

# Loddiswell Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting which took place at 7.30 on Tuesday December 2nd 2025 in the Loddiswell Congregational Hall

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr Paul Harvey (Chair), Cllr Derek Brooking (Vice Chair), Cllr Francis Baker, Cllr Mike Hine, Cllr Gabi Haskins Cllr Catherine Rippin, Cllr Sophie Elliott Smerdon, Cllr Sarah Baskerville, Cllr Lee Bonham,
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr Matt Cross, Cllr Louise Wainwright
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	1 member of the public, LPC Clerk
<b>MINUTES:</b>	Minutes from last months meeting were signed by the Chair

## **Standing Orders Suspended: Public Participation and to receive reports from Cllr Wainwright and Cllr Bonham**

Jon Pittman was welcomed as LPC new councillor and signed the Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests

### **Item no:**

#### **2515 Policing Matters**

- 1 crime in September of criminal damage/arson near Cedar Drive. No suspect identified a s investigation complete.

#### **2516 Public Comment**

- 1 MOP's attended with an update on the Pavillions. A full alcohol licence has been awarded and a 5 star rating fro Health and Safety so they are all set for your social gatherings
- LPC to discuss moving the meetings in the January meeting

#### **2517 VAS Data Report - Cllr Matt Cross**

Cllr Cross did not attend the meeting and no report was sent in, due to technical issues

#### **2518 County Cllr report - Louise Wainwright**

- Cllr Wainwright did not attend the meeting, nor send a report. However Cllr Harvey attended a meeting with Cllr Wainwright at the weekend and has written this report:

Report from meeting of 29/11/25 -Local government reorganisation [LGR] proposals.

Around 30 town and parish councillors gathered at Cliff House Salcombe for this meeting arranged by Salcombe division County Cllr, Louise Wainwright . Loddiswell was one of 9 towns and parishes represented out of a possible 16 in the division.

Leading the presentation was DCC lead on LGR, Cllr Paul Arnott. We went through possible scenarios but at this stage, there are more questions than answers. What we do know is there will be change but what this will look like is still unknown as the government need to decide on which one of the 4 models of reorganisation will be adopted that have been submitted by DCC, District councils, Plymouth unitary and Exeter unitary.

There is a timeline to all of this with summer 2026 when the government decides. Overall implementation of the LGR is predicted to be 2029 so it will entail many more meetings yet! The impact on parish and town councils could mean more responsibilities for services at a local level and neighbouring councils working closer together to facilitate this.

There is likely to be the formation of 15 Neighbourhood Area Committees (NAC] throughout Devon. This would mean 25 parishes in each NAC so representation will be a challenge as there could be 250 Cllrs on each committee!

The next step is for us to have another joint meeting and inviting delegates from Cornwall to attend. The reason being that they already have NAC's working successfully so to learn from their experience on best way to proceed when the time comes. This will be in January and open to Cllrs only and not an open meeting involving public. Public consultation is probably 18 months away. So, a huge upheaval to how democracy works in Devon with the demise of DCC as we know it and district councils replaced by NACs. How public services will be delivered remains to be seen.

#### **2519 District Cllr report - Lee Bonham**

- South Hams District Council has replied to the Government's request with a proposal for Local Government Reorganisation. SHDC and Devon's other district councils sent in a common plan to reshape Devon's local authorities into three unitary authorities; one in Southern Devon, one in the North with Exeter and one in Plymouth. The South Devon Unitary would cover South Hams, West Devon, Teignbridge, and Torbay.

SHDC and the other districts believes this is the best plan for the county. It will deliver financial strength and efficiencies together with a good level of democratic representation so that decision making is kept close to communities

The Government will consider this plan, together with alternative options submitted by Devon CC, Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter, and make a decision on the way forward in the Summer. LGR does not propose a change in the power of Parish Councils. However, there might be local committees, if the new authority decides to implement this idea

- Planning application 2063/25/FUL for change of use from a builder's yard to Class B8 open air storage near Loddiswell Butts will be considered by the SHDC Planning Committee on 11th December
- Planning application 2712/25/FUL for barn conversion to a dwelling at Clarks Barn, Loddiswell will be considered by the SHDC Planning Committee on 11th December

As I sit on the Planning Committee I am required to keep an open mind on these applications.

#### **2520 Public Pathways - Cllr Baskerville**

- FP4 silverage walked x2 this month, all good
- FP19 Reeds fm/river walked x2 - tree still down and DCC informed. tbh if person able to access the path to this point the tree is okay to step over.
- FP20 Courtledge - South Brent rd all good.
- FP17 Wigford Lane/Topsham. Not managed to walk myself. Nothing reported to me or on FB.
- FP15 Towns Lane/Hatch Bridge I walk this most days, all good.
- FP11 Littlegate, Wellstreet, Station Road. All good and walked up round the church, all accessible.
- FP3 Topsham/Crannacombe. Not walked this month. Nothing reported to me or on FB.
- FP18 Woolston to B3196 Not Walked and nothing reported.
- FP5 Hatch Farm, all good. Getting very wet but not a popular path.
- FP5 South Brent/Clarks Barn. All good
- FP2 Blackdown/Old Harbour. Not walked.
- FP South Brent Rd/ Yanston Lane. Still no feedback but forwarded original email to Debbie Ebsary DCC PROW senior officer. Area PROW warden is on long term sick leave. I originally had the wrong contact details.
- I really apologise for not having checked all pathways (some although very obvious, one with collapsing wall behind the embankment being one and I walk almost daily!) not on my original list, which is now updated.
- Cllr Baskerville has been advised that she does not need to walk all the paths every month
- If anyone spots trees down or issues with any of the pathways, please write and email to the clerk. If you are not able to use the internet, please call the clerk between 10-4 Monday to Friday on 07859047187

