Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council Meeting

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

Present: Cllrs Marshall (Acting Chairman), Telling, Oxley, Hobson and Harding supported by Neal Gossage (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Vickery

Absent: None

No members of the public were present

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Marshall agreed to chair the meeting.

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

26.037 Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2026
The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Acting Chairman.

26.038 Matters Arising
There were two matters arising other than items that are on the agenda:

1 Playing Fields Committee Donation

The Clerk contacted the cricket club following discussion about the donation proposed for the Cricket Club. The Cricket Club explained how the money provided by the Parish Council is spent including the fee for the annual safety inspection. After some discussion it was agreed that the grant amounting to £735.00 would be paid for this year but reviewed again next year.
That was proposed by Cllr Oxley and seconded by Cllr Telling and received unanimous support.

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2 Response from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Clerk has received a reply from an email sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner querying the cessation of the village crime reports. It is now apparent that these reports are no longer produced due to a lack of resources and the PCC referred councillors to reported crimes on the police website. This is disappointing but it was agreed that the police report standing item would be removed from future agendas.

26.039 Planning Applications

Planning applications 22/26/0005 and 22/26/0007/CQ which had been previously circulated were briefly discussed. The Council decided to make no comment.

26.040 Somerset Council Matters

There was no update from Somerset Council to discuss.

26.041 Police and Crime Report

As a police and crime report has not been received, there were no discussions on this other than what was covered under matters arising above (26.038).

26.042 Pothole repairs

The reply from Somerset Council to the Chair was noted.

It was also noted that repairs are generally being carried out promptly and it was pleasing to see that repairs were made during the warm weather.

No further action is proposed.

26.043 Playpark equipment update

(a) Disposal of the slide

This is being actioned. Cllr Oxley agreed to bring a proposal to the next meeting outlining options to dispose of the slide.

Action: Cllr Oxley

(b) Funding for new playpark equipment

The Clerk had prepared a draft application for grant funding from the National Lottery. This had been reviewed by councillors and it was agreed that the application should be submitted.

It is anticipated that a reply will be received by the end of 2026 and further discussion on this matter will take place then.

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Action: Clerk

(c) Creative Play proposal

The proposal was discussed and the costs were noted. Cllr Oxley indicated that the survey carried out by Creative Play appeared to be more comprehensive than the previous proposal received.

Cllr Hobson queried whether the project should progress because the playpark does not seem to be used very much. Cllr Marshall said that the playpark may be under-utilised because the equipment is in a poor state of repair. Cllr Telling indicated that some people in the parish have concerns about so much money being spent on new equipment.

It was agreed that the playpark would be further discussed once a reply to the grant application has been received.

26.044 Finance

Cllr Harding expressed her thanks to the Parish Council for the grant made to Tolland PCC since the last meeting. The funds will be spent to maintain the graveyard at the church in Tolland.

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

Cricket Club	£500.00
Tolland PCC	£250.00
Village Hall	£500.00
Clerk's expenses	£9.04
LSL PCC	£650.00
Clerk's gross pay (August 2026)	£145.93
HMRC PAYE	£96.80
Bank Charges	£7.00
Tolland Church tree felling	£1,917.00

Interest of £298.93 has been received on the CCLA account.

(ii) The following payments were approved:

Clerk's expenses	£22.13
Clerk's gross pay (Sept/Oct 2026)	£242.73
Donations as set out in minute no 26.038	£735.00

These payments were proposed by Cllr Harding and seconded by Cllr Hobson and received unanimous support.

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26.043 Any other business

Cllr Harding asked whether the Parish Council would buy a chair for disabled people to allow them to attend meetings at the Village Hall. Cllr Marshall considered that this was a matter for the Village Hall and referred Cllr Harding to the Village Hall Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:55.

Date of next meeting: Monday 19th October 2026 at 7:30pm at Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall.

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