



## Minutes of 9 February 2026

**Those Present:** L Heren (Chair), P Chilton, J Parsons, P Fennell, S Longo. Also present were Peter Wragg (Wilts), Sonya McMillan (NT) and one member of the public.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - S Wise, P Shaw, M Bowsher, A Bone, J Durrant

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None

**3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** - N/A

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (held on 12 January 2026)** JP proposed; SL seconded & were signed by the Chair.

**5 UPDATE FROM THE ACTION LOG** all actions updated from 12 January 2026

### **6 NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE**

The need for significant repairs to the swings and anticipated wider repairs to the play park for younger children was discussed. The swings will need to remain out of commission for the foreseeable future, and while everyone acknowledges that this is disappointing, the cost of replacement and the logical process to complete all repairs simultaneously means that piecemeal repairs do not make economic or logistical sense. NT has risk assessed the site and remains compliant with relevant guidance on safety.

There has been low-level vandalism to NT's signage, especially in the car park area. If anything is noticed, please would parishioners report it to NT's central email: [lacock@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lacock@nationaltrust.org.uk)

A request from JP for an update on vacant properties in the village was made; Let Estate will be asked for a short report.

PC requested a follow-up on a parking leaflet to be distributed to residents at December's meeting – when will this be done?

### **7 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

Delayed to March's meeting because relevant paperwork from Wiltshire Elections had not arrived in time.

### **8 UNITARY COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

PW reported that Wilts Council has made £28million savings in its budget to break even; there is a freeze on recruitment and the budget will go to full council on 24 Feb for approval. Reports in the press regarding closure of 2x household recycling centres has been resolved and these will remain open.

There are ongoing matters at the top of Bowden Hill and Showell which PW continues to monitor with parishioners and the drainage tanker request for Corsham Road layby has been escalated.

### **9 REVIEW OF PARISH POLICIES**

Councillors agreed to divide our current policies between them according to relevant AORs for review as follows:

SL – cemeteries policy; it was noted that the 12 year age for an 'adult' burial be reviewed among other things

LH – public question time guidance  
LH – complaints procedure  
JP – recording, photography and social media policy  
LH – standing orders, with a note to review December date of meeting so as not to clash with NT/School lantern parade again  
LH – records management/Dropbox  
JD – financial regulations  
PC – privacy notice  
PC – website accessibility  
LH – grants policy & forms

### **ACTIONS for ALL 9/2/26-1-10**

#### **10 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY REPORTS**

PC – parish steward has been consistently redeployed since November and is not anticipated to appear in the parish until April. Disappointment was noted with PW. The drainage tanker is a major concern.

The number of potholes in the parish was noted and parishioners are encouraged to report them on MyWilts and let the clerk have a note of the case number.

IT policy and compliance training is outstanding from MB and JP – reminders sent to both to complete no later than Sunday 15 February.

PF – has visited Corsham Road play area which requires water-jetting to remove moss/debris. Will contact LC there for key to noticeboard.

SL – all quiet in the cemetery; proposed Spring clean of the chapel in later March; discussion of renewal of grass cutting contract – should this be pursued considering the difficulty of sourcing a good groundsman?

JP – events diary is building; will make suggestions to Theo regarding a village event, revisiting the end of August Bank Holiday fair.

PC & PS – no news yet from LHFIG on substantive bid.

LH – bikeability via School has requested use of the ball court – agreed; the basket ball hoop is an ongoing matter – the suppliers do not seem keen to take our money!

The gates to the Allotment Association plot beside the cemetery require repair. The lease between NT and LPC states that LPC is responsible for maintaining all allotment boundaries; the agreement between LPC and Allotments Association stipulates that Allotments Association assumes responsibility for repairs of boundaries (and other areas). It is now possible for Allotments Association AGM on 24 Feb to discuss how they wish to proceed. NT has been asked which is their preferred supplier of gates for the village so that ‘curatorial oversight’ on design can be speeded up.

#### **11 CORRESPONDENCE**

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust – councillors discussed their invitation to enter into a memorandum of agreement and decided that to best represent our understanding of the parish’s wider feelings on this matter, a letter of reply would be sent: we support organisations undertaking natural habitat restoration and enjoyment of the outdoors, but at this moment, we do not wish to enter into any memorandum.

David Lloyd Leisure – their team has been invited to either our March or April meeting to give a presentation on proposals for a leisure centre at Showell, date TBC via next Agenda.

Friends of Lacock School wish to hold their annual Scarecrow Trail and small fair on the playing field 11 & 12 July – agreed and reply sent.

Alan House Football – request made for access to playing field for U10 and U9 5 a-side and 7 a-side teams for coaching one night/week throughout Summer with fixtures commencing late September-March. In principle this was accepted, but **ACTION LH 9/2/26-11** Chair to check with Ben, captain of existing adult football team on potential clashes and fixture clashes with Cricket Team around April plus pitch lining. There is potential for the children’s teams to use the village hall for Christmas, award ceremony and other parties.

