

LYNTON & LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LYNTON TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER 2025 AT 7PM.

PRESENT: **Councillors:**
 A Hobbs (Mayor)
 L Logan (Deputy Mayor)
 M Care
 J Patrinos
 B Peacock
 A Rodway

OFFICERS: Town Clerk, Town Council Secretary

207/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public were present.

208/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Atherton, Hawkins, Manning, Pugsley, Richards and Wakeham. County Councillor Davis sent apologies as she will be late due to an earlier meeting.

209/25 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations received prior to the meeting.

210/25 MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of Full Council held on 27 November 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Mayor.

211/25 POLICE REPORT

There was no Police representative present and no report received.

212/25 COMMUNICATIONS

- a. **Lee Abbey Community – invitation to their New Year party on 9 January 2026**
- b. **Thank you card from a grateful Barnstaple resident, who's lost keys were returned to her.**

213/25 AGENCY AGREEMENT

Town Clerk reported on the Agency Agreement being extended for a further three years, to be reviewed March 2029.

214/25 ROCK HOUSE LEASE, RENT REVIEW

As the five year review period is coming up, Town Clerk requested Members to decide whether to pursue a rent increase in line with the lease conditions, whether by CPI or Market Value, or alternate action. After discussion, it was

RESOLVED

Members wish to explore further and request to instruct a surveyor to get an idea of rateable value for further discussion at Policy and Finance in January. This will also include other Council properties (Manor House and Blacklands Shelter).

215/25 STAFF CHRISTMAS HOURS

For Members information as per attached sheet.

216/25 FINANCE

RESOLVED

Balance sheet for month 8 and the detailed income and expenditure sheets were received and the accounts for payment, December were approved.

217/26 PLANNING

WTCA 25/22 – Rising Sun Hotel, Harbourside, Lynmouth

Works to a tree in a conservation area: To remove 1 no. Eucalyptus tree.

Members agreed there was not enough information to make an informed decision.

218/25 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- Councillor Peacock attended the defibrillator training organised by SWAST, there was a reasonable turn out of people (20).
- Councillor Hobbs spoke about the recent coastal survey

219/25 MOTIONS

There were none

220/25 NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Councillor Patrinos submitted a report which is attached to these minutes.

He wasn't able to report on the trade waste changes as the meeting about this hadn't taken place yet, but will report back at the next Policy and Finance Committee meeting. In addition Devon County Council will be asked to review the Residents Parking Scheme (Tors Road).

Questions

No questions

221/25 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Davis didn't make the meeting after all, however her report attached to these minutes.

Questions

No questions.

222/25 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk worked through his report (attached).

Questions

- Councillor Peacock asked about water and sewage charges in relation to the Memorial Hall block
- Councillor Logan asked about placing some sort of guard preventing people from jumping over toilet barriers as he is worried about damage to the equipment

223/25 QUESTIONS:

No further questions, however Mayor reminded Members of the date for Mayors charity function (31 January).

**LYNTON & LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTMAS 2025**

OFFICE

DAY	DATE	OPEN/CLOSED
Monday	22/12/25	Open until 12
Tuesday	23/12/25	Office closed as usual
Wednesday	24/12/25	CLOSED (Xmas Eve)
Thursday	25/12/25	CLOSED (Xmas Day)
Friday	26/12/25	CLOSED (Boxing Day)
Monday	29/12/25	CLOSED
Tuesday	30/12/25	CLOSED
Wednesday	31/12/25	CLOSED
Thursday	01/01/26	OFFICE CLOSED

WORKFORCE

Wednesday 24/12/25 Finish at 12.30pm
Thursday–Thursday 25/12/25 – 01/01/26 Christmas Break

Bins will be emptied over the Christmas break as usual.

Office normal hours from Friday 2 January 2026
Workforce normal hours from Friday 2 January 2026

North Devon Councillor's Report

December 2025

NDC is reintroducing a grant scheme for parishes with a population of less than 1,000, so this won't include Lynton & Lynmouth but will be available to Parracombe, Brendon & Countisbury, and Martinhoe. The Climate & Environmental Grants scheme is to support projects by small Parish Councils which are sustainable and look to improve the environment or tackle climate change issues such as reducing carbon and improving biodiversity. This could include "wilding" open spaces, wildflower meadows, more sustainable approaches to graveyards, renewables, new windows and other similar things.

In early December I was surprised to be presented with a report proposing that NDC stop providing a trade waste service because it is losing money and needs a lot spent on it to meet new regulations on what is collected. Councils aren't required to collect trade waste or trade recycling, unlike domestic waste and recycling which must be collected. In fact half of Devon doesn't. However, there are only two other organisations in North Devon that provide a similar service, SWM and Biffa, and they won't collect everywhere. To me this change seems a bad idea because it will threaten small businesses in more remote areas, and that is the last thing anyone wants. The decision on whether to end the service or not will be taken early in the new year.

