

## LOXTON PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 AT 7.00PM

**In attendance:** Chairman Shipton, Cllr Bassett, Cllr Davies, Cllr Eden, and one member of the Public.

The Minutes were taken by Clerk Sally Ferguson. The meeting opened at 7.12 p.m.

**55/25** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**56/25 Apologies for absence**-Unitary Cllr. Tristram cannot attend Tuesday meetings.

**57/25 Declaration of Interests** – None declared.

**58/25 Minutes of Last Meeting** – The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were resolved as accurate and signed by the Vice Chairman.

**59/25 Public Speaking-**

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 7.14 p.m. to allow the Public to speak. A resident expressed concern about the roadside wall at Church Farm which had still not been repaired. This poses a hazard to road users, as there is a considerable drop, should a vehicle leave the road. The Clerk would follow this up with the landowner and Highways. The meeting opened at 7.16 pm.

**60/25 Planning:**

There were no planning applications for consideration.

**61/25 Free Trees**

Chairman Shipton had emailed and telephoned the Forest of Avon Trust and had had no reply so far.

**62/25 Mendip Hills Community Fund**

This was discussed and the Clerk was asked to establish if there was scope to apply for a bench for the Parish Acre, or funding for tree planting.

**63/25**

The Clerk presented the Budget, outlining predicted expenditure to the end of the financial year along with provisional figures for 2026–27. The Budget was balanced, and it was agreed to set the Precept at £7,700.00, representing a 3.4% increase. Based on the provisional figures issued by NSC in December, this would result in a modest annual rise of £2.54 for a Band D property.

The Clerk confirmed that, assuming spending forecasts to 31st March are accurate, reserves will reach the target level of 12 months' average expenditure. From 1st April, the 'Reserves' account will be divided into separate categories: an Election Fund, General Reserves, and the remaining Precept for 2026–27. It remains sensible to retain as much funding as possible in this account, as it accrues interest that helps offset the recently introduced bank charges on the current account.

**64/25**

**Finance and to approve payments since last meeting-**

It was resolved to approve the payments since last meeting and acknowledge those due before the next meeting in March 2026.

- Clerk Salary December =£164.96
- Home Allowance = £20.00
- N.I./Tax December = £41.20
- December Bank Charge= £4.25
- Orderly Payment =To be paid this month, now confirmed at £720.00 for 2025.
- Clerk Salary January= £164.96
- N.I./Tax January = £41.20

- January Bank Charge= £4.25

Bank Balances before January payments are :

- Current Account = £719.46
- Deposit Account = £9,459.62
- VAT (To reclaim) = £351.71

#### **65/25 Reports:**

1. **District Councillor** –No report.
2. **Highways/Footpaths** –The Clerk was asked to contact Compton Bishop Parish Council regarding the refurbishment of a Fingerpost outside the Hub.
3. **Parish Acre** – The Clerk would establish if there was funding available for a replacement bench/trees (see Minute 62.25).
4. **Parish Orderly** -Nothing to report.
5. **Community Hub** – Cllr Davies gave an update. The Hub would be closed for 10 days from 12<sup>th</sup> January to move the kitchen to the new building. The rest of the new building was scheduled to be open in March.

#### **66/25 Items not covered elsewhere and items for the next agenda:**

- To consider awarding grants for the maintenance of the two parish churchyards.

**Next meeting: Meeting of the Parish Council:**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

**Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.**