

Luccombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held at 7:30pm on Weds 26^h Nov 2025 in Luccombe Village Hall, Luccombe

Present: Cllr Dascombe (Chair) (JD), Cllr Harding (Vice Chair) (MH) Cllr Stapleford (JS) Cllr Mullis (RM) Cllr Gummer (RG), Somerset Cllr Nicholson (FN) from 20:15, Dr Flind (Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 19:30

1. Apologies & Declarations of Interest	Apologies from Cllr Gande, Cllr Farmer and Somerset Cllr Pugsley	
2. Minutes	It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 th August 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record.	
3. Matters Arising	Nothing to report	
4. Somerset Council Reports	FN arrived at 20:15, due to prior commitments and provided the following updates after item 10: Somerset Council intends to revert to paying the precept in two instalments as it did previously and will be giving an update on this following a full Council meeting in December. A new online Housing Needs Survey will be launched by Exmoor National Park in January and FN would like to encourage participation – not just from people already living in the Parish but also from residents who have been displaced and live elsewhere due to the lack of suitable local housing. Young adults living with parents, local workers who live outside the area and those who've moved away but hope to return are also encouraged to complete the survey and parishioners are asked to spread the word in order to make the survey as accurate as possible. An LCN subgroup is looking into prioritising housing allocation based on whether someone is suitably prepared to live in a remote area, rather than on housing need. The impact on both tenants and communities needs to be considered. Allocation of newer houses is generally determined by a Section 106 local connection, but older Magna housing stock is not included in this. The subgroup aim to report their findings to the LCN in February.	
5. Members Reports	Many recent issues have now been resolved. The wall at the bottom of the village is due to be repaired by NT in the next financial year and they have cut most of the hedges on Stoney Street and cut back the trees in the picnic area. The gate by the cattlegrid near Burrowhayes has also been fixed. There are forestry works taking place between Chapel Cross and Horner and there have been recent sewerage and water supply works in the parish.	
6. Wychanger Play Area	JS received an estimate of £2,500 to fence the proposed play area and following a very positive meeting with Stephanie Wilson from the National Trust, Members discussed whether adopting the piece of land and installing play equipment would be a viable option at this time. It was recently discovered that we already have an agreement in place with the National Trust to develop the area next to the Village Hall into a	

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	play area, but this may not be suitable. Members voted not to pursue this matter further at this time and to look at it again in the future, possibly mowing an area for children to play in next year to see how much it is used before developing the idea further. Proposed: JS Seconded: MH	
7. Speed limit in Luccombe village	Following discussions at the previous meeting about speeding and imposing a speed limit in Luccombe, the Clerk shared correspondence from the Traffic Engineer at Somerset Council, which identified average speeds through the village as ranging between 12-28 mph and advising that changing the speed limit would cost more than £3,000. Alternatively, we could install a sign and/or a planter to indicate to road users that they are entering Luccombe and promote careful driving. This would need to be set back from the road by a minimum of 450mm and installed by someone with the appropriate licence to work on or adjacent to a highway. ENP may also wish to comment on anything that is proposed if it affects the aesthetic of the location. Members agreed that speeding in the area is not significant enough to warrant a new speed limit but that a village sign, that includes 'Exmor National Park' might be useful, both for motorists and other visitors who would benefit from geographical identification. Clerk to obtain quotes for signage and installation.	Clerk
8. Grit Bins in Luccombe Parish	Prior to placing our annual grit order with Somerset Council, JS inspected all grit bin locations in the Parish and concluded that it would be beneficial to purchase grit bins rather than using dumpy bags in many places as they would last longer if not exposed to cattle (also potentially spreading bovine TB) and the elements. Two existing bins also need replacing. The Clerk has spoken to Highways about grit bin requirements and obtained quotes from several suppliers and proposes getting 200 litre green coloured bins. She has also spoken to neighbouring parish clerks and may place a bulk order with them, in order to receive a discount. JS suggests that we need ten bins in total. MH said that the ground may need levelling off in some areas to site the bins securely. He is going to take the map and have a look at the proposed locations, before any decision is made. The cost will be in the region of £1,500 including VAT (we are due a rebate in March). It was agreed that if bins are purchased that they should be funded from the Council's reserve account. MH to update on progress and any decisions will be taken by Members via email rather than waiting until the next meeting in February. Grit for this year has already been delivered in dumpy bags and if bins are purchased this will be decanted.	Clerk
9 .Members of the public QT	No members of the public were present at the meeting	
10. Finance	a) Bank Reconciliation – Statements and documentation inspected by the Council and signed and dated by MH b) NJC pay scale adjustment - The NJC has now agreed it's new salary rate from April 2025. The Clerk's pay will rise by 50p per hour. Members agreed to pay this c) ICO Membership - The Clerk has identified that the Council, as data handlers should be registered with the Information Controllers Office	

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	(ICO) and is subject to an annual fee of £47 a year (if paid by direct debit). Members agreed this is a necessary cost. Clerk to arrange. d) .gov.uk domain - As part of the new governance and accountability guidelines for smaller authorities it is suggested that parishes use a .gov.uk domain. At present we use a .org which is adequate but .gov.uk is the gold standard and also more secure. The Clerk advised that the Council should consider moving to a .gov.uk now before it becomes mandatory. This would cost an additional £50 a year and Members agreed to pay this. Clerk to arrange. e) Approve payments and bank transfer – The Clerk claimed £27.90 for travel to the Somerset Parishes conference. This was approved by Members and signed by JD. Cheques were also signed for the following scheduled payments: Clerk's salary and grounds maintenance. A bank transfer is not needed at this time. f) Budget for 2026/27 - Members agreed a budget for 2026/27 with a precept amount of £5,980	Clerk
11. Items for information or future agendas	The Clerk has received a notification from SC Rights of Way about a motorbike rally taking place in the Parish from 8am – 4pm on Sunday 30th November and circulated maps of affected areas. SC's Rural Housing Enabler has notified the Council of a self-build opportunity in Timberscombe which may be suitable for local residents. Clerk to advertise on noticeboards and website. The Clerk circulated meeting dates for next year and will also put these on the website.	Clerk
12. Date & venue of next meeting	To be held at Luccombe Village Hall in Luccombe on Wednesday 25th February 2026. Meeting closed at 20:42	

Signed.....

Date.....

Signed.....

Date.....