

LOPEN PARISH COUNCIL

<https://www.lopenvillage.org/parish-council>

Minutes of the Meeting of Lopen Parish Council held in the Sunday School Room on Monday 27th April 2026 at 7.00pm

26/42 Attendance and Apologies

Present: Cllrs Jones, Crane, Feeney, Armstrong and King; Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

Apologies: None.

26/43 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations: None.

26/44 Parish Councillor Vacancies: No applications received.

26/45 Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2026

RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true record of the previous meeting, which were duly signed by the Chair.

26/46 Planning Applications

26/00568/FUL: Unit 15, Lopen Business Park Mill Lane Lopen TA13 5JS - Installation of a 180Kw output Wood Gasification Boiler unit external to an existing Joinery Factory in a steel storage container and a 8m high flue on the south elevation of the factory shed building (retrospective application)

RESOLVED to submit no comments on the application.

a. Updates and Enforcement: No matters raised.

Details of applications and the council's full responses are available to view against the respective applications on the Somerset Council planning portal [Link to Planning Portal](#)

26/47 Financial Matters

a. Financial statement:

Financial statement with bank reconciliation and year end position to 31/3/26 was circulated in advance of the meeting. No queries were raised and the reconciliation as verified by Cllr Feeney.

b. Asset Register:

An updated asset register was circulated

, which incorporated the AV equipment purchased in 2025. Previously nil valued assets were adjusted to have a nominal £1 value as per guidelines in the Practitioners Guide. RESOLVED to approve the updated asset register.

c. Payments requiring authorisation:

The Council RESOLVED to authorise the following payments:

Clerk salary & PAYE to 30/4/26 (restricted information under GDPR)	
SALC affiliation fee	£139.39
APM catering	£155.42
Admin expenses	£4.07

The following payments made since the last meeting were noted

Unity Trust monthly fees – March '26	£7.00
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26/48 Insurance renewal requirements

The clerk noted that the existing policy does not offer accident benefit for volunteers and it was agreed that this should be included within the policy. The updated asset will be used to guide levels of cover required. Quotes to be considered at the next meeting

26/49 Clerk CiLCA qualification

Noted that the Clerk received notification of passing CiLCA on 11th April. As per their contract, a salary increment increase of 1 point will be applied, effective 1st May.

Initial ...NJ.....

26/50 Orchard Land lease

Cllr Jones continues to try and make follow up contact with Somerset Council to progress the draft lease.

26/51 Updates and actions on the following areas:

- a. Highways: No updates.
- b. Rights of Way: The damaged slat on bridge 731 (ROW CH18/23), at Merriott has been repaired.
- c. Flooding: No updates.
- d. Training: None requested.
- e. Local Community Network: Highways working group was last week, Cllr Jones was unable to attend, minutes to be circulated when available.
The LCN AGM will be held on Tuesday 30th June at the Millenium Hall, Seavington St Mary. Agenda will be circulated once available.
LCN meetings are open to members of the public – more information can be found here:
<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/>
- f. Community Emergency Plan: A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday this week to further develop the plan.
- g. Website: Progress is being made with the new site, a brief presentation was made by the Clerk at the APM.

26/52 Correspondence/Matters for report only: Precept first half payment has been received; VAT claim has been received. These will be reflected in the next financial report.

26/53 Items for the next meeting: None requested.
Any additional proposals to be submitted to the Clerk in line with standing orders.

26/54 Date of next meetings: Monday 18th May 2026, 7.00pm in the Sunday School Room.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.08pm.

SignedN. Jones, Chair.....

Date19 June 2026.....

Initial ...NJ.....