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 19th October 2026 at 7:30pm

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

Apologies: Cllr Harding

Absent: None

One member of the public was present – Mike Campbell

26.044 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest in relation to items on the agenda.

26.045 Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2026
The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

26.046 Matters Arising
There were no matters arising which were not on the agenda.

26.047 Planning Applications
There were no planning applications to discuss.

26.048 Somerset Council Matters
There was no update from Somerset Council to discuss.

Cllr Marshall referred to the recent communication from Somerset Council referring to proposed increases in charges for car parking in Somerset. Some parish councils are objecting to the proposed increase and it is understood that Rachael Gilmour MP will also be objecting to the increase.

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26.049 Remembrance Day Wreaths

After some discussion, it was agreed that a wreath would be purchased for Tolland Church (for £23.00). It was also agreed to make an equivalent donation to the Royal British Legion.

These payments were proposed by Cllr Oxley and seconded by Cllr Marshall and received unanimous support.

26.050 Authorisation of bank payments

At present, nearly all bank payments are authorised by Cllrs Oxley and Marshall. In order to 'spread the load' Cllr Telling agreed to authorise some payments once she has retrieved her security details.

26.051 Playpark equipment update

The Chair welcomed Mike Campbell to the meeting.

Mr Campbell leads a group in the village which organises the bonfire night event and other social events. The group is keen to see the playpark redeveloped and is willing to assist with fund raising for the project. One person has provisionally offered to make a donation and the group has some funds to donate as well.

It was agreed that a 'working party' will be set up to assist with the playground project and Cllr Oxley will join the party. Any decisions on spending money will have to be referred to the full Parish Council for a decision.

It was also suggested that an 'auction of promises' could be set up as this method of fund raising has worked quite well in the past.

The Chair thanked Mr Campbell for getting involved in this project and looked forward to finding a solution to allow the playpark to be refurbished.

Mr Campbell left the meeting.

(a) Disposal of the slide

Cllr Oxley has approached a number of scrap metal merchants but has received no response to his emails so far. He proposed to ring the agents and explore other avenues to see if the slide can be disposed of as soon as possible.

Action: Cllr Oxley

(b) Funding for new playpark equipment

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The Clerk noted that the original application for lottery funding had been rejected because there were too many words in the application. A new application was prepared by subdividing the original application into three smaller sections. That was submitted last month.

It is anticipated that a response will be received by the end of November 2026.

Action: Clerk

26.052 Finance

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

Playing Fields Committee	£735.00
Clerk's expenses	£22.13
Clerk's pay (September 2026)	£145.93
HMRC PAYE	£96.80
Bank Charges	£7.00

Interest of £459 has been received on the CCLA account.

(ii) Clerk's pay award

The local government pay award for the year commencing 1 April 2026 has now been determined. An award of 3.3% was agreed and it was proposed that this award would be made to the Clerk.

That was proposed by Cllr Vickery and seconded by Cllr Marshall and received unanimous support.

The pay award and amount of back-dated pay will be included in the November payroll.

(iii) The following payments were approved:

Clerk's expenses	£103.07 (including Microsoft licence)
Clerk's gross pay (Oct/Noc 2026)	£242.73
Tolland Church Wreath	£23.00
Royal British Legion	£23.00

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

(iv) Management Accounts for the 6 months to 30 September 2026 and bank reconciliation

The management accounts were reviewed and approved.

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

26.052 Any other business

Cllr Telling noted that one of the salt bins in the village had been filled and another one had broken and was full of water. The broken bin needs to be removed and somebody will be found to dispose of the bin. A new bin needs to be purchased.

Cllr Marshall noted that the Stoney Cross road sign has been damaged and needs to be replaced.

For both of these items, it was suggested that the insurance company could fund the replacements and the Clerk was asked to investigate whether that is possible.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk noted that a draft budget for 2027/28 will be presented at the next meeting on a 'steady state' basis. He asked councillors to consider what additional items might be included in the budget prior to the precept being set in January 2027.

The Clerk also noted that a full parish council needs to be elected in May 2027 and all existing councillors will step down. A paper will be presented at the next council meeting setting out the process to elect a new council.

Action: Clerk

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:45.

Date of the next meeting: Monday 7thth December 2026 at 7:30pm at Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall.

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