

LYNTON & LYNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LYNTON TOWN HALL ON THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7PM.

PRESENT: **Councillors:**
A Hobbs Mayor
L Logan Deputy Mayor
J Atherton
M Care
J Patrinos
B Peacock
V Pugsley
A Rodway
L Wakeham

OFFICERS: Town Clerk, Town Council Secretary

The meeting started with a minute's silence for Councillor Phil Hawkins, who has sadly passed away.

273/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present

274/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Manning and Richards, County Councillor Davis and PC Elliott.

275/25 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no declarations received prior to the meeting.

276/25 MINUTES

RESOLVED

Minutes of Full Council held on 29 January 2026, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Mayor.

277/25 POLICE REPORT

There was no Police representative, however a report was sent in and is attached to these minutes.

278/25 COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Thanks were sent to Council regarding the recent beach clean (Lee Bay and Lynmouth) along with a list of some of the debris collected. Among the 130 kg collected were:
Lobster pots, large pieces of metal, tyres, plastic (the major component), used dog waste bags, false teeth, cartridge knife and a sex toy.

- b. Ilfracombe Town Council sent thanks on behalf of their Deputy Mayor who attended the Mayors charity event recently.

279/25 COMMITTEE REPORTS

RESOLVED

To receive the reports of the following Committees:

Estates and Amenities Committee

11 February 2026

Policy and Finance Committee

18 February 2026

Minutes 266/25 – 272/25

Councillor Peacock called minute number 271/25 b, to ask where the funds for the Tennis Club were coming from – the residue of the LETA funds and surplus would make up the difference.

Councillor Atherton called 271/25 d, LGR Reorganisation. The recommendation didn't say which option Council preferred.

280/25 DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM

This item was brought from Full Council January to give all Members a chance to volunteer to be the lead on the resilience plan and to be able to bid for financial support from the fund. After discussion it was

RESOLVED

Councillor Peacock will meet with Town Clerk and Councillor Hobbs for a discussion. Members authorised Town Clerk to continue bidding for funds.

281/25 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY HUB FACILITY

Town Clerk talked about the old jail behind the Town Hall, which could be used as storage for the items needed for an emergency, and this would be a project for which Town Clerk would bid for funds as above.

282/25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Members were furnished with the link to decide which option was preferred.

[Devon LGR](#)

Councillor Logan proposed Option 4 would be the preferred option (LLTC incorporated with Devon rural coast and countryside areas).

Councillor Rodway proposed an amendment of Option 3, this was not seconded.

Councillor Patrinos proposed an amendment of Option 4 with clarification of non-agreement for the other options. This was carried. It was

RESOLVED

To submit Councils preferred option for LGR by 26 March 2026.

283/25 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS AND OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Councillor Hobbs reported the new Lyn Valley News is finished, and would be distributed around the area shortly.:

Councillor Peacock asked about the Harbour Sub-Committee minutes, which in future would be added to the Committee Reports item.

284/25 MOTIONS

There were none

285/25 NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Councillor Patrinos reported on:

- NDC budget meeting
- Trade waste
- Unlicensed dog breeders
- Residents parking scheme, Tors Road, which was discussed in detail and it was **RESOLVED** to raise this item when it comes up for official review to make sure it is performing as it should.

Questions:

Cllr Peacock asked about the bins in Queen Street by the Crown, Cllr Patrinos will get back to him

286/25 DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Davis sent in apologies but submitted a report which is attached to these minutes

Questions:

Included County Council elections and Lynmouth Hill,

287/25 REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk worked through his report (attached)

Questions

Councillor Atherton asked about the Town Hall WiFi

288/25 QUESTIONS:

No further questions

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Chairman

Lynton and Lynmouth Parish Council Meeting – 26/02/2026

Police Report:

February 2026 (Report from 28/01/2026 – 25/02/2026)

February 2026:

- 1 x Common Assault
- 1 x Public Order Offence

Both reports relate to an incident in a public house where the suspect has been abusive/threatening and has assaulted a member of the public – Suspect was arrested at scene and is currently under investigation.

Kind Regards.

Scott Elliott

Neighbourhood Beat Manager – Lynton/Lynmouth

Mobile: 07929 076531

Email: Scott.ELLIOTT@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

North & West Devon LPA / NEW Devon BCU

Devon & Cornwall Police, Lynton Police Office, Lynton Fire Station, 5 Burvill Street, Lynton, EX35 6HA.

Lynton and Lynmouth Twon Council

County Councillors report

February 2026

On Tuesday the budget meeting of Devon County Council approved spending plans for 2026/27 and agreed a 4.99 per cent increase on the County Councils council tax share.

This amounts to £89.91 a year (£1.73 a week) for a Band D property for the county council's share (precept).

This would result in a council tax requirement for the authority of just over £610 million for 26/27.

