



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL
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LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL – Council Minutes
Minutes of the Meeting of Langport Town Council
held on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7.00pm
in the first-floor meeting room, Langport Town Hall

Present Councillors:

A Wilson	M Crumb
S Dromgoole	R Crumb
B Paterson	A Donald
S Glas	

In attendance was Gerard Tucker, Town Clerk, Morag Kelly, Deputy Clerk, Somerset Cllr Richard Wilkins and 10 members of the public. There were no members of the press present.

Public Participation – Items raised included:

Residents of St Gilda's raised a concern about the location of and the anticipated noise from the proposed skate park. A frustration was expressed that Skate Langport have not been responding to requests for a meeting. Cllr Dromgoole was understanding of their frustration and offered to broker a meeting between the two parties at an early convenience. The state of the path between Black Bridge and Cocklemoor was raised, as there is a need for additional stone surfacing to prevent the path from being so slippery. A hole at the edge of the path was also identified that needs to be addressed. Additional signage is required to inform of no overnight sleeping and slippery paths. Cllr Richard Wilkins summarised the bridge repair works, concluding that the programme of works had gone very well and had been delivered quicker than planned. There is to be a full road closure (evenings) in October for the resurfacing of Field Road.

TC2025/52 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Cllr Peterkin – abroad, Cllr MacNab, out of county funeral attendance

TC2025/53 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 declarations. There were no declarations of interest.

TC2025/54 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th July, 29th July 2025 and 12th August 2025 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41 (1))

The minutes of the July Full Council meeting and two extraordinary meetings recently held were presented to the council. The minutes of each meeting were considered to be correct and were duly signed by the Chair.

TC2025/55 Planning

Proposal: Demolition of existing garage and conservatory and erection of a side and rear extension and utilise the roof space as first floor accommodation.

Location: 24, Whatley, Langport

Applicant Mr and Mrs Loy

Application Type: Householder application

Application Number: 25/02013/HOU

A presentation was provided to the council where it was observed that most of the properties on Whatley have already undergone similar extensions. Cllr Dromgoole proposed, Cllr R Crumb seconded and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the application be supported with no suggested conditions. 7-0-0.

TC2025/56 Town Clerk's Oral Report -

including use of delegated powers and update on progress since the last meeting, to include:
Attention had been drawn to the absence of sanitary bins in the public toilets. A contract for two bins has been set up costing the council an additional £320.00 per annum +VAT.
Laptop used in the Langport Information Centre was broken – beyond repair. A refurbished laptop has been purchased at a cost of £200 + VAT.
A skip was hired to remove redundant boats on Cocklemoor. The four boats which were used as planters had begun to break down and were looking scruffy. The cost of hiring a skip was £240 + VAT
The cycle repair station located near the toilets has lost a number of tools and the pump is no longer working. The pending Transport Hub project may provide a replacement tool station, which has been costed at £460 +VAT
Wessex Water have notified Langport Town Council that they are to install a Water Quality Monitoring station in 2026. A site visit is planned for a date in early October.

TC2025/57 Landscape Recovery Programme – update

The clerk presented a paper prepared by the RSPB which showed the area on Common Moor that would, if the water table was allowed to rise have a significant additional value to the ecology of the area. Councillors endorsed the continuance of an engagement with the RSPB, although it is recognised that Langport TC does not own land that would be directly affected by the proposal. However, secondary impacts, particularly the encouragement of eco-tourism, and public access directly impact on opportunities for the town.

TC2025/58 To consider the building of a pétanque area using funds allocated to the Cocklemoor Trust held in the Town Trust account.

The Finance and Personnel committee had received a presentation suggesting that the funds required to build a pétanque court on Cocklemoor could be released from the Town Trust account. This money is specifically to be used for projects on or associated to Cocklemoor. The clerk provided an estimate of £2,500 to complete the work, particularly if voluntary labour could be identified to assist. Cllr Dromgoole proposed, seconded by Cllr Donald and unanimously **AGREED** that the project should be completed as soon as possible.

TC2025/59 To receive written or oral reports from meetings and training attended by councillors on behalf of the Council

- i Local Community Network
 - a. Active Travel – The Curry Rivel to Langport cycle route is making great progress. The Environment Agency has offered the project the stone that has been used on a compound in Muchelney. The transport has been agreed and Drayton residents are comfortable with

- the need for the movement through their village. The route between Langport and Aller has met with a few problems, in particular gaining access consent from land owners.
- b. Health and Wellbeing - Langport TC has been managing a small contract which it is hoped will address loneliness. The idea is to map the organisations that meet in each parish and save this information on a shared document. Phil Sharratt has been contracted to compile the information and he recently reported that great progress has been made.
 - ii Entertainment and Activities – No progress has been made since the last meeting of the council
 - iii Huish and Langport Memorial Field – The annual general meeting has now taken place and there is a change of some official positions. The major concern continues to be the commencement of building an extension of the changing rooms in the wrong place. Work has been halted and the enforcement planning team consulted. Information requested from which it was anticipated a service level agreement can be prepared has not been forthcoming. Until such time as information is provided, there can be no financial support provided to support the Memorial Field Committee.

TC2025/60 To receive updates on council committees held since the last Full Council meeting.

- i. Joint Council Committee
 - a. Somerset Council decision on the merger of Huish Episcopi and Langport Councils. The Constitution and Governance Committee had voted by majority to recommend to Full Council that the proposed merger should now proceed.
 - b. At a recent meeting of the committee, a summary of the additional car parking provision was discussed and the five sites that have been further researched was reduced to two. Northmoor and Westover both require additional input from a highways consultant. Research is currently underway to identify qualified professional highways consultants who can advise the councils on requirements to ensure highway compliance and safety.
- ii. Abattoir Liaison Group.
 - a. The change in speed limits are now in place and are proving effective.
 - b. Additional screening is required on the south side of the site and will take the form of new trees.
 - c. The noise trial was considered successful and ABP are analysing the results and looking for solutions
- iii. Finance and Personnel
 - a. Octagon Theatre have sent a request for funding based on the population. Langport has been asked for a contribution of £25,000, which is clearly too much. The clerk was asked to respond and inform of the situation and suggest that a much smaller grant can be applied for.
 - b. The introduction of additional flowers in the centre of Langport has proved very popular. The wooden containers are showing signs of wear and replacements are now required. The clerk is to devise a plan of containers, together with costs and potential sponsorship and present to the next meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - c. Grants awarded include £750 to the Langport Food Bank and £75.00 to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal.
 - d. Marketing consultant – Gordon McKerrow who undertakes social media and digi-board updates has asked that his remuneration is reconsidered. Cllr Dromgoole proposed, seconded by Cllr Donald and unanimously **AGREED** that his salary is increased by £240 per annum.
 - e. Cemetery Wall repairs have been quoted for and the work is to commence in the week beginning 6th October. Pete Saunders is to complete the work at a cost of £1,800.

TC2025/61 To review the recent work programme on the A378 railway bridge and the effectiveness of the diversion routes.

The work programme was delivered to an extremely high standard. Many organisations were helpful in ensuring that disruption was kept to a minimum. The clerk was asked to contact Somerset Council Morgan Sindall and First Bus to thank them for their respective input, which was very much appreciated.

TC2025/62 To discuss the future of the HGV permit scheme for Langport Town Centre (Bow Street and North Street).

The clerk shared his concerns that the HGV Permit scheme is at risk from collapsing due to the lack of time to register vehicles and undertake regular HGV watches. No income is derived from the scheme and it is doubted how many lorry drivers pay any attention to the voluntary restrictions. At times when a diversion is required, Somerset Highways divert all vehicles through Langport, despite a restriction being in place. Cllr R Crumb proposed, seconded by Cllr Glas and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the scheme be suspended.

TC2025/63 Finance – Bank Account Balances -

to note the balances of the Council’s bank accounts as of 31/08/2025

Nat West Current Account - £11,733.12

Nat West Savings Account £159,951.91

Langport Trust - £ 6,603.79

CCLA £ 5,000.00

TC2025/64 Finance - Accounts for Payment and Income -

to note items of expenditure and income for August

The list of income and expenditure was previously circulated with to Councillors and was presented to the meeting. There were no questions or comments arising

TC2025/65 Correspondence received to include:

Parrett Internal Drainage Board have informed that the EA have instigated the Prolonged Dry Weather status, reflecting the low levels of rainfall over the summer period.

TC2025/66 Chairman’s Report

The Chairman informed the council of the success of the recent opportunity to visit the site of the Roman remains on a site to be developed by ABRI. The grain dryer and corn store were of particular interest and he suggested that the council contacts ABRI to enquire if this could remain as a feature of the site.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed Date21st October 2025