

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council Meeting

Clerk to the Council: Neal Gossage

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Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) Meeting held in the Village Hall on 7th July 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs Vickery (Chair), Telling, Oxley, Hobson and Harding supported by Neal Gossage (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Marshall

Absent: None

One member of the public was present

26.024 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Harding declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 on the agenda (Donations) because she is a member of the Tolland PCC.

26.025 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2026

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

26.026 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising other than items that are on the agenda.

26.027 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to discuss.

26.028 Somerset Council Matters

There was no update from Somerset Council to discuss.

26.029 Police and Crime Report

The police report which had been previously circulated was noted.

 7 JUL '26

The Clerk stated that he has contacted the newly-appointed PCSO but has received no reply to the request for a meeting with the Parish Council.

The Council expressed its disappointment at the lack of detail in the report for the Parish. A few years ago, there was some detail in the report relating to Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland.

Cllr Hobson suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner is contacted to establish what detail should be included in the PCSO report to see how the reporting can be improved.

Action: Clerk

26.030 Pond Cleaning

The member of the public ("MoP") brought this matter to the attention of the Council.

The MoP said that the pond situated on private land on at the bottom of Lydeard Down Hill acts as a drainage point for rainwater flowing down from the direction of the Village and Crosscroft and presented a diagram prepared by Somerset Council showing direction of the flows. The MoP expressed concern that this creates a risk of flooding to the nearby buildings, including their own property, particularly when the pond becomes silted up and needs dredging, as is currently the case. They expressed concern that the pond may not be able to be able to cope with a heavy storm and this would be likely to result in flooding in the village.

The MoP asked the Council to consider providing financial help to the residents of the property towards the costs of dredging the pond, given the negative impact such flooding could have on the village.

The Chair expressed the view that it would be the responsibility of the private individuals to maintain the pond. Cllr Harding supported that view. The MoP clarified that the individuals were not unwilling to dredge the pond and were intending to carry this out in September this year, and it was the MoP's suggestion that the Council be approached to see if any financial assistance could be provided, given the potential negative effect on the village more widely in the case of flooding.

Following further discussion, including discussion of other maintenance obligations on private residents in relation to Highways, to which the Council would not normally contribute, the Parish Council was not inclined to provide financial assistance to the residents at this time, however it was suggested that they could come to a future Council meeting to provide further detail if they wished to.

 17 SEP '26

Councillor Telling stated that Somerset Council had carried out surveying activities in the village relating to work to be carried out on the drains some months ago. Cllr Hobson suggested that as Somerset Council Highways Department is responsible for the drains in the village, it may be worth contacting the local MP Rachel Gilmour (or her local caseworker) to see if she can assist in encouraging Somerset Council to take some steps in respect of the drainage in the Village.

The Clerk offered to contact the MP or their caseworker. However the MoP said they would speak to the residents and take this forward themselves.

Action: MoP/residents.

26.031 Playpark equipment update

(a) Disposal of the slide

The Council agreed to progress the disposal of the slide so Cllr Oxley will attempt to identify up to three people who could dispose of the slide and make safe the base fixings.

Action: Cllr Oxley

(b) Proposed new play equipment

The Clerk explained the options as to how the installation of new equipment could potentially be funded.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the National Lottery Fund may be able to provide up to £20,000 of funding (on a matched basis) to enable the playground equipment to be updated. It is now necessary for an application for funding to be prepared which sets out the benefits of the project to the village and the community.

The Clerk will prepare a draft application for the Parish Council to consider at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

26.032 Donations

After some discussion the Council agreed to make the following donations for 2026:

Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club	£500
Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall	£500
Lydeard St Lawrence PCC	£650
Tolland PCC	£250
Total	£1,900

 7 SEP '26

These payments were proposed by Cllr Telling, seconded by Cllr Oxley and received unanimous support. Cllr Harding did not vote in accordance with her declaration of interest.

The donation which has previously been made to the Playing Fields Committee was discussed. There was some uncertainty as to how the Playing Fields Committee relates to the Cricket Club (the latter being responsible for maintenance of the play equipment). In the light of the proposed installation of new play equipment, the Council would like clarification as to who makes up the Playing Fields Committee, who controls how these funds are directed and what the money is spent on.

The Clerk will contact the Cricket Club to obtain further clarification and the grant will be reconsidered at a future meeting.

Action: Clerk

26.033 Finance

(i) The following payments made since the last meeting were noted:

Clerk's expenses	£14.03
Audit fee	£100.00
Zurich Insurance	£330.05
Clerk's gross pay (May 2026)	£242.73
Clerk's gross pay (June 2026)	£242.73

(ii) The following payments were approved:

Clerk's expenses	£9.04
Clerk's gross pay (July 2026)	£242.73
Clerk's gross pay (August 2026)	£242.73
Donations as set out in minute no 26.032	£1,900.00

These payments were proposed by Cllr Vickery and seconded by Cllr Telling and received unanimous support.

26.034 June 2026 accounts and bank reconciliation

These were considered and noted.

Approval was proposed by Cllr Oxley, seconded by Cllr Vickery and received unanimous support.

26.035 Any other business


7 sep '26

Cllr Harding noted that the bridleway in Tolland is now gated making it difficult for the gates to be opened. It was stated that this is not a Parish Council responsibility and that those affected should contact the Somerset Council Rights of Way department to see if any changes can be made.

Cllr Oxley noted that some potholes in Tolland have now been repaired but the repairs have been carried out to a poor standard. Cllr Vickery agreed to contact Mike Rigby to see what can be done about this.

Action: Cllr Vickery

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:30.

Date of next meeting: Monday 7th September 2026 at 7:30pm at Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall.


7 SEP '26