

# LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 7pm in Luckington Village Hall

### Present:

**Chair:** Richard McCraith (RMC)

**Vice Chair:** Nigel Neale (NN)

### Councillors:

John Buckley (JB)

Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Sue Godwin (SG)

**Parish Clerk:** Carol Rogers (CR)

### Members of the Public: 9

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#### 1/2267. Lime Down Solar Park

A presentation was given on behalf of 'Stop Lime Down' by Sir Mike Pitt and Richard Skeffington (Retired Professor of Geography). This was followed by a Q&A session with members of the public.

#### 2/2268. Apologies for absence

None

#### 3/2269. Declaration of interests

There were none.

#### 4/2270. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

There was no discussion.

#### 5/2271. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

#### 6/2272. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2025

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by RMC.

#### 7/2273. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

#### 8/2274. The following planning application was considered:

[PL/2025/01849](#): Ivy Cottage, Sopworth Lane, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PA (two storey rear extension). It was noted that a slightly different version of this application was submitted 3 years ago. **There were no objections.**

#### 9/2275. Update on financial issues

- a. There was a discussion to agree payments as follows:  
Clerk's expenses: (travel and stationery) £50.25  
Defibrillator pad reimbursement to LCPC £237.60  
These were **approved** and signed off by RMC & NN.
- b. The existing LAPC auditor, Stuart Pollard from Auditing Solutions, is available to conduct the Council Audit for 2024/25. The Council approved this appointment.
- c. 2025/2026 Precept: Following confirmation of receipt of the LAPC Precept Requirement return from the Wiltshire Council Financial Planning Department, with no further queries, this is to confirm the precept of £12,615 for 2025/2026.

### **10/2276. Rental of The Paddock (land next to Luckington Parish Cemetery)**

An update was provided on expressions of interest received following the recent advertising. This is still ongoing, so it was agreed that this item should be carried forward to the April meeting. Any decisions regarding the tidying or clearing of the field should be on hold until its future use is confirmed.

### **11/2277. LAPC Councillor vacancies**

See agenda item 16 below. Roger Phillips, Luckington resident, has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and attended the meeting as an observer.

**Action:** CR to circulate councillor election forms and information.

Note: LAPC currently has vacancies for 2 councillors. Parish Councillors are vital to local democracy and without Parish Councils, many important local tasks would simply not be done. If any parish residents are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk (Carol Rogers) on 01666 800850 or [clerk@luckington.org.uk](mailto:clerk@luckington.org.uk), and she will arrange for one of the current serving Councillors to discuss the role and provide more details.

### **12/2278. Lime Down update.**

There was discussion regarding the draft response submission to the Lime Down Solar Park 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Public Consultation. The draft was approved by all and will be submitted to LDSP.

### **13/2279. Cemetery update**

It was confirmed that the interment of Mrs Belinda Shimwell will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### **14/2280. Highways update**

- The discharge of water from the inspection chamber on the verge in Church Road continues to be an issue. The Wiltshire Council Land Drainage Team has identified that this may be the result of an outflow blockage on private land. This outflow needs to be unblocked before Wiltshire Council can clear the drainage line. It was agreed that the Council will issue an explanatory letter to the landowner.  
**Action:** JB to provide draft wording for the letter.
- The Rathole has again been cleared by locals.
- Reporting on issues should continue to be made to Wiltshire Highways via [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting).

### **15/2281. Report from Outside Meetings**

- The next Operational Flood Group meeting is 20th March. This is a useful vehicle for getting local issues raised.
- A preliminary meeting has been held with the Lime Down developer to discuss community benefits.

### **16/2282. Co-option of new Parish Councillor**

The Council formally confirmed the appointment of Jackie Muggleton as a Parish Councillor. The required co-option forms have now been signed by relevant parties and Electoral Services will be notified accordingly.

### **17/2283. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only**

- A request has been received from an Alderton resident for additional waste bins in Alderton village. There is currently one bin by the duck pond. There is currently insufficient funding to accommodate this.
- A Luckington resident has reported that the Luckington telephone box is leaking and that a quantity of books has been damaged as a result. It was also noted that the Alderton telephone box is in a poor state of repair.

**Action:** CR to add telephone box maintenance to the April agenda.

The meeting closed at 9pm.