

Luccombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held at 7:30pm on Weds 27^h August 2025 in Luccombe Village Hall, Luccombe

Present: Cllr Dascombe (Chair) (JD), Cllr Harding (Vice Chair) (MH) Cllr Gande (RAG) Cllr Stapleford (JS) Cllr Gummer (RG), Somerset Cllrs Pugsley (SP) and Nicholson (FN) from 19:46, Dr Flind (Clerk)
Members of the public present: R Clements.

RG left at 21:00

The meeting commenced at 19:36

1. Apologies & Declarations of Interest	Apologies from Cllr Mullis Cllr Farmer absent.	
2. Minutes	It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 th May 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record.	
3. Matters Arising	Nothing to report	
4. Somerset Council Reports	SP advised that there would be a Highways Warden meeting before the LCN meeting on Thursday 4th September and that our Highways Warden (JS) should examine the condition of the Parish salt bins in order to discuss this at the meeting. The boundary commission call for further evidence has now closed, it is thought unlikely that the Parish would be affected by any changes. ENPs update to their planning processes are going well. They are offering training sessions for parishes, and it is important to keep reporting breaches and other issues.	
5. Members Reports	RAG asked what can be done about the gully adjacent to the road on Stoney Street where the stream runs in winter. This has not been properly maintained by the National Trust and has become overgrown, along with the Stoney Street side of the field hedge. The area around the stream and ditch needs to be cleared to prevent issues in the future. Clerk to photograph and contact the Trust concerning this issue. No further information has been received about the proposed turning circle at the top of Stoney Street, Clerk to follow this up. JD asked if the Council could arrange to speak to the National Trust about their policy regarding fallen trees. On Friday 13th June there was an evening of very heavy rainfall which caused flash flooding in West Luccombe, affecting local properties. This was exacerbated by fallen trees and branches in the river being washed downstream and causing issues, blocking bridges and drainage routes. The Trust should have removed the trees from the river to prevent this kind of flooding but it this was carried out after the event by the Environment Agency instead. FN and SP suggested contacting the West Somerset Flood Group for help as they are very effective in helping communities with these kinds of issues. FN offered to put us in touch with a contact at the Somerset Rivers Authority who would also be able to help. JD also raised the issue of Ash Dieback in Horner, East Water and paths around Cloutsham. These are very popular with both local walkers	

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	and visitors to the area but many of the paths are closed indefinitely or no longer accessible and/or dangerous. Why are some paths closed whilst some remain open? Are they able to close the right of way indefinitely without addressing the issue? The Council would like to know when/if/how these issues are being addressed. Due to the number on ongoing issues with the National Trust it was suggested that the Clerk contacted them and invite them to our next meeting to discuss the issues – or if not available then, call an extraordinary meeting in order to make some progress in these matters.	Clerk
6. Wychanger Play Area	The Council would like to thank Derek Farmer for mowing the area of Wychanger Orchard nearest the tenant car park. Following our recent site meeting it has been established the Trust plan to graze cattle in the field to promote diverse plant species. Members suggested that a robust fence would be required to make the area safe. At the site meeting the Trust suggested that the Council would have to pay for the fence and that it would need a large gate. Before doing so, the Council would like a formal agreement from the Trust designating this as a play area for an agreed period of time. Clerk to speak to the Trust about this, JS to obtain a quote for fencing and bring it back to the next meeting. Members discussed the feasibility of installing play equipment in the area, with issues for consideration including, planning permission, change of use, grounds maintenance costs, equipment maintenance costs, insurance and mandatory safety inspections, along with initial purchase and installation costs. SP and FN offered to help in any way they can and suggested two funding sources: The Exmoor Trust and Somerset Community Foundation. It was suggested that the Council starts small, with a mowed area and fencing before investigating the feasibility of play equipment as the project develops, making full use of the suggested resources and contacts.	Clerk, JS
7. Speed limit in Luccombe village	RG raised concerns about motorists speeding in the village. SP said that Somerset Council do not have the funds to impose 20mph limits as this requires in depth consultation. In Cutcombe, the Council paid for a traffic regulation order and the Council may wish to consider what they are able/willing to pay for. Clerk to contact an officer at Somerset Council to discuss. Clerk will also inspect the 3 SLOW signs painted on the road at the entrances to the village and request repainting as required.	Clerk
8. Review & Adoption of Parish Policy Documents	The Clerk revised and circulated a new IT Policy for review prior to the meeting in accordance with the new AGAR regulations. All Members agreed to adopt the policy, and it was signed off by the Chair. Clerk to add it to to the website.	Clerk
9 .Members of the public QT	R Clements requested to speak at the meeting regarding the following issues: The wall at the bottom of the village is an eyesore and has been hit repeatedly by various vehicles. It is the responsibility of the National Trust to repair it, and they must be held to account. If further sections of the wall collapse into the stream this could cause serious drainage	

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	issues/flooding and this issue needs to be addressed sooner rather than later. JS and/or the Clerk to follow up and continue to chase. The hedge on the green behind the picnic tables needs to be cut back. Clerk to photograph this and contact Robert Manicom (NT). Members also discussed the benches in this area which belong to the Council. Clerk to check if they are included in the Asset Register and Risk Assessment documentation.	JS, Clerk
10. Finance	a) Bank Reconciliation – Statements and documentation inspected by the Council and signed and dated by JD b) Approve payments and bank transfer – The Clerk claimed £6.96 for postage stamps and requested authorisation to transfer £2,000 from the savings account to the current account to cover expenses for the next 3 months, which will include the annual grounds maintenance fees. Both were approved and signed by RAG and JD	Clerk
11. Items for information or future agendas	Nothing to add	
12. Date & venue of next meeting	To be held at Luccombe Village Hall in Luccombe on Wednesday 26th November 2025. Meeting closed at 21:13	

Signed.....

Date.....

Signed.....

Date.....