

Luccombe Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held at 7:30pm on Weds 25^h Feb 2026 in Luccombe Village Hall, Luccombe

Present: Cllr Dascombe (Chair) (JD), Cllr Harding (Vice Chair) (MH) Cllr Stapleford (JS) Cllr Gande (RAG) Cllr Farmer (RF), Somerset Cllr Nicholson (FN) from 20:09, Dr Flind (Clerk)

The meeting commenced at 19:30

1. Apologies & Declarations of Interest	Apologies from Cllr Mullis, Cllr Gummer and Somerset Cllr Pugsley	
2. Minutes	It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 th November 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record.	
3. Matters Arising	Nothing to report	
4. Somerset Council Reports	FN arrived at 20:09, due to prior commitments and provided the following updates after item 10a: The Housing Needs Survey has launched and is available for people to complete online. FN encouraged everyone to fill it in and share it with their friends and family – particularly those who want to live in the area but can't due to lack of affordable or suitable housing. Cllrs suggested that the survey was not particularly well designed. There was no box to express individual comments or unique circumstances and this could mean that important or unexpected data is not collected, including concerns over how they can afford to rent and stay in the area as a single person if a partner dies, with a lack of affordable smaller homes in the parish. There was also no space to comment on the impact of second homes or other factors affecting the local housing crisis. Development of the new Somerset Council consolidation and consultation strategy for effective dog control is under way. The Council wants parishes to review locations which are already subject to a dog control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and provide feedback, further information and/or identify any additional areas that they would like to be considered for inclusion in the consultation. Luccombe does not have any areas subject to a PSPO at present, but FN advised that the Council may be seeking to apply a 'one-size-fits-all' strategy to the policy with a blanket ban on dogs in churchyards, which could potentially cause issues in rural locations where rights of way may run through such areas or working dogs are used. The project is currently in the pre-consultation review period and parishes need to respond by 20th March. There will then be a six-week public consultation period during the summer. Dates to be confirmed. The next LCN Meeting will be in the Moorland Hall at Cutcombe on 5th March. The next Highway Warden meeting will be in June. FN said there are rising numbers of children in care in Somerset. A new education paper on SEND is going in the right direction, but does not specify how it is going to work. There is a lot of financial pressure on small rural schools, and the government has removed funding for	

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	rurality. This is intended to be fairer but has lost 20 million for Somerset Council. Members took this opportunity to ask for FNs thoughts on grit bins (item 6) and if she knew of any measures that could be applied to prevent livestock from destroying the bins or wasting grit and salt. She suggested having informal arrangements with farmers who are willing to go out and spread grit and salt where they are already doing so, to have the grit delivered to their premises rather than being placed directly where animals are grazing. She suggested that this could be raised with Kali Martin from Highways.	
5. Members Reports	JD discussed the condition of the roads following the recent heavy rain, particularly the flooding on the corner at West Luccombe. This was reported and flood signs were put up but no action was taken, the drain is clearly blocked but it assumed that all pumping equipment is being used on the Somerset levels where a major incident has been declared. Clerk to check report and follow up. RAG said there was a large quantity of mud on the road towards Blackford that was causing issues and some of the railings on Stoney Street are broken. Clerk to report. The Council also thanked the Porlock Horse Show Committee for their generous donation of £100 towards the running costs of the defibrillator.	Clerk
6. Grit Bins in Luccombe Parish	Following on from the discussion about grit bins at the previous meeting, MH has examined the locations and the condition of the existing grit bins and bags. The salt is being consumed by cattle who are also damaging the bins. Even if the Council replaced the bins, it is likely they would be damaged again very quickly. Members discussed different options for protecting the bins or storing the grit in a more sustainable way but could not come up with a solution. RF related an experience of building and installing wooden grit bins for ENP some years ago and that these were almost immediately destroyed by the cattle. It was suggested that perhaps some of the grit could be delivered to directly to farmers to distribute but this would likely be an informal agreement. Cllrs agreed to raise this issue at the LCN and Clerk to research what other National Parks do to protect their grit bins from livestock. No decision made on purchase of bins at this time.	Cllrs Clerk
7. Luccombe village entrance signage	The Clerk has obtained a quote from Glasdon for a village entry sign to encourage careful drivers. She also requested a quote from Somerset Council for installation (not yet received). The Glasdon gateway would be constructed from a robust plastic composite material called Everwood with a reflective sign, stating 'Welcome to Luccombe, please drive carefully.' The total cost for the sign and fixings was quoted at £774.77 +VAT. Cllrs agreed that they would like to obtain alternative quotes. A sign manufacturer in Minehead was recommended, with the gateway to be constructed from treated timber. Proposed: JS Seconded: MH and RESOLVED. Clerk to obtain quotes. The siting of the sign was also discussed. RG said there used to be a Luccombe sign on the grass verge close to the Walled Garden and the placement would need to be agreed, with planning and/or landowner permissions, if necessary, if Councillors agree to go ahead with the project.	Clerk

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8. Members of the public Question Time	No members of the public were present at the meeting	
9. Review and adoption of Parish Policy Documents	Councillors reviewed the following policy documents prior to the meeting: • Parish Council Code of Conduct • Financial Regulations • Standing Orders • Risk Assessment • Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness All Councillors agreed to adopt the revised documents, and they were signed by the Chair were applicable. Clerk to add the new versions to the website.	Clerk
10. Finance	a) Bank Reconciliation – Statements and documentation were inspected by the Council and signed and dated by JS b) Grass cutting – Cllrs agreed to continue with the appointment of our current contractor for grass cutting. Clerk to contact and arrange. It was also suggested that the patch of grass at Wychanger Orchard would benefit from regular mowing, this was done by a volunteer last year and would need heavy duty equipment, beyond the capabilities of our current contractor. Clerk to obtain a separate quote for this work and bring it back to the Council for approval. c) Review and approve schedule of regular payments 26/27 Councillors RESOLVED to approve the schedule of regular payments. d) Appoint internal auditor. Councillors RESOLVED to use Richard Young to conduct the internal audit. Clerk to contact and arrange.	Clerk
11. Items for information or future agendas	There were no other matters for consideration.	
12. Date & venue of next meeting	To be held at Luccombe Village Hall in Luccombe on Wednesday 27th May 2026. Meeting closed at 20:57	

Signed.....

Date.....

Signed.....

Date.....