



Minutes of 8 December 2025

Those Present: L Heren (Chair), Simon Wise (Vice Chair), P Shaw, P Chilton, J Parsons, A Bone, J Durrant. Also present were Peter Wragg (Wilts), Andy Webster (NT) and two members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from M Bowsher, S Long, C Trought.

2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No questions were asked.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS – none.

4 PETER WRAGG, UNITARY COUNCILLOR – UPDATE:

Update on footpath access issues at Lover's Walk; ascertained that the footpath does not belong to NT, Wilts Council or neighbouring farmer, therefore, how to proceed with request for upgrade to existing 'kissing gate' to prevent horses and motorbikes using the path.

LH proposed & PS seconded seeking quotes for a metal kissing gate and installation – **ACTION SW 8/12/2025-1**

Update on Wilts budget matters with £6million still to find; a balanced budget must be produced in next 4-6 weeks. There will be a waste management update in NY.

As a councillor holding the leisure and tourism portfolio, there is a need for bed stock in Wiltshire and the Carpenter's Arms restoration/refurbishment will contribute approx. 6 beds when open.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: SW proposed; AB seconded & were signed by the Chair.

6 UPDATE FROM MINUTES:

Corsham layby drains have been added to the parish steward's job list for 10/11 December – the need to book drainage tanker was confirmed, action 14/7/25-2 remains open with PS.

Bye Law research to be suspended (action 8/9/25-12 Closed) and AB to prepare a proposal for mitigation/risk reduction activities that could be instigated by LPC to reduce the likelihood of "brush fires" in the Bewley Common/Bowden Hill area, potentially with flyers from Fire Brigade and Wilts Council, for January's meeting – **ACTION AB 8/12/2025-2**

Quote for basketball hoop replacement ongoing – if, pending clarification of detail, the quote is within authorised approved limit of spend – to authorise the repair – **ACTION CT & LH 8/12/2025-3**

7 NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE: AW was requested to investigate stock fence in Chapel field and potential matter of animal welfare for cattle grazing (there is no shade). AW will feed back on 2026's Martin Parr Exhibition and plans to proceed. NT will respond with plans to make the EV chargers in NT carpark available to residents after opening hours.

8 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS:

AB – asked NT to investigate repair/replacement of picket fence gates at allotment beside cemetery.

JB – village hall is scheduled for redecoration in February 2026 and a new nursery will open the same month.

Proposed to transfer £50k to Cambridge & Counties 31-day account, plus £30k to Unity's 95-day account. LH seconded & it was unanimously agreed.

LH – reported PCC meeting with Jeremy and Jason and plans for future collaboration.

SW – update on PROWs, that Nethercote-Reybridge footpath is now re-opened, and Reybridge field footpath has been re-instated to follow the approved PROW route.

The orchard is slowing down for the Winter, but the shelter is completed, the water butt is installed and full and ideas for activities next year are being sought, one potential item could be to re-fence the southern boundary.

PS – Wessex Water has confirmed completion of the works, with requirement to revisit in Spring for check-up.

Requested update on school's 'travel to school plan' because there is a March 2026 deadline – **ACTION MB 8/12/2025-4**

Advised that until we know if the substantive bid for funds to implement further speed bumps on Cantax Hill (and west of Forest Lane) is successful, there is no point in pursuing additional speed intervention ideas because nothing will stop hardened commuters intent on speeding through the village – Action 14/7/25-6 to be closed. It was agreed to request a metro counter to be installed along West Street stretch by George pub and Quintessentially before the bumps are installed – **ACTION TTG/PS 8/12/2025-5**

NT was asked to distribute a reminder to residents to park on the roadway and not the pavements. AW noted the request.

PC – reminded councillors of the requirement to consent to the updated IT compliance statement. PC agreed to prepare a training package for all LPC councillors – **ACTION PC 8/12/2025-6**

JP – updated us on visits to village businesses to gather ideas for future events and dates for the social diary. Re-visiting 'Lacock at War' and the August Bank Holiday fair are potential ideas.

General discussion mentioned collaboration with NT and PCC for resurrecting NT's big summer concert.

9 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK: LH & SW had interviewed four candidates and proposed their preferred candidate, which was unanimously agreed. LH to work with external recruiter to complete contracts & pay negotiations - **ACTION LH 8/12/2025-7**

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

- Parking Plan Engagement sessions from Ros Griffiths at Wilts - noted

- Marmalade Trust Connections – supporting loneliness & wellbeing; request for volunteers – to be posted on social media & noticeboards

- ONH Planning for Good – guidance circular – noted

- Nethercote pathway, Abbey bridge repairs & speed enforcement – reply sent by LH 2 December 2025 to update correspondent

- Home Instead Bath & West Wiltshire – it was agreed not to allow a website link as this would set a precedent – LH to respond

11 Finance

- i) To pay the accounts – JD proposed; SW seconded - approved
- ii) To approve Bank Reconciliations – approved as above

12 PLANNING:

PL/2025/08683 - Land at SouthPoint Business Park, Patterdown Road, Chippenham, SN15 2NU – consent to display an advertisement – **NO OBJECTION**

PL/2025/09098 - Raycroft House, Cantax Hill, Lacock, Chippenham, SN15 2JZ - Conifer tree – fell – **NO OBJECTION**

PL/2025/09068 – LACOCK ABBEY, HIGH STREET, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2LG - Listed Building consent, Works to carefully dismantle and re-build defective chimney – **IN SUPPORT**

PL/2025/09087 - LACOCK ABBEY, HIGH STREET, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2LG - Removal of masonry chimney capping and replacement with stainless steel flue liner and terminal – **IN SUPPORT**

PL/2025/09230 – BEWLEY COTTAGE, 7 BOWDEN HILL, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2PW – Listed building consent, Addition of a new window to Bathroom 1. Covering of the porch with natural stone tiles instead of thatch – **IN SUPPORT**

PL/2025/09386 - National Trust Car Park, Hither Way, Lacock, SN15 2RQ – erection of new signs – **NO OBJECTION**

PL/2025/09292 - National Trust Car Park, Hither Way, Lacock, SN15 2RQ – full planning permission – replacement of car parking machines – **NO OBJECTION**

PL/2025/09394 - 27 BOWDEN HILL, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2PP - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area, Reduce Apple tree canopy in front of property by overall amount of 2 metres – **NO OBJECTION**

Post Minute Note: All the Planning Decisions above were uploaded to WCC Planning Portal on 9/12/25.

13 ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFO/DISCUSSION:

Chair forgot to say Merry Christmas!

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2103.

SIGNED:

DATED:

ACTIONS

All actions placed at Lacock Parish Council Meeting may be viewed on Dropbox at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8hu6bqabtnfs142a1frir/LPC-Minutes-Action-Register.xlsx?rlkey=brcc8evxzrc7q3a959tm8elxa&st=y1ly7rri&dl=0>