



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL
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LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL – Council Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting of Langport Town Council
held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.00pm
in the first-floor meeting room, Langport Town Hall

Present Councillors:

A Wilson	B Paterson
C Gherasim	I MacNab
M Crumb	S Peterkin
S Dromgoole	S Glas
R Crumb	

In attendance was Gerard Tucker, Town Clerk, Morag Kelly, Deputy Clerk, Somerset Cllr Mike Stanton and 9 members of the public. There were no members of the press present.

Thomas Martin, the MD of UK Home Interiors informed that his business has acquired the former Travis Perkins site in North Street. He thanked the Chair and clerk for their support and warm welcome. Cllr Mike Stanton reported that Somerset Council has managed to set a balanced budget, although it has only been possible by being allowed by central government to raise the precept by 7.5%. Sales of assets will also be permitted to be used in future budgets. 550 jobs continue to be 'at risk' and the process of seeking voluntary redundancies and identifying enforced redundancies continues. The proposed changes to car park income represents .0016% of the total budget, yet produced a high level of debate.

Residents of Whatley raised concerns that if parking charges are incurred, then the public footpath that leads up the hill may be used by motorists. Another resident -?? Raised concerns about the impact parking charges will have on Langport, in particular residents parking at Stacey's Court. Ms Nash accepted the opportunity to act as a residents link to the Town Council.

TC2024/118 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1)) County Cllr Richard Wilkins was absent due to man flu!

TC2024/119 Declarations of interests

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declaration)

There were no declarations of interest.

TC2024/120 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on Tuesday 18th February 2025 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41 (1))

The minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated prior to the meeting were considered a true and accurate account.

TC2024/121 Town Clerk's Oral Report -

Including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting.

- The grant application to the APB Summerset Fund was unsuccessful
- An award of a £2,500 grant from the Health and Well-being fund at SALC to address loneliness was successful. Whilst this was a Levels and Moors LCN application, the majority of the work will be compiled through the Langport TC office.
- We are Chain, the web host used by LTC has increased their fees from £150 per annum to £275
- The work to reinstate the path on Cocklemoor by the Cana Camp team will commence on 17th April and be completed by 26th April.
- The Veterans Day planned for 21st June has been cancelled. The reason cited was the absence of adequate parking.
- The extension to the Doctor's surgery will commence in June. During the work programme, the use of the car park will not be available for traders at the Saturday market.
- The early discussions on hosting a Food and Drink festival in Langport have been postponed for another year.
- Interviews for the position of Lengthsman will be held on Wednesday 19th March.
- The Clerk thanked the council for their understanding whilst he took extended leave to visit relations in Australia.

TC2024/122 Planning

A. Application Number 25/00471/REM

Proposal: Application for approval of the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping matters pursuant to the granting of outline planning permission 21/00311/OUT for the erection of 100 dwellings, associated open space and infrastructure (not EIA development)

Location: Land to the North of Somerton Road adj The White Bungalow, Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi.

Applicant: Abri Group Ltd

Application Type: Approval of Reserved Matters

The Town Council were supportive of the application before them. However a concern was raised that any Developers contributions which could have been used to support the infrastructure projects in Langport will be given to Huish Episcopi Parish Council.

TC2024/123 Litter and dog waste bins report with a recommendation to purchase five x 240ltr bins

The clerk presented an update on the costs associated to emptying of dog and litter bins in Langport. There are twelve bins that will be charged at £6.50 per bin for each empty, which is expected to be weekly. This equates to £338 per bin per annum, a total of £4,056. He suggested that councillors should consider the removal of the twelve bins, replacing with five much larger 240ltr communal bins. The cost of these would be £500 plus delivery – total £2,500. Once installed, the cost of collections should reduce to £1,690, a saving of £2,366 per annum. Installation will be completed by the new Lengthsman once appointed. Councillors **AGREED** unanimously to purchase five bins from Broxap, identified as Derby Double E Litter bin. 10-0-0

TC2024/124 Response to Somerset Council proposal to charge for car parking.

Somerset Council has resolved to charge for parking across all of its carparks in the spirit of fairness. The absence of an alternative place for parking, particularly employees and residents will create additional hardship if charging is implemented. Langport Town Council is to write to Somerset Council and express concern that the implementation of charging would cause.

TC2024/125 To receive written or oral reports from meetings and training attended by councillors on behalf of the Council

Local Community Network – to include: Full meeting, Stoke St Gregory VH Monday 31st March 2025

- Highways, a useful meeting had been held in Curry Rivel, when a representative from Kier attended, together with an Officer from Somerset Council. Many concerns were aired and an action plan for responding created.
- Active Travel. The Curry Rivel and Drayton Active Travel group organised a walk and meeting with Mike Fletcher from the Strawberry Line cycle route programme. The outcomes and experiences learnt will be shared in due course.
- Transport Hub. The consultants WSP appointed by Somerset Council have visited Langport and will be compiling a report on what may be feasible in the creation of a Transport Hub
- Unfortunately, no one was able to attend the recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on 17th March.

TC2024/126 Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26

The Calendar of meetings for Full Council, Finance and Personnel and Tourism and Marketing were circulated to members and approved.

TC2024/127 Town Council insurance renewal AJG, the second year of a three year contract.

Langport town Council entered in to a three-year arrangement with Hiscox Insurance through the agent AJ Gallagher in 2024. This is the second year of that arrangement. The item was raised to ensure that Councillors were aware that adequate insurance cover is in place.

TC2024/128 – Chairman's Report to include:

- Somerset Day – request has been received from Rachel Smith for consent to host an additional market on Sunday 11th May to coincide with Somerset Day. This request was approved.
- The Piddly Circus has confirmed that it will be coming to Langport in June 2025. Being the smallest town in England, this meets with their programme of exhibiting and performing very small items.
- Langport Art Trail. Early discussions with the Langport Area Business Group has identified that an arts trail in Langport would be well received, with many artists and venues wanting to participate.

Meeting closed at 8:50

Signed

Date: