



LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL
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LANGPORT TOWN COUNCIL – Council Minutes
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Langport Town Council
held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 7.00pm
in the first-floor meeting room, Langport Town Hall

Present Councillors:

S Dromgoole (Chair)

S Glas

I MacNab

M Crumb

C Gherasim

R Crumb

B Paterson

S Peterson

In attendance was Gerard Tucker, Town Clerk, Morag Kelly, Deputy Clerk, 3 members of the public. There were no members of the press present.

Public participation. Cllr Stanton provided a summary of activities within Somerset Council, which included:

- a) The continue pressures of delivering the Adult Social Care service
- b) The enormous number of potholes that have been attended to as a result of the wet winter weather
- c) The impact of climate change on the services managed by the authority.
- d) Response to flooding with increased income from central Government

A member sought the answer to questions previously raised and sought a response from the council on the provision of additional car parking. Cllr Wilkins responded with a detailed, prepared statement. In summary, all car parks throughout the county are being reevaluated, with a report expected to be presented to Full Council in September. Any suggested amendments to Whatley or Stacey's Court car parks will then be subject to a full consultation process where all stakeholders will get the opportunity to contribute. There is no substance to any of the rumours that are being shared at this time.

TC2026/04 Election of Chair of the Council

Cllr Dromgoole was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr M Crumb and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Dromgoole be the chair of the council for the next year.

TC2026/05 Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Dromgoole signed and dated the declaration and acceptance of office.

TC2026/06 Election of Deputy Chair of the Council

Cllr Peterkin was proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr M Crumb and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Peterkin be the deputy chair of the council for the next year.

TC2026/07 To receive Apologies for Absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Cllr Wilson (representing the council at another meeting)

Cllr Donald (holiday)

Full Council Meeting Minutes – 26th May 2026

TC2026/08 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.

Cllr Dromgoole declared an personal interest in item TC2026/12 (family member works for the applicant)
Cllr McNab declared an interest in TC2026/15 as he is a trustee of the Duchess of Cocklemoor Community Interest Company

TC2026/09 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on Tuesday 21st April and Tuesday 19th May 2026 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41 (1))

The minutes of both meetings were considered a true and correct record and were duly signed by the respective chairs.

TC2026/10 Town Clerk's Oral Report -

Items to include: -

Water monitoring station installation – first phase of installation is due to be completed in the next few days

Pontoon installation has now been completed and they are being regularly used

Lengthsman's work since the last meeting:-

- Replacement fence posts and rails installed on Cocklemoor
- Weeding – Moor Lane, Priests Hill, The Hill
- Market stalls, repairing to gazebos.
- Strimming River bank – Black Bridge/Westover cycleway
- Painted the new berth which is currently located in Aller
- Watering and general maintenance

Petanque result Langport v Long Sutton – sadly Langport came second on this occasion

TC2026/11 To consider a request from Curry Rivel PC to support an application for a conservation area.

Councillors considered the request from Curry Rivel Parish Council to support their application to have a defined conservation area. Cllr Dromgoole proposed, seconded by Cllr R Crumb and unanimously **RESOLVED** to support the request 8-0-0

TC2026/12 Premises licence application, Corner Shop, Cheapside, Langport TA10 9PW

Councillor Dromgoole declared an interest. Councillors considered the consultation for a premises licence at The Corner Shop. As there was no request to extend the shops opening hours, no on site consumption will take place and the support for a local business, Councillors unanimously support the application. 7-0-0

TC2026/13 To receive written or oral reports from meetings and training attended by councillors on behalf of the Council.

- i Transport Hub – including public art. Cllr Peterkin informed that the date for the commencement of work on the Transport Hub has yet to be finalised. Somerset Arts Works are keen to engage with the wider community to identify appropriate works that can be displayed or installed. A sum of £17,000 has been secured from the project to identify and provide appropriate work. As soon as a date for the commencement of work is known, this will be shared with retailers and the wider public.
- ii Abattoir Liaison Group. The Deputy Town Clerk informed that at a recent meeting, ABP informed that they were reducing the number of refrigerated units recharging overnight in anticipation that noise levels will be reduced.

TC2026/14 To receive updates on council committees held since the last Full Council meeting.

There have been no formal meetings of council committees since the last meeting.

TC2026/15 To receive a report on the provision of a landing stage for The Duchess of Cocklemoor .

The Town Clerk has been leading on providing a safe passenger berth for river craft such as the Duchess of Ciocklemoor. The suggested location of The Gas Works Inlet has been identified. The EA are informed and in principal, subject to an application being submitted are seemingly supportive of the preferred location. Quotes are being sought for the removal of silt and the manufacture of a pontoon extension. Councillors acknowledged the importance of providing a safe berth and endorsed the Town Clerk pursuing this project. 8-0-0 .

TC2026/16 To receive a revised report on the managing of litter emptying of the bins on Cocklemoor and at Black Bridge.

The Town Clerk having previously reported on this subject was asked to find out if there is known legislation and training required to enable the Town Council to undertake this work themselves. He was further asked to identify someone who may do the work in the absence of the Lengthsman. COSSH regulations inform that there is a need to ensure a robust risk assessment has been prepared and that all eventualities have been considered. Cllr Paterson indicated that he knew of someone who may be able to help prepare a suitable risk assessment. At this time, cover for the Lengthsman has not been identified, although the search is continuing.

TC2026/17 To appoint Councillors the following Committee

- i. Finance and Personnel. (Chairman S Dromgoole and Vice-Chairman S Peterkin) Additional members M Crumb, A Donald, S Glas and A Wilson
- ii. Tourism and Marketing. (Chairman S Dromgoole and Vice-Chairman S Peterkin). Additional members R Crumb, C Gherasim, I MacNab, S Glas (Footpath Liaison Officer), A Wilson, Representatives from Huish Episcopi Parish Council, Langport Area Business Group, Langport Information Centre lead volunteer and Market and Vintage Market Coordinators
- iii. Active Travel Group – R Crumb, S Glas, A Wilson and representatives from HEPC
- iv. Joint Parishes (Chairman S Dromgoole and Vice-Chairman S Peterkin) plus M Crumb and B Paterson

TC2026/18 To appoint Councillors as representatives to outside bodies and Councillor offices

Outside Body	Current Representative
Abattoir Liaison Group	S Dromgoole
Annie Tite Fund	R Crumb
Langport & Huish Episcopi Memorial Field	C Gherasim & A Wilson
Sir Edward Hext Almshouses	I MacNab & A Donald
Langport Area Business Group	S Glas, A Donald
Cocklemoor Community Trust CIO	I MacNab
Active Travel Group	R Crumb
Somerset Bus Partnership	I MacNab
Councillor Offices	
Joint Council	S Dromgoole, S Peterkin, B Paterson, M Crumb
Footpaths Liaison Officer	S Glas
Flood Warden	B Paterson
Climate Champion	I MacNab
Litter Pick Organiser	R Crumb
Landscape Recovery Programme	S Dromgoole & R Crumb

Finance and Audit TC2026/19

16.1 To note the internal auditors report

Internal Audit recommendations 2025/26

1. The annual review of our investment policy is due now. Intend to cover this on the next F&P agenda
2. Our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been reviewed, although the SO's do not align with the £30k guidance which requires wider consultation if tendering.
3. A review of our Risk Register is due (this was done at the April full council meeting, yet was too late for the year the internal audit covered. **No action required**)
4. Findings of the Internal Auditor to be placed on our website
5. Our Earmarked Reserves have been depleted and there is quite a large quantity of funds in the General Reserves, we need to discuss and agree on the movement of funds between the two reserves.
6. The values contained within the Asset Register needs to be reviewed.
7. The AGAR for the past 5 years needs to be on our website and the corresponding figures align (there is a very small discrepancy between 2023 and 2024 (less than £10))
8. Cllrs responsibilities needs to be placed on to our website.
9. It is suggested that we conduct an annual data audit

16.2 To receive the Bank balances of the Council's bank accounts

Nat West Business Reserve	£ 57,133.70
Nat West Current Account	£ 9,748.72
Nat West Langport Trust	£ 5,303.79
CCLA	£103,000

16.3 Budget monitoring to 30/04/2026. The budget monitoring block chart with explanations was presented to the Council. There were no questions arising from the presentation

16.4 Income and expenditure for April

Total	Description	Supplier
4.20	Bank charges	Nat West Bank
246.53	Microshade fee April 2026	Microshade Business Consultants
476.93	Affiliation fee 2026-27	Somerset Association of Local Councils
5,408.00	Litter and dog waste bin emptying 2025-26	Somerset Council
1,170.00	Clearing Back Water	Bernard G Perry
30.00	Printer rent	Futureform
24.99	Printer usage	Futureform
55.11	Payroll and pension services	Compass Disability
1.65	Podpoint Admin fee	Podpoint Ltd
240.00	Tourism consultancy	Gordon McKerrow
938.93	Staff Salary	Staff salaries
338.53	Staff Salary	Staff salaries
1,024.05	Staff Salary	Staff salaries
913.40	Staff Salary	Staff salaries
141.20	Locum finance services	Hoblake Services
58.97	Materials for fence repairs	Expenses
167.44	Toilet cleaning cover	Chris Chapman
398.82	New phones and calls	EDF Energy
161.79	Electricity EV charging	EDF Energy
72.91	Electricity public toilets	EDF Energy
36.88	Bankline fee	Nat West
635.49	PAYE & NI	HMRC
51.23	Oil and sundries for lengthsman	Expenses
50.45	Cleaning supplies	Concept
42.00	Land Registry check	Expenses
3,065.57	Insurance	Gallagher
92.00	Scribe accounts and cemetery	Scribe

TC2026/20 Chairman's Report

Items of information.

The Chairman mentioned the annual Friendly Society gathering recently held and endorsed the tradition of the Society. A leaflet informing of Langport's historic connection to Walter Bagehot was distributed to councillors.

A number of 'close encounters' have been experienced through young people jumping from the towns bridges in to the river. This concern is to be shared with the police.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm