

## **LYDIARD MILLICENT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**21 May 2026**

**held in the Jubilee Club House, Lydiard Millicent**

**at 1900 hours**

### **Councillors Present:**

Cllr. S. Westwood; Cllr. M. Allsop; Cllr. L. Bamsey; Cllr. J. Neighbour; Cllr. R. Selwood; Cllr. J. Sprules;  
Cllr. S. Trowbridge

### **Others in Attendance:**

A.B. Roberts (Meeting Clerk); Wiltshire Councillor Andrew Matthews and nine members of the public.

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome**

Chairman & Councillor Sally Westwood welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Appointment of Clerk**

Andrew Roberts was appointed as Clerk for the meeting.

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Griffiths and Hill-Wheeler.

### **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 May 2025 were approved and signed.

### **5. Parish Council Review 2025 – 2026**

Councillor Westwood reported that, whilst councillor vacancies had occurred, there had been plenty of subsequent volunteers. Thanks were extended to all out-going councillors. Forecasts that there would be a lot of planning applications were proved correct with over 40 submitted, the most significant being a development off Meadow Springs. Cllr Westwood also said that more applications are anticipated and that the Neighbourhood Plan is now five years old and a new one needs to be drawn up. The Parish Council has also responded to refusals against the Travellers' Site off Restrop Road; a development at Stone Lane, and land at Greensend. News has just been released that an appeal has been submitted against the decision at Meadow Springs. Praise was paid to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Unwelcome and unexpected news was the government withdrawing funding for neighbourhood plans which meant an additional £15,000 needing to be found. This amount, happily, has already been found.

A number of initiatives have also taken place including the Parish Hall renting the community field; a new tenant has been found for Lydiard Plain; flooding issues have been addressed; trees planted on Lydiard Green and talks have continued with LHFIF to implement improvements at Common Platt, Greenhill and Greatfield.

Special thanks were paid to the Clerk, Hayley Graham, who will be going on maternity leave soon as well as to the councillors and other employees.

## **6. Parish Council Vision 2026 – 2027**

Cllr. Allsop reiterated in her report that speculative planning applications would likely form a large part of the Parish Council's work. Additionally, priorities with LHFIFG include speeding around Church Place and The Butts; parking; vehicles using The Butts at key times; speeding at Greatfield; Nine Elms accident black spot; Holborn footway extension; Manor Hill speeding at narrow carriageway points.

Solar panels at Jubilee Club House are also being looked into as is a shaded seating area around the lay area.

Wiltshire Council is conducting a review of Parish boundaries in Wiltshire (although not Swindon) which includes a proposal to move parts of Common Platt and Linden Way to Purton Parish. Councillors are trying to persuade them not to do this and Andrew Matthews is being very supportive of us.

Cllr. Allsop also paid tribute to Hayley and the work which she does before going on maternity leave.

## **7. Neighbourhood Plan Progress Overview**

Cllr. Allsop said that the last Neighbourhood Plan was initiated in 2021 and now needs to be more robust. Volunteers were sought in 2024 and the group now has 12 members. In 2025, a questionnaire was set up and a very good response was received.

The steering group have proposed updates or new policies and it is hoped that a draft version will be available shortly to be sent to Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Council are running a Housing Needs Survey in June via an online questionnaire and the Parish Council is keen for younger members to take part. There is a feeling that larger properties are mainly available in the Parish whilst younger people are looking for smaller properties and the Parish Council would like as many people as possible to complete the questionnaire, which will be advertised around the Parish.

## **8. Wiltshire Councillor Report**

Wiltshire Councillor Andrew Matthews paid tribute to the Lydiard Millicent Parish Council and thanked them for their work in the first year of his tenure. He updated the meeting with on-going initiatives and mentioned that Wiltshire Council had gone from deficit to surplus.

Mention was made about the refusal of the proposed Meadow Springs development due to the input from the Parish Council. He also mentioned the proposed boundary changes around the Ridgeway Farm area which would mean sections going to Purton.

## **9. End-of-Year Grant Reports**

Reports from All Saints Church and Lydiard Millicent Pre-School were read out in which their gratitude to the Parish Council were expressed along with their activities.

## **10. Reports from Community Groups**

## **Parish Hall**

Nigel Smith said that the Parish Hall is in a good financial position and has been busy with bookings. Some of the Trustees have started various community events which have been well attended although the cinema has not been as successful as they would have liked.

The paddock has been booked by several private parties and the Parish Council was thanked for their assistance.

After discussion with the Headmaster, it was decided that, with no early morning bookings (i.e. before 0930), the car park would not have to be closed so easing the parking problem in the village.

Unfortunately, the generator was stolen but a new one is being looked into with greater security enhancements.

## **Lydiard Millicent Juniors Football Club**

Gerald Kent sent a report mentioning that the club has now been in existence for over 10 years and that they ran 12 teams in the North Wilts Youth League (ranging from Under-7 to Under-16). The Under-12 team was league champions. Two other teams reached cup semi-finals.

The club is looking forward to their presentation day at Meadow Springs in July.

## **Bellringers**

Tower Captain, Ann Hutchinson, sent a report saying that ringing numbers remained steady throughout the year with around 8-9 regular ringers on Tuesday evening practices and 6-7 on Sunday mornings. A regular teacher attends one monthly practice.

A Quarter Peal was rung in March 2025 for International Women's Day.

Several ringers entered a ringing challenge for a place in the Guinness Book of Records and an Open Tower Dat was held alongside the V.E. Day commemorations.

No weddings were held in 2025 partly due to the church refurbishment but visiting bands did come during the year.

An invitation was extended to anyone wishing to see what ringing involves and to any potential learners.

## **All Saints Church**

Andrew Roberts reported that All Saints had been in an interregnum since April 2025 after Tudor Roberts's retirement but that Revd. Fran Youings had been since appointed .

All Sunday services had been filled during the interregnum thanks to visiting clergy from far and wide and from help from P.C.C. members and that the year, whilst demanding, had gone as smoothly as could have been hoped.

Reordering work has been finished with thanks going to Tina Wheeler, John Halstead, Nicky Iddon and Julian Wright.

Regular events had taken place during the winter and further thanks were extended to Sally Griffiths and her floral ladies; Ginnie Heads and Anne Dwight for their musical assistance and to the P.C.C. and congregation for ensuring that the year went smoothly.

### **11.Public Question Time**

Councillor Westwood allowed public questions to be asked during the meeting rather than just at the end. Questions were asked of both the Parish Council and the Wiltshire Councillor.

Meeting closed at 8:01 p.m.