## 12 FINANCE

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

## 13 PLANNING

**PL/2026/00350** - LOWER LODGE, 35 BOWDEN HILL, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2PP - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - G1 - Beech hedge - reduce height by 1m T1 - Birch tree - side prune low epicormic growth to gain a 3.5m clearance from overhead lines T2 T3 & T4 - 3 x Apple trees - crown reduce to gain a 3.5m clearance from overhead lines T5 - Sweet Chestnut tree – fell – **NO OBJECTION**

**PL/2026/00190** - 15 High Street, Lacock, Chippenham, SN15 2LQ - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext) - Replacement external render and internal insulated partition – **NO OBJECTION**

**PL/2025/09827** - 5 Bowden Hill, Lacock, Chippenham, SN15 2PW - Householder planning permission - Proposed garden studio to be used as an ancillary annex – **NO COMMENT**

**PL/2026/00269** - Showell Farm, Showell, Chippenham, SN15 2NU - Full planning permission - Conversion of Cart Shed, to dwelling, erection of a new garage and the demolition of former dairy building – **IN SUPPORT**

**PL/2026/00421** - Showell Farm, Showell, Chippenham, SN15 2NU - Listed building consent (Alt/Ext)- Conversion of Cart Shed, to dwelling, erection of a new garage and the demolition of former dairy building – **IN SUPPORT**

**PL/2026/00692** - REYMILL HOUSE, REYBRIDGE, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2PF - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - T1 - Cypress tree – fell – **NO OBJECTION**

### Licensing Application – Whitehall Vineyard – re-application – revisions – UNANIMOUS SUPPORT

The following applications consulted on email due to deadlines falling before the parish council meeting:

**PL/2026/00312** - BOWDEN FARM, 16 BOWDEN HILL, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2PW AND 1 BEWLEY EDGE LACOCK CHIPPENHAM SN15 2BF - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area -T1 - Alder tree - crown reduce to gain a 3.5m clearance from overhead lines T2 - Field Maple tree - side prune to gain a 3.5m clearance from overhead lines T3 - Damson tree - side prune to gain a 3.5m clearance from overhead lines T4 - Poplar tree - side prune to gain a 3.5m clearance from overhead lines T5 - Pine tree - side prune and crown reduce by 2m to gain a 3.5m clearance from overhead lines G1 - Willow trees - reduce to 2m in height to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines G2 - Hazel trees - reduce to 2m in height to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines- **NO OBJECTION**

**PL/2026/00184** - BOWDEN PARK, BOWDEN HILL, LACOCK - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - G1 - Group of Ornamental Plums - Remove trees. G2 - Group of Holly and 1 self seeded Sycamore. Remove self seeded Sycamore. Reduce Holly in height to 4ft. G3 - Group of Portuguese Laurel - Reduce in height to 5ft. T1 - Willow - Fell. T2 - Large Beech - Prune back in line with edge of drive way for clearance of larger farm vehicles and reduce end weight on large extended limbs. Pruning cuts not to be larger than 1/3 of source limb and reducing longest limbs by up to 3 metres – **NO OBJECTION**

**PL/2026/00226** - THE OLD VICARAGE, 19 BOWDEN HILL, LACOCK, CHIPPENHAM, SN15 2PP - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area - T1 - Lime tree - side prune side growth to gain a 3m-5m restricted clearance from overhead lines – **NO OBJECTION**

**PL/2026/00141** - Wiltshire College Lackham Campus , Lacock, Chippenham, SN15 2NY - Consent under Tree Preservation Orders - T1 Alder to cut back from Eco House to give 3m clearance - To cut back the crown from the property to maintain adequate clearance for building maintenance and to prevent branches from contacting the structure T2 Oak To cut back from building, remove major deadwood and remove epicormic growth to crown break. To cut back the crown from the property to maintain adequate clearance for building maintenance and to prevent branches from contacting the structure and mitigate for the risk of falling deadwood from tree due to being in a area with heavy footfall. T3 Laurel to cut back from building, selectively thin to allow more light penetration. T4 Holm Oak to cut back from property to allow 3m clearance to maintain adequate clearance for building maintenance and to prevent branches from contacting the structure. T5 Laurel to reduce to 6ft and cut back from fence to manage size

and bring back into a maintained hedge. T6 Wellingtonia to cut back from property to allow 2m clearance and remove low epicormic growth to 2m to maintain adequate clearance for building maintenance and to prevent branches from contacting the structure. T7 Elm Species to reduce by up to 2m to reduce size and weight loading on poorly formed unions. G1 Group of 2 x Beech 1 x Ash and 1 x Sycamore to cut back from property to maintain adequate clearance for building maintenance and to prevent branches from contacting the structure. T8 Wellingtonia reduce tree to a 4m monolith to leave stem for possible future carving. The tree is in decline. It trifurcates at approximately 3m. Of the three stems one is dead, one is in decline with sparse canopy cover and the front stem currently shows good vitality. Removal is advised due to structural imbalance, progressive decline, and the increased risk of partial failure associated with the dead and declining stems. This is compounded by the lean of the remaining vital stem – **NO OBJECTION**

**14 ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFO/DISCUSSION:**

N/A

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2052.

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=8qw4vdij&dl=0>