

LITTLEHAM & LANDCROSS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Littleham Village Hall on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 19.15 hours

Present: Councillors: P Jollands (Chair), G Smith, P Footman, M Manley, S Read, M Brooks.

Apologies : Councillors: J Gershon, G Gray, L Batty, C Hassall.

Also Present: M Barry (County Councillor)
J Smith

In Attendance: Mike Norton Clerk to the Council

3015 - The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and apologies were accepted.

3016 - Declarations of Interest

[DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillors are invited to declare any declarable interest, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. They are also reminded to consider whether any items within their Register of Interests should be updated].

No declarations of interest were made.

3017 – Defibrillator Replacement

Janet Smith of the Defibrillator Group advised that approximately £2,000 had been raised towards the replacement the 3 Parish Council Defibrillators. South West Ambulance Service Trust were ceasing support for the defibrillators later this year. Various options were considered for future defibrillators including a leasing at £4,800 (£3,600 excl. VAT) over 4 years and outright purchase at £1,744 (£1453 excl. VAT) so the costs were broadly similar. At the present time there was an opportunity for the parish council to apply for one defibrillator free of charge from the British Heart Foundation. The Clerk advised that there was £1,000 in the current years budget and £1,000 in the proposed budget for 2026/27. If unspent the funds could be put into a fund for future Defibrillator replacement.

It was RESOLVED to instruct the Parish Clerk to submit the application for the free Defibrillator from the British Heart Foundation, to include a Defibrillator Replacement Fund in the Parish Council Accounts, and to confirm the inclusion of £1,000 in the 2026/27 budget.

The Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders and adjourn the meeting at 7:20.

Public Open Question Time

No questions from members of public.

Report by County and District Councillors *(Allowance should be made for the District and County Councillor to speak later in the meeting should they be unable to arrive in time).*

Devon County Councillor M Barry presented his written report (*that forms part of these minutes*). The report covered topics including the DCC Extraordinary General meeting regarding Government plans to delay local elections in May and a request to keep children off school when unwell. Councillor Barry also mentioned the implementation of new Social Services IT system intended to streamline processes. Councillor Barry also enquired if the Parish Council had received any updates on “20 is Plenty” from DCC-the Clerk advised that no correspondence had been received to date.

The Council reconvened at 19:30.

3018 – It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes 3003-3014

3019 – Matters arising from Minutes.

M2997 The consultation of the future of the Phone Box was ongoing.

M3010 Parish Plan update- P Jollands reported limited progress due to the festive period however Devon Communities Together had been contacted who may be able to offer support to the process.

3020 –Planning

No items for consideration at this meeting

3021 – Mobile Phone Signal

M Manley had contacted Ofcom regarding mobile phone signal in the village and was advised that they consider there to be good coverage. In discussion it was noted that some mobile providers had better signal coverage in different areas.

3022 – Parish Newsletter

M Manley had produced a first issue of a newsletter setting out what’s on in the parish. It was proposed to distribute the newsletter to households and this was unanimously agreed.

S Read asked whether the mobile post office van could be asked to visit the village as banking was becoming increasingly difficult with the closure of Lloyds Bank in Bideford. The Clerk was asked to contact neighbouring parishes to enquire how to contact the service.

3023 – Footpaths

M Brooks updated the Council on parish footpaths. A quotation of £240 had been received to cut Shutta Track Footpath/Bridleway in Littleham and it was anticipated that it would need to be done twice in 2026. Plans for 2026 include improving the connectivity and condition of Bridleway 10 and Footpath 8.

3024 – Biodiversity

P Jollands advised that the next Biodiversity event was being held on 14th March at the Village Hall.

3025 – Auditors Report

Members noted the contents of the Auditors Report and unanimously approved.

3026 – Finance

The Cashbook dated 29th December and the payments/income since the previous meeting were noted. The payments listed were approved.

(The document is an attachment to and forms part of the Minutes)

It was RESOLVED to approve the documents and the information as presented.

3027 – Finance-Precept

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the 2026/27 Budget totalling £8,000. *(The budget is an attachment to and forms part of these minutes).*

It was RESOLVED that the Council Precept for the Financial Year 2026/2027 be set at £8,000.

This will result in an annual payment of £32.33 for a Band D property. Previous year the payment was £28.75

3028 – Parish Clerk’s Report and consideration of correspondence and communications requiring attention.

No other urgent items had been received beyond items already circulated to councillors by email.

3029 – Items for next meeting

Snow Wardens/Grit Bins and Mobile Post Office/banking hub to be included.

3030 - Next Full Council Meeting - Thursday 05 February 2026.

The meeting closed at 20:25.

Signed:

Councillor P Jollands (Chair to the Parish Council)

Date.....