A housing needs survey will be carried out in all the parishes of Exmoor in February. This will help assess how much housing is needed in each area, and of what size and type. Every household will receive a letter, but the survey itself will mainly be online. Please reply whether it affects you or not so that as accurate a picture as possible is known.

You might know that each year each District Councillor is allocated £1,000 to help support local organisations. This year here is where my grant money went:

- £292.95 to Lyn Lawn Tennis Club towards new equipment
- £200 to Exmoor Search & Rescue towards vehicle costs
- £200 to the Pickwell Foundation towards the costs of their new Welcome Hub
- £150 to Lynton & Lynmouth Twinning Association towards the 2025 Twinning Visit
- £115.05 to Sunrise Diversity towards their running costs
- £42 to Parracombe Community Land Trust for the Parracombe Post

And finally, the Lynmouth Pavilion toilets will be refurbished in time for 2026 season.

John

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07975 746860

Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council County Councillors report December 2025

Reminder about drainage works A39

Blackmoor Gate to Rowley Cross Monday 2nd February to Friday 13th February

Monday to Friday

08.45- 16.00hrs

Outside these times i.e 4pm to 08.45am and weekends there will be lights.

Access is maintained for residents and businesses

And...

Again not in the Parish but if you travel to Ilfracombe please be aware;

Thursday 29th January- Saturday 7th February weeknights only 19.00-06.00

resurfacing works on the B3230 and Iron letters cross

That's the road from Lynton Cross(new roundabout) towards Ilfracombe

Library Consultation

A public consultation asking people to help shape the future of Devon's 50 libraries was recently launched, this is to seek views about the future of the library service in Devon.

It will run for 12 weeks and focus on a number of options, including opening hours, the use of technology, and the potential for community-managed libraries. Closing date 22nd February.

The consultation is available online via a Devon County Council engagement platform at <https://devon.cc/devon-libraries-pm>

Visitors will be able to:

- Fill in one of two surveys (one is specifically for young people aged 13 to 17 years)
- View a detailed overview proposal
- View an opening hours document and other information

Printed copies of the survey are also available in libraries and Devon County Council reception areas (County Hall in Exeter, Tav View in Barnstaple)

Highway Defects

With the winter fast approaching it is more likely there will be defects in the highway network, this includes streetlights and signs.

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

Weather conditions are being constantly monitored and gritting teams are ready to be called into action when needed. However, preparations started months ago. Gritting depots across the county are topped up with almost 24,000 tonnes of salt for the start of the season.

Gritting lorries have been serviced and maintained, and five of the 37 frontline gritters have been replaced with newer models to help improve reliability and reduce maintenance costs. All of these newer gritters feature touchscreen controls to enable drivers to adjust salt spreading rates and the position of their plough attachments without leaving their cab, which improves safety.

The DCC website is very useful for reporting problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. Alternatively the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Please do get in touch if you think I can help with anything; Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year, I look forward to working with you in 2026.

Andrea

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division

Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

TOWN CLERKS REPORT



December 2025

AGENCY UPDATE

- **Agency 3 Year Review** – NDC agreed for a three year extension meaning next review will be in March 2029 after Local Government Reorganisation.
- **Harbour** – Scaffold being erected this week. Workforce have tools and a plan to do the work. Harbour External Safety Audit - Tuesday 6th January 2026.
- **Rear yard/Town Hall** scaffold has been inspected and worn parts replaced.
- **Cross St Car Park; Tree** – Safety Inspection led to removal of tarmac around base to free root system. Next step is a resistograph drill testing for internal decay, within the next month.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

NDC reply has been received for indicative costs maintaining their capital assets in the Parish and will be part of discussions with Head of Finance in January meeting with LTC reps.

Closure process has been completed and returned to HM Govt. DHULC regarding the grant for Lower Lyndale Toilet under the Community Ownership Fund.

New LTC post was advertised for Communications & Marketing role with healthy interest already. Interviews will be week commencing 12th January 2026

Annual Appraisals have been completed for all Council staff prior to a Personnel Committee early in January which will also select candidates for interviews (as above)

COUNCIL PROPERTY

- **Toilets** – Sub Committee held a site meeting for grey water collection/usage in Flood Memorial Hall and an estimate has been received for the works. Revenue extremely low in cash terms and Council may wish to consider Winter Opening times for 2026 at year end.

Events/Road Closures:

A39 Blackmoor Gate to Parracombe closed 2 – 13 February 2026 8:30am – 4pm

Emergency works/spending this month: None

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to All