#### **2521 Neighbourhood Plan**

- Content is still being worked on however the introduction to the NP has been finished

**2522**

### **Sustainability - Cllr Haskins**

- WAL have seeded and completed the bulb/primrose planting at The Well and the old recycling area banks.
- Mark Skinner from South Dartmoor Community Energy will be holding a free presentation for Loddiswell Village on "How to make your home more energy efficient". It will broadly include the importance of property maintenance, insulation methods, different types of heating systems and new technology such as solar panels & batteries. Also, some general energy-saving advice plus grant funding opportunities.
- It is planned for Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 18.30 hours in the village hall. The event will be publicised in January. Costs will include hiring the Village hall and refreshments

**2523**

### **Highways**

- Louise Wainwright is concentrating on helping Highways meet the roads safe and well maintained. A questionnaire was sent out asking each parish if they would be interested in 'sharing' a lengths man, who would have the necessary equipment and qualifications to clear blocked drains etc. Clerk to write to neighbouring parishes if they have employed a lengthsman and invite them to a meeting to discuss our needs.
- Still nobody has come forward to volunteer for the Section 8 training, free of charge for 2 people willing to attend the course and then help to fill the pot holes in the village. If you are interested, please contact the clerk

**2524**

### **Planning**

- No planning this month, however Cllr Bonham made LPC aware of the site visits taking place for the following applications, which have now been taken off public consultation:
- 2712/25/FUL - Barn at 717 487 (Clarks Farm), Loddiswell
- 2063/25/FUL - Land at SX 719 490, Loddiswell

A representative from LPC can attend or send in comments for each of these applications

**2525**

### **Items for discussion and decision making**

- A) 20 is plenty - school children to design a poster, LPC to judge - The children will be designing a new '20 is Plenty' sign for the village and LPC will attend the school to pick a winner. The signs will be placed around the village to encourage people to slow down and drive more carefully in built up areas
- B) Paying for the village Christmas tree - Unanimous decision to, once again, pay for the village Christmas tree. Thanks to the organisers and we hope the 'lighting up Loddiswell' evening went well
- C) Update on the sink hole at Littlegate/Butter Well - Quote from Darts Surfacing £3,386 - Darts surfacing have dug out Butterwell and cleared the pipe work and LPC have decided to appoint them to reinstate which should stop the build up of water at the well. However the collection of water and 'springs' down at Littlegate are on private property and therefore not PC responsibility
- D) Number 3, The Bank - garden wall debris falling onto the footpath. What to do? Clerk to contact DCC legal department for advice on the matter. The property owner has been contacted several times to try and get the debris that is falling onto the path, cleared, but more recently there has been no response. LPC are concerned that this could be a danger for people using the path
- E) Defibrillator purchase - British Heart Foundation can no longer supply one - is there a need? £1200 estimate. Clerk to write to the pub and the petrol station to see if they would be happy to house and contribute towards a defibrillator on their property
- F) Website discussion ready for launch in January 2026 - Clerk is discussing changes with the web designers. All photos of the councillors have now been sent in and awaits the neighbourhood plan introduction. Wils About Loddiswell have kindly sent in some super photographs for the website and Cllr Rippin has agreed to help with the NP page. Hopefully the new website will be launched in January .... Watch this space for the new web address
- G) Final budget figures - the budget will be added to the new website. Precept last year was not increased so Clerk has advised a significant increase this year and added on a lump sum of £40,000, should LPFVHT agree to help with funding a new play park

2526

**Business at the Chairs discretion**

- Concerns over someone living in their car in the car park - clerk to write to the police asking for guidance and to see if there is anyone who can help

2527

**Finance:**

a) Balance at the start of the meeting	£91,619.02
b) Richard Barney - maintenance	- £598
c) Clerks wages and disbursements	- £679.92
d) Darts Surfacing - car park	- £21,206.40
e) Bank charges	- £7.75
f) Village News - printing contribution	- £500
g) VAT return	+ £4,139.93
Balance at the close of the meeting	£72,766.88

**S106 money stands at an estimate of £15,273.86**

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 9 pm

Signed ..... Dated .....

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th January 2026 - upstairs in the Congregational Hall at 7.30pm  
Those who wish to attend should be free of Covid symptoms. If you have any questions you would like to put forward to the Parish Council, please email the clerk at the address below at least 7 days before the meeting is due.

Members of the Public and Press are welcome to attend and take part at the start of the meeting.

***The Clerk***

The Clerk to Loddiswell Parish Council: [loddiswellparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:loddiswellparishclerk@gmail.com)