September 2025 at 7pm.	

Meeting closed at 21.20

Signed..........04/09/2025

Public Notice: The confirmed minutes of this meeting may be inspected at any reasonable time, but by appointment, at the home of the Clerk after 03.07.2025. The Clerk can also provide an e-mail copy on request; alternatively, previous minutes are available on our website.