

# LUCKINGTON AND ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 7.30pm in Luckington Village Hall

### Present:

**Chair:** John Buckley (JB)

**Vice Chair:** Sue Godwin (SG)

### Councillors:

Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Wiltshire Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

**Parish Clerk:** Elise Whittleton (EW)

**Members of the Public:** 1

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### 1/2380. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Jackie Muggleton (JM), Cllr. Roger Phillips (RP).

### 2/2381. Declaration of interests

None declared.

### 3/2382. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

Andrew Sells attended the meeting to offer further explanation on item 11.c. redirection of footpaths. Full detail provided under that item.

### 4/2383. Public Question Time

There were none.

### 5/2384. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2025

EW previously amended the draft minutes to show 5 annual leave hours taken by the Clerk in October. The Minutes were approved by all and signed by JB.

### 6/2385. Matters arising from the 8 October September Minutes

- 4/2369. JB confirmed that no further contact has been made by members of the public relating to the repairs of Alderton phone box but notes it is to be covered under item 8.d, budget planning.
- 8/2373. JB posted on Facebook the summary of budget planning and impact on precept costs.
- 10/2375. JB contacted R. Simkins to proceed with Burial Wall repairs, now completed.
- 10/2375. EW changed notice period required from 3 to 7 working days on cemetery notice of interment form.

### 7/2386. Planning

- a. To review and comment on planning applications received.

[PL/2025/08079](#) - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. Luckington Primary School, The Street, Luckington. T2 Greengage - Reduce crown height growing over parking area to approximately 7.0m in height. Reduce lateral limbs growing over parking area to leave branches approximately 3.0m from centre of trunk. T3 Common Oak - Cut back growth to clear building to provide 2.0m clearance. T4 Cherry - Reduce lateral limbs growing over road by up to 2.0m. T5 Common Hazel - Cut back growth to clear building to provide 1.0m clearance. T10 Common Hazel - Remove stems from rubbing on the wall.

### No objections were raised.

- b. To note planning applications determined.

[PL/2025/07171](#) - Long Ridges Farm, Sherston, Malmesbury - Steel portal framed building, clad on three sides with open face for access by farm machinery and for feeding cattle. Decision: Prior Approval Refused. 1 October 2025.

### 8/2387. Update on financial issues

- a. **There was a discussion to agree payments as follows:**

- i. Gradwell (Clerk's phone): £10.19
- ii. Wiltshire Council (election recharge costs): £280
- iii. Brunel Computing (LAPC website domain registration for 2 years): £14.52
- iv. Luckington Village Hall (hire for 2023/24 meetings and 2024/25 meetings): £320
- v. SLCC (New Clerk training course, Webinar 4, 9 December): £24
- vi. Ryan Russell Estate Management (grass cutting Oct and early Nov): £570.  
Note this is the final grass cutting of the year. Will resume mid-March.
- vii. Robert Simkins (cemetery wall repairs): £300
- viii. Clerk's salary (November 2025) plus 11 additional hours worked in Aug/Sept (agreed at October meeting):  
£562.15  
PAYE (Income Tax deduction, paid to HMRC on behalf of Clerk): £134.20  
Clerk's office allowance (November 2025): £26.00

**All items were approved and signed off by JB and SG.**

EW confirmed LAPC has now been set up with HMRC as an employer. The first salary and office allowance payments for August, September and October were paid on 22 October. The agreed 11 additional hours were not paid in October; these will be paid in November. **Councillors agreed that the regular pay date will be 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.**

**b. The following receipts were noted:**

There were no receipts made during October.

**c. Electoral Expenses**

Wiltshire council have invoiced for election recharge costs for uncontested election: £280. JB contacted Wiltshire Council to find out the costs of a contested election and was informed it is approximately £3,000 (depending on the number of candidates). As the parish will only have a maximum of 6 weeks' notice of the number of candidates standing ahead of an election to determine whether it is 'contested' or uncontested', this is a significant impact on that year's budget. Planning ahead for this is essential and will be covered in item 6.d.

