

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

**02/10/2025 at 1900
GILES ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, SANDFIELD.**



Serving the communities of
West Lavington and
Littleton Panell

MINUTES

Present:	Councillors: Mr P. West (Chair), Mr G Harrison, (vice chair), Mr P Blundell, Mr R Oglesby, Mr D. Muns (from 19.24), Mr S. Pattisson, Mr A Koval-Radley, Mr M Swarder.	
25/26/092	Also present: Mr J Skillman (clerk) and 5 members of the public	
25/26/093	Apologies for absence. Mrs A. Spencer, Mrs L. Gough.	
25/26/094	Declaration of interests Cllr Blundell - High Street, Cllr Muns - Church Street	
25/26/095	The minutes of the parish council meeting held 04.09.2025 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 Chair.	
25/26/096	Chair's announcements Cllr West reported: Streetscene would like to have attended the public section but are unable due to illness. They would like to put a planter in Roberts Playground, on the cross in the middle, on the open side nearest Mill Lane. They would also like to plant daffodils around the edge of the park against the fences and in some of the hedged borders. Councillors agreed to this. Response received from Aster re. the post that was knocked over in the playground. Do we have anything in writing from EG Carter regarding repairs Councillors say no emails received. Regarding the speed limit, Aster will make the neighbourhood officer for the site aware. If it does become an issue Aster can review with the housing team whether any traffic calming measures would be required. With regard to the guard rail, it was Aster's understanding that the park was fenced with gates. Aster requested details (proposed location etc.) and would be happy to review if this is something the Parish Council wishes to take forwards.	
25/26/097	Wiltshire Councillors report Cllr Muns not present at this time slot.	
25/26/098	Public Participation Resident 1: Re: Land North of White Street. 47 houses on land between Orchard Place and White Street. Cllr Pattisson received an email saying they were considering various feedback before applying next year. Resident 2/3: Re: Highways Improvement form for 137 High Street, LP. The residents are requesting a restrictive line/solid white line/H bar. Parish Council agreed to support this request and will send the Highways Improvement form to LHFIG. Residents 4/5: In attendance to hear Church Street discussion.	Clerk

25/26/099	Planning - to receive those decisions notified, and to consider PL/2025/07241 - 57 High Street, LP, SN10 4ES Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. T1 - Goat Willow tree - side prune by 3m to suitable pruning points T2 - Holly tree - reduce and shape https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000GTwqb Consultation deadline 27/09/2025. No objections PL/2025/07208 - Little Oak, 1 Cheverell Road, LP. SN10 4JH Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. G1 – Lilac tree, Hazel tree and Purple Leaf Plum tree – crown raise over road by 5.2m Lilac tree – reduce crown by two-thirds Hazel tree – coppice Purple Leaf Plum tree – reduce crown by two-thirds T1 – Conifer tree – fell T2 – Common Yew tree – reduce crown by 3m and shape https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000GSBs9 Consultation deadline 08/10/2025 No objections PL/2025/07333 - 1 Hillview, Dauntseys School, High Street, SN10 4HG Change of Use of 3-Bedroom Semi-Detached House to Educational Use (F1) https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/a0iQ300000GZ28A Consultation deadline 16/10/2025 No objections	Clerk Clerk Clerk
25/26/100	Planning decisions confirmed PL/2025/06473 - Strawberry Lee, 27 White Street, SN10 4LW Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Fir tree - Fell. Decision date: 17/09/2025. Decision: No Objection PL/2025/06262 - Wyneshore House, 2 White Street, SN10 4LW Demolition of existing post and rail fence, with gates and the erection of walls, piers and new gates on the access to the property. Decision date: 18/09/2025. Decision: Approve with Conditions	
25/26/101	Planning monitoring updates Hayfield Cllr West reported school car park is advancing. Cllr Pattison reported that they have laid block paving. The car park should be finished by the end of October, the rest in November/December. Land North of White Street. 47 houses on land between Orchard Place and White Street. Covered above under Public Participation.	
25/26/102	Highways Issues and updates Sewerage (overload/raw sewage into Semington Brook): Cllr West reported no updates Black Dog crossroads: Cllr West reported being that this is being installed. Winter Closure of the Byways: Byway 1/ From the chalk track area between Strawberry Hill and Gore Cross. (WLAV7B from Strawberry Hill to the junction of WLAV34). Incorrectly identified on the agenda.	

	Byway 2/ From the warren in a southerly direction through White Hill to Highland Farm/New Zealand Farm (WLAV34 from the junction with WLAV7B to junction with WLAV42). Cllr Harrison suggested that the winter closure should be from the crossroads up the hill, although he has not seen an application.	
25/26/103	Highways Improvement Forms (for LHFIG): 1/137 High Street, LP – Request from resident Covered in Public Participation above. Cllr Muns will obtain costs. The next LHFIG meeting is in December. To be added to November agenda. 2/ A360 road signage Church Street Cllr West showed a powerpoint presentation suggesting three options 1/ Traffic light option: 2/ Priority signage 3/ No stopping zones Councillors agreed that there was no preference, should go with the presentation drawings, and launch a communication in parallel with local residents. 3/ Request for speed limit reduction from railway bridge to village 30mph zone This will be applied for at the next LHFIG meeting	Clerk All Clerk
25/26/104	Village Hall Car Park resurfacing - Drainage and design Cllr Harrison reported that this is a huge area, and this it would need some form of drainage as a priority, otherwise it would be undermined in 5 years. The consultant suggested using the storm drain that services the Village Hall. Cllr West suggested that we obtain an indicative quote from a drainage expert. Cllr West questioned whether or not the car park should be extended. Cllr Muns suggested that we should approach a draining / groundwork company and request 2 quotes: 1/ car park 2/ car park plus extension Cllrs West and Blundell will request quotes, and we will review them in November. Clerk to add to November agenda.	PW/PB/ Clerk
25/26/105	Receipt of Working Groups and project reports Risk committee - Flooding to consider a proposal to consult drainage experts incl. hydrologist visit. Cllr Harrison commented that the 3 assumed benefits would be: 1/ Developing and understanding 2/ Identifying whether there are any proactive measures that we could put in place. 3/ Obtain a report that we could use in correspondence with organisations such as Wiltshire Council, Environment Agency, Highways England. Councillors voted in favour of commencing this Flood Resilience Project (6 votes for, 2 votes against) with Johns Associates. Cllr Harrison will hand this to the clerk. Communication update Cllr Harrison to screen share training session with the clerk re: updating the new website.	GH/Clerk GH/Clerk

