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Minutes of the Meeting of **LAMERTON PARISH COUNCIL** in Lamerton Community Centre On **Tuesday 8th SEPTEMBER 2026 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr A Cole (Chair), Cllr K Dreher, Cllr M Exley-Deane, Cllr R Geake, Cllr A Reid

Absent: Cllr J Grainger (DCC), Cllr N Jory (WDBC), Cllr S Deeks

In Attendance: Mrs C Oxenham (clerk), 2 members of the public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Member of the public commented on the state of The Avenue and the water pipe which is too high and cannot direct water into the drains (W3W magazines/panel/footballers). Clerk to contact DCC to request they lower the pipe on the right-hand side (Mullywell). Comments also made re the state of the road at Venn.

131-2026 APOLOGIES

Cllr Deeks had sent his apologies.

132-2026 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declared interests.

133-2026 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON:

a) 14th July 2026 - PQT a) spelling error 'cited'. Cllr Dreher proposed that subject to this correction, these minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Cllr Exley-Deane and agreed by all who had been present at the meeting.

b) Extraordinary meeting on 12th August – Not available. Deferred to next meeting.

134-2026 COMMUNITY CENTRE

a) Appointment of Councillor representative – Proposed Cllr Geake, seconded Cllr Exley-Deane - Cllr Reid and Dreher appointed.

b) Discussion regarding any updates re the lease and works going forward – no updates

c) To acknowledge receipt of notice of intent to fit solar panels to the hall – Tim Culverhouse (Treasurer of the Sports and Community Centre) was in attendance and was able to answer any questions which Councillors had.

135-2026 TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RE HIGHWAYS ISSUES

a) Newly re-opened road at property at Camplehaye (South end)– Cllr Jory not in attendance. Cllr Dreher proposed that we write to WDBC, to include previous planning applications which were refused on the grounds of access on to the road, seconded Cllr Exley-Deane. Clerk to draft and circulate.

136-2026 FINANCES

Unity Trust bank balance as at 31/08/26 current account £13,322.80, reserves account £15,487.96 and Special Events £787.28

a) Invoices due for payment to be authorised. Proposed Cllr Reid, seconded Cllr Geake. All in favour. All payments have been loaded ready for authorisation by Cllr Cole and Cllr Dreher asap.

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Clerks salary August	£334.16
HMRC	£78.40
Bank admin fee	£7.00
Tree Spec (if not already approved)	£3132.00
Lamerton Sports and Community Centre (Hall hire)	£30.00
Elliott Groundcare (cemetery maintenance)	£140.00

- b) To receive mid- point financial summary – This had previously been circulated to all councillors. Spending is currently in line with the precept, although it should be noted that the large and unexpected cost of removal of the dangerous tree at the cemetery had not been included in the budget. Any additional spending regarding a defibrillator had also not been budgeted for. Reserves could be used if necessary.
- c) To consider and approve increase in payroll administration fees – notice has been given that this will increase to £132 pa (plus VAT), an increase of £12 – Cllr Cole proposed this is accepted, seconded by Cllr Dreher and agreed by all.
- d) To approve annual increment (clerk) and acknowledge NALC pay increase (both backdated to 1st April 2026) – this would be an overall increase of 76p per hour (pay point 14 - £15.82 per hour). Proposed Cllr Cole, seconded Cllr Dreher and agreed by all.

137-2026 TRAFFIC UPDATE AND VAS CAMERA UPDATE

VAS (south) is now working but is being impacted by the over-hanging trees (solar panel). Cllr Exley-Deane will find out who owns them. Speedwatch – year to date 409 speeding motorists have been reported, including 62 in the last month.

138-2026 WEBSITE – UPDATES RE ANY ACTIONS REQUIRED

Nothing to report.

139-2026 PLANNING

- a) For discussion/decision:

WDBC 2300/26/TCA	T1:Beech – Crown lift to 4m above ground level all around tree, prune eastern and north-eastern canopies by a maximum of 2m and no further T2:Variegated Maple – Crown reduce by up to 1m to reshape and tidy and contain G3:Ash/Hazel – Recoppice 5x Hazel and 1xAsh T4:Holm Oak – Reduce to previous pruning points, approximately 2m reduction G5:Hazel – Recoppice 4xHazel, ensuring clearance from garage Rationale: These works are proposed as part of the reasonable and responsible maintenance of this garden Church Cottage, Church Avenue, Lamerton, PL19 8RN	Cllr Exley-Deane proposed this be supported, seconded by Cllr Geake. All in favour
WDBC 2382/26/PAA	Application to determine if prior approval is required for the enlargement of a dwelling house consisting of (b) one additional storey, where the existing dwelling house consists of one storey. Homeleigh, Heathfield, PL19 0LF	Previous comments still apply.