**d. Budget planning 2026/27**

JB shared proposals for 2026/27 budget. Noting the difficult financial position the parish council is currently in (discussed at the 8 October meeting) JB offered several proposals of how this could be addressed to establish a secure financial base. These included increasing the precept over one, two or three years to reach financial stability and allow the parish council to fund mandated expenditure and have the scope to fund projects that residents have requested, like the repairs to Alderton phone box. JB noted that the audit earlier in the year recommended increasing reserves to cover 3 months' operating costs, so this too has been factored in. Councillors preferred to close the funding gap immediately in the 2026/27 budget and then return to increases in line with inflation. Councillor Smith (Wiltshire Councillor for Sherston Ward) also indicated that rising funding pressures on Wiltshire Council are likely to result in further costs falling on parish councils to fund some functions previously discharged wholly by the unitary authority. JB noted that Wiltshire Council has not yet provided the tax base or precept calculator. Once this is received, a final and more accurate budget will be produced for consideration at the December meeting.

**9/2388. Lime Down Solar Park update**

Councillors noted the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Lime Down Solar Park, submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on Friday 19 September 2025, has been accepted for examination as part of the statutory process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. All Interested Parties must register and submit a Relevant Representation on or before **23:59pm of Friday 09 January 2026**. The Examining Authority will be appointed in due course and will use the views put forward in the Relevant Representations to carry out an initial assessment of the principal issues. After the close of the registration period, all representations will be published on the Lime Down Solar Park page of the Planning Inspectorate's website.

JB proposed to provide a draft version of one to submit on behalf of the Parish Council at the December meeting, all Councillors agreed. JB advised all Councillors to submit their own relevant representations after the December meeting.

**10/2389. Cemetery update**

EW confirmed the interment of ashes of C Evans took place on 13 October 2025. The plot was reserved for exclusive right of burial. The undertakers, A. Slade and Son, Cirencester, have made the payment.

EW confirmed a resident has been in touch to reserve a plot for herself and family member. This will be for a mixed burial (burial and ashes). Councillors confirmed a double depth plot will need to be reserved.

**11/2390. Highways**

a. **Updates**

- i) JB confirmed he has provided Wiltshire Council with the sites for the discretionary gully service. These are for B4040 opposite old Post Office/Pump House in Luckington; Church Rd Luckington, adjacent to Bridge over River Avon; and Chapel Row, Luckington, surface gullies alongside playing field.
- ii) Wiltshire Council Blanket order received from One.Network for pre-surface dressing patching programme Allengrove Lane from 29 October to 4 November 2025. Completed.
- iii) Wiltshire Council indicated they planned to do works on B4040 on 5<sup>th</sup> November, the date of the fireworks event; JB requested Wiltshire Council postponed these works, as it would have caused significant disruption on a very busy day in the village, which was agreed. We now await the new date.
- iv) Member of public, Barry Snell, corresponded with Councillors outside the meeting, querying the national speed limit on section of the B4040 between Luckington and Sherston. JB confirmed this used to be subject to the national speed limit (60mph) but was reduced in 2016 after a countywide initiative by Wiltshire Highways. The junction with Shallowbrook lane is problematic, and emerging vehicles have no view in either direction. But little can be done as it is flanked by privately owned properties.

b. **20mph zone and school travel plan updates**

No updates provided for this meeting by Nicole Beazer or Sara Rodwell.

c. **Highways Act 1980 - proposed diversion of Luckington Footpaths 17, 20 and 21 and Sherston 43**

Councillors discussed the proposed diversion of Footpaths Luckington 21, 22 (Plan A) and Luckington 17 (Plan B). Andrew Sells attended the meeting to provide further explanation why he is requesting the change.

- i) Footpath Luckington 21 runs right by his house and increasingly members of the public are using this footpath and staring in the house. Instead proposes to divert to existing footpath Luckington 22, which then rejoins the footpath. **Councillors raised no objections to this proposal but request new signage is put up.**
- ii) Footpath Luckington 17 runs through pastureland used for livestock (lambs). Mr Sells explained members of the public are entering this field and letting dogs off leads, impacting livestock and he has lost a number of lambs. Installing fencing in the field would be costly, and he is unable to use the field as intended. Instead proposes to divert the footpath onto the existing bridleway along the edge of his field to then rejoin up with the existing footpath. **Councillors raised no objections to this proposal but request new signage is put up.**

Reporting on issues should continue to be made to Wiltshire Highways via the 'MyWilts App and via the website [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting). The Parish Council advises members of the public to create an account, as this allows for further tracking of reported issues.

**12/2391. Report from Outside Meetings**

There were none.

**13/2392. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only**

- EW proposes, if time allows before the next meeting, to review the parish website for accessibility compliance, and will report back.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.