	Community resilience plan Cllr Harrison reported no updates West Lavington Village Hall Cllr Gough absent. Rights of Way Cllr Harrison reported two steps broken on WLAV14 (Home Farm to Semington Brook). He will obtain two quotes for repair. On 10/10/2025 Cllr Harrison will be meeting the new Director of Operations at Dauntseys School to discuss managing footpaths around the school and reopening the conversation about WLAV45 (the steep path at the bottom of Russell Mill Lane). Cllr Harrison is awaiting replies to several emails from Wiltshire Council Access Officer. Playgrounds Group Cllr Blundell reported: Equipment Upgrades Cllr Blundell sent two Caloo quotes and designs. However, we would need to: Wait for Caloo's plans and obtain a Steve Aplin quote and Design. With Caloo we have 3 sets of plans / proposals for the new bits of playground equipment. This can then be discussed to see what could be proposed to the council. This would be what we are going for, for a grant. Recreation Ground Patrolling Cllrs Spencer, Koval-Radley and Pattisson have joined the 'kit checking' group. Wicksteed's inspection is this week. Shelter Painting This has been started and will be continued over the next couple of weeks. Wicksteed and MJ Abbot works due – no updates Speed watch Cllr Gough absent. Speed Indicator Devices installation Cllr West reported that the Speedwatch device was hit by a vehicle and damaged. Cllr West can attempt repairs otherwise it will be sent to the manufacturer for repair. Clerk to check whether it is covered by our insurance. NHP (Neighbourhood Plan) Review Group - Housing Needs Survey in 2025 Cllr Pattisson reported: Background • The original Neighbourhood Plan was prepared and adopted some time ago. • A local referendum was held, and the majority voted in favour of adopting the plan, with it officially 'made' in 2019 • Subsequently, a new Steering Group was formed, and a consultant engaged to update and approve the plan as the original one neared its expiry • This updated plan, known as the First Review, is available on the website along with several related documents. It is dated April 2023. Update on Key Issues • The main outstanding matter has been whether the First Review plan give rise to the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) • The First Review was submitted to Wiltshire Council for their consideration in 2023	GH Clerk
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- Wiltshire Council determined that both assessments were necessary. While the Parish Council and the consultant disagreed, Wiltshire Council's position will ultimately prevail
- We have now received Wiltshire Council's screening opinions, which confirm that both the HRA and SEA are required
- Wiltshire Council will carry out these assessments and cover the associated costs, unless it is determined that the changes in the updated plan are likely to have significant environmental effects. In that case, the parish council would be responsible for funding the SEA
- The SEA screening opinion highlights that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects due to the villages' proximity to the Salisbury Plain Special Protection Area (SPA). This necessitates a full Appropriate Assessment because of concerns over potential increased recreational pressure on the SPA
- There is a caveat in the decision letter stating that if the First Review Plan changes, or if a Habitats Regulations Assessment is undertaken, the need for the SEA could be re-evaluated.
- The trigger for these assessments seems to be the housing policy in the First Review, named H1, which allocates a site for 50 houses at Holloway Rise/Hayfield. Although most houses there are built and occupied, the allocation remains in the plan and therefore requires the HRA
- Historic England was consulted and supports the need for an SEA because of the H1 policy
- The Environment Agency was also consulted and also agrees an SEA is necessary, though it raises no objection to the housing allocation. It recommends including references to climate change and emphasises that adaptation to climate change should be a high priority in the plan.
- Natural England was the third consultee and concurs that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and supports the requirement for an SEA

Next Steps

There seem to be two options:

1. Submit the First Review and all its supporting documents to Wiltshire Council and await their formal response. These documents amount to 226 pages in total: the First Review plan (103 pages), the screening request (12 pages), the basic conditions/conformity statement (25 pages), the explanatory statement (10 pages), and the village character appraisal (76 pages). Some updates will be required. It feels like the likely outcome is that we will have to conduct and pay for a full SEA. The cost range for this is between £10,000 and £30,000. This process will take months most probably

2. Take the decision to remove the H1 housing policy from the First Review plan and any related documents, update everything accordingly, and then submit it to Wiltshire Council

- There are timing implications with this approach, and it may give rise to additional challenges
- The site allocation listed under H1 – the Hayfield development, is by and large complete. Hayfield will have left the site by the end of 2025 (I have everything crossed about this!) and once they are gone and all the houses occupied there is a strong argument that this policy no longer applies, and this would negate the need for an SEA
- We would need to be confident that removing this policy will not ultimately lead to a significantly increased housing allocation. The present allocation target of 58 houses is effectively met, less 4 houses, and Wiltshire Council has indicated that this target will not change annually since it is part of the ongoing Local Plan review. However, this is still an unknown due to Government policy and their housing plans, whatever they end up being and may hit us in any case.

Cllr West suggested we remove the H1 handle, and therefore the need for the £30K environmental survey and get the planning through. Clerk to check the One Drive for NHP documents.

Clerk