To balance the position, the authority has to deliver £38.98 million of savings, alternative funding or additional income.

The budget explains how the council will continue to support local services at a time when costs are rising and demand for help is increasing.

The council will spend £839.2 million on day-to-day services next year. This is £33.2 million more (4.1 per cent) than in 2025/26.

Councillors also agreed a £770.6 million capital investment programme covering the five years from 2026/27 to 2030/31.

This money will be used for major projects such as road repairs, new school places, support for children with special educational needs, and improvements to council buildings across Devon.

The two biggest spend areas which account for 79% of DCC's expenditure;

1. Children and families

The Children and families budget will see the largest increase in funding across the council.

Spending will rise to £268 million in 2026/27, an increase of £19.1 million. This reflects growing pressure on children's social care, early help for families, and support for children who cannot live at home.

Children and families – capital investment

A total of £76.5 million will be invested over five years in children's homes, school expansions and specialist education provision.

Over the next five years, £25.8 million will be spent on new and expanded specialist schools to create more places for children who need extra support.

2. Adult social care

Adult social care continues to be the council's biggest area of spending.

The budget for adult social care will rise to £395.9 million in 2026/27, an increase of £9.9 million, or 2.6 per cent. This helps cover rising costs, including higher wages for care staff.

Roads and transport

Spending on highways maintenance will rise to £32.4 million in 2026/27, an increase of £2 million.

Full Council also agreed an additional £4 million investment for highways maintenance over the next financial year.

Public health, communities and libraries

The council will receive £37.7 million to support public health services, including help with drug and alcohol misuse and stop-smoking services.

Spending on community services and libraries will total £14.4 million in 2026/27.

Full council also agreed additional funding of £225,000 to restore the book fund to £500,000 and an extra £425,000 to support general library delivery during transition.

Together, these total £650,000, and reverses the proposed efficiency saving within the original libraries budget resulting in a libraries budget of more than £7 million.

In addition, a £1 million reserve for Libraries and Rural Hubs will be established to support genuine transformation and community led improvement.

Additional funding

The council also approved targeted funding which reflects priorities that have arisen through meetings of the council's scrutiny committees, community feedback and consultations with businesses and voluntary organisations.

These include an additional £600,000 to improve the speed in which Education Health Care Plans are delivered; £300,000 additional foster care support; £106,000 to strengthen domestic abuse provision; increase of each councillor's locality budget to £10,000.

There is also an additional £500,000 for post-16 and foster care transport.

Exmoor National Park Housing need survey

Raising awareness and a gentle reminder to promote please! Lynton and Lynmouth TC have been sent the information.

Highways Update following the recent storms

Background

- Through January and into February, Devon has been impacted by 3 named storms
- These storms alongside the previously reported freeze/thaw weather pattern is incredibly damaging for the carriageways and has led to severe structural damage and a significant increase in pothole numbers.

Response

Whilst DCC have recovered access to all communities, it is becoming more aware of the significant impact of the 3 named storms on the minor network. This is becoming more evident as flood water recedes and the team continue to widen their inspections of the network and we receive more information and feedback from the public and local communities. There are currently 2,900 safety defect potholes outstanding with a further 1,600 reports received this week which we are endeavouring to inspect and repair at the earliest opportunity. We are currently assessing more than 600 reports a day.

The impact of the most recent storm on the A379 Slapton Line has been particularly significant with a loss of sea defence and road structure. We are currently working with South Hams DC, the EA and Natural England to understand and assess the impact and consider short term and longer term recovery options. To ensure we can react as swiftly and effectively as possible we have paused programmed works.

This has made available 5 jettors and 6 gully emptiers across the county which will be working into the weekend and through the next week to address reported drainage issues.

There are 50 gangs committed to the support of the recovery operation who have been working around the clock, not only to clear the impact of the storm but to also undertake winter service treatments to ensure the safety of road users when temperatures have dropped significantly. Many of these teams continue to work additional hours on Saturdays and Sundays to keep the network as safe as possible.

Please continue to report defects on the highway.

With the winter now very much upon us, it is more likely there will be defects in the highway network, this includes streetlights and signs.

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

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 1

Local Government Reorganisation

Summary

The Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities (MHCLG) has launched a formal consultation to restructure Devon's local government. The current "two-tier" system (County and District councils) is proposed to be replaced by a Unitary model—a single-tier authority designed to be more efficient and sustainable.

As your representative, my sole priority is ensuring that any change protects the Combe Martin Rural Division. Our remote area relies on a delicate balance of agriculture, hospitality, and transport connectivity, and our voice must not be lost in this transition.