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b) For information only:

WDBC 1567/25/FUL	Erection of 5 dwellings and creation of access Land at Sx 448 762 (Land to South of Fortesque Terrace), Lamerton	Appeal dismissed Refusal
WDBC 0671/26/FUL	Siting of mixed-use building (agricultural and equestrian) and hardstanding area. Moorlands, Heathfield PL19 0LE	Conditional approval
WDBC 2316/26/PHH	Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed 8m(L)x 4.8m (w) x 2.9m (h) rear extension, using materials to match existing dwelling. Homeleigh, Heathfield, PL19 0LF	Information only

140-2026 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

a) To note any updates and receive any interim reports.

The 38th interim report had been received and circulated to Councillors. Points for approval and consideration:

i) Are the parish council in favour of continuing with the NP project (whilst also being mindful that official funding has ceased). It is hoped that any additional expenditure may be funded by Cllr Jorys Locality Fund. Cllr Exley-Deane proposed this is supported, seconded by Cllr Cole. All in favour.

ii) To approve the draft letter (included with the interim report) to be sent to AECOM regarding the conflicts with their policies and those of WDBC. Cllr Exley-Deane proposed this is supported, seconded by Cllr Geake. All in favour.

Cllr Dreher offered her thanks to Sarah Heaps for putting everything together.

141-2026 CEMETERY

a) Update re land registry enquiries – Clerk has now been in contact with the Land Registry. They do not hold details of boundaries of properties. They suggested looking on the title plan to see if there is a visual of the hedge (this may not be specifically included), or to seek advice from a surveyor or solicitor. The hedge is now believed to belong to the Parish Council following information received from Cllr Cole. She will continue to look into this.

b) Condition of cemetery seat - Cllr Dreher has now arranged for an inspection of the seat. Slats are rotten and need replacing but the condition of the rusty steel work within the concrete ends cannot be established. The cost of repairing probably makes it unviable. Cllr Dreher suggested that it just be removed and not currently replaced since another bench has been donated, seconded by Cllr Reid. All in favour. Cllr Dreher will find out how this could be removed.

c) To note the need to renew cemetery contract/re-tender for next year – This will need to be re-tendered (suggested sites - website, FB, Parish Noticeboard, Lamerton Stores and Newsletter. Current contractors to also be asked directly if they would like to re-apply). Clerk to circulate the details of the current specification to councillors for comments before it is readvertised.

142-2026 LITTER PICKING

Cllr Deeks not present. No update available.

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143-2026 TO ENSURE ALL COUNCILLORS ARE USING A GENERIC EMAIL ADDRESS AS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE AUDIT

Cllr Exley-Deane and Cllr Geake have not yet set up their parish council email addresses. Clerk to pass the info over so they can phone up.

144-2026 DEFIBRILLATOR – UPDATE RE AVAILABILITY OF PADS

Pads are still out of stock. Clerk has asked other clerks for their advice and several also struggle to buy pads for this particular make of defib. If the PC consider purchasing a new defibrillator, it is likely to be in the region of £1000. Cllr Reid will make enquiries with Search and Rescue about the British Heart Foundation Community Funding and options available (eg serviced schemes). Tim (Community Centre) will also make some enquiries. It was agreed that this is important and if necessary, decisions can be made via email and ratified at the next meeting.

145-2026 ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- a) Investment Strategy
- b) Statement of Internal Control
- c) Asset register
- d) Social Media Policy
- e) Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
- f) Cemetery terms and conditions
- g) General Privacy Notice
- h) Complaints procedure
- i) Transparency code
- j) Financial Regulations
- k) Standing Orders
- l) Code of Conduct

Cllr Exley-Deane proposed update as necessary, redate and approve, seconded by Cllr Dreher and agreed by all.

146-2026 CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from WDBC – notice of scoping of South Hams and West Devon Joint Local Plan.

An email has been sent to the NP group – asking about the discrepancies on the Trenance Site. Cllr Dreher will reply. Proposed Cllr Exley-Deane, seconded Cllr Cole and agreed by all. Copy of report to be enclosed.

147-2026 MINOR ITEMS

- a) To consider meeting patterns for next year to enable clerk to book the hall.
Cllr Dreher proposed that pattern stay the same as this year with an additional meeting scheduled for June – to be cancelled if not required, seconded by Cllr Cole and agreed by all. Clerk to book.
- b) To consider WDBC1369/26/FUL which has previously been considered but has had additional documents now available to view. It should be noted that there has been insufficient time given by

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WDBC to list, advertise and discuss this matter. Cllr Dreher proposed previous comments stand, seconded by Cllr Exley-Deane.

148-2026 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm (Cllr Reid and Cole will not be able to attend).

149-2026 CLOSE – The meeting closed at 21.15 pm