The 5 proposals in this consultation were made by the following councils on 28 November 2025:

1. Devon County Council proposed 3 unitary councils These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Devon Unitary Council:** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, Torridge and West Devon
- **Plymouth** to remain unchanged
- **Torbay** to remain unchanged

2. South Hams District Council, Teignbridge Borough Council, West Devon Borough Council proposed 3 unitary councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Exeter and Northern Devon Unitary:** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge
- **Plymouth** to remain unchanged
- **Torbay and Southern Devon Unitary:** South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon

3. East Devon Borough Council, Mid Devon District Council, North Devon Council, Torridge District Council proposed 3 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Exeter and Northern Devon Unitary:** East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon, and Torridge
- **Plymouth Expanded:** parts of the parishes of Bickleigh, Brixton, Shaugh Prior and Sparkwell from the neighbouring district of South Hams
- **Torbay and Southern Devon Unitary:** South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon

4. Exeter City Council and Plymouth City Council proposed 4 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Devon Coast and Countryside:** The rest of Devon
- **Exeter:** plus 15 parishes from within Teignbridge District Council, 28 parishes from within East Devon District Council and 6 parishes from within Mid-Devon District Council.
- **Plymouth:** plus 13 parishes from South Hams
- **Torbay:** plus 22 parishes from within Teignbridge District Council and South Hams District Council.

5. Torbay Council proposed 4 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Exeter Council:** plus 15 parishes from within Teignbridge District Council, 28 parishes from within East Devon District Council and 6 parishes from within Mid Devon District Council
- **Plymouth Council:** plus 13 parishes from South Hams
- **Rural Devon Coast and Countryside Council:** The rest of Devon
- **Torbay Council** to remain unchanged

You can find all five proposals listed above at: www.devonlgr.co.uk.

Why Your Feedback is Vital- my take on this!

Living in a remote, rural area, we face unique challenges. We must ask:

1. Will our voice be heard? Will a single large council respond to a blocked lane in Combe Martin as quickly as it would to a city street? That in reality is no different to how the current system operates. ***I will always ensure our voice is heard!***
2. Will our economy be supported? How will these models protect our seasonal hospitality and farming sectors?
3. Are the savings real? Will the £28m in savings be reinvested into rural infrastructure and transport?

How to Participate

The consultation closes at 11:59 pm on Thursday, 26 March 2026.

- Online: Submit your views via the [MHCLG Consultation Portal](#).
- Review the Cases: Detailed business cases are available at Combe Martin Library (after 13th Feb) or online at www.devonlgr.co.uk.

Government is interested in whether each model:

- ? **Is based on sensible geographies and economic areas**
- ? **Will deliver the outcomes described in the proposals**
- ? **Is the right size to be efficient, improve capacity, and withstand financial shocks**
- ? **Will enable stronger community engagement and support devolution**
- ? **Will deliver high-quality, sustainable public services that meet local needs**

There is a free text box under each option where you can talk about anything that matters to you. They have told us that AI will be used to analyse the results, so hopefully any strong themes will be visible to Government when they look at the output of the consultation.

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

Andrea

County Councillor

Combe Martin Rural Division

Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

TOWN CLERKS REPORT

February 2026



AGENCY UPDATE

- **Harbour** – Workforce doing well on repointing inside aspect of wall and have been prioritising this project. 3 Policy papers were adopted by Februarys' Harbour Board. Further work needed on the other 4 prior to resubmission at next Board. Pollution Training with Ambipar awaits fixed date for delivery. Spring removal of silt from the harbour mouth took place as usual.
- **Street Sweeping** – Mule repaired via insurance company after accident. Demo on weekly hire returned.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Template listing NDC assets requesting to transfer prior to LGR was submitted.
LTC Communications & Marketing Officer commenced 2nd February 2026 and LVN paper copy ready for publication March 2026
The Mayor sent a letter of condolence to Councillor Hawkins' family on his sad passing on 15 February after his hard-fought battle with cancer.
Surveyor has commenced Rent review for 3 LTC Manor area properties
Lyn Valley - Trade Waste & Recycling Consultation continues with LTC acting as Broker for Lyn Valley businesses to achieve a new service in Trade Recycling etc..

COUNCIL PROPERTY

- **Town Hall** – new WiFi has been installed with 6 boosters rather than the 3 previously deployed.
- **Emergency Community Hub** – Town Clerk working with Local Resilience Forum and bidding for funds to refurbish old Town Hall Cell into Emergency Community Hub facility
- **Town Hall Peer Review** – Ilfracombe equivalent of our Town Hall Supervisor attended for half day and positively reviewed our processes and procedures.

Events/Road Closures:

Tarmac Trading Ltd, on behalf of Devon County Council, will be carrying out resurfacing works A39 Road from Blackmoor Gate to Rowley Gate between Monday 23rd – Thursday 26th March 2026, 19.00 – 06.00, and from Blackmoor Gate to Friendship Farm between Thursday 26th – Tuesday 31st March 2026 (weeknights only), again between 19.00 – 06.00.

Emergency works/spending this month:

None

Kevin A Harris – Town Clerk – February 2026