

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on - 13th May 2025 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Stephen Kimsey (SK) (Chair), Dot Hayward (DH), Steve Powles (SPo), Mary Abel (MA), Marc Vyvyan-Jones (MVJ), Chris Chanter (CC), Sarah Payne (SPa), Louise Cook (LC) & Francis Nicholson (FN).

No	Discussion	Action
1	Apologies - Stephen Pugsley (SPu)	
2	Declarations of Interest - none declared	
3	Minutes -It was agreed that these were an accurate representation of the meeting on the 11th March 25. MA proposed they were accepted, CC seconded, and the minutes were accepted and signed off.	
4	Somerset Council and LCN updates - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car parking charges in Wiveliscombe look like they are going ahead. The Parish Councillors felt this was likely to lead to an increase in illegal parking in the town and the charges would negatively impact the shops in the town. Could there not be a 30-minute free parking to buy a pint of milk? Recycling centres closures have paused for the moment, if the proposal comes up again there will be a consultation. Boundary review no further information at the moment The number of burglaries has seen a worrying increase 	
5	Matters arising - VE day film shown, 60 people came, a great success.	
6	Highways - Scotts Hill. No update despite lots of chasing. Highways and the contractor are trying to agree on a way forward. This could be a very embarrassing issue for Somerset Council. Maundown hill surface dressing failure, Highways didn't feel this was causing a danger this needs to be emailed in as the online reporting tool won't cope with a poor workmanship issue. DH to email Hedge cutting issues. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> People who own the field opposite MVJ, the hedge needs cutting back as it is a hazard to traffic. MVJ to contact them as has their contact details. Ideally should be done late Sept to early Feb. There have been lots of complaints about this one. Hedge on the LH side at the top of the Cleeve. marc also has the contact details and will send a letter Narrow bridge sign, DH discussed with Highways, the problem being that once you have taken the road from Wiveliscombe there are no suitable alternative routes for large vehicles. DH to investigate if Google maps could show a narrowing route or unsuitable for HGVs. Some lorries are from the village and must take that route Fingerpost sign replacements are likely to be roughly £1100 for the 2 posts at Flint Cross, we may get a discount of 50% for partially being in the National Park. There may be delivery costs and fitting costs, DH discussed with Tom	DH MVJ MVJ DH

	<p>Thurlow. Parish Council would like to progress with these repairs whilst the project on Exmoor is ongoing, but we need to be clear on the exact costs. At Sperry Cross the sign for Wiveliscombe is right in the drivers eyeline, could it be placed at the top as that would be safer. Councillor Nicholson confirmed this is planned work.</p> <p>Speeding -There have been incidents of speeding in the village and near misses in particular a red and white superbike coming from the Sperry Cross area travelling at approx. 80 mph and not slowing for corners, the same person also has an Audi TT which also speeds. Action all to find the registration number so that this can be reported to the police. DH to ask on Facebook if anyone can help with identification. This represents a danger to residents and animals. This should be discussed with Kate Brown from Traffic Engineering Signs and Lines. She needs to be given a detailed explanation. DH to email her. There is also an issue at the main T Junction in the village with drivers taking the corner too fast.</p> <p>Motorbikes from the quarry are now going into the woods opposite Potters Cross.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>DH</p> <p>DH</p>
7	<p>Finance - Following the introduction of a £4.25 charge per month from Lloyds, we are looking to change banks to National Westminster. DH has completed the online forms but there are a couple of errors to resolve, and identity documents need to be uploaded by signatories. DH to resolve issues</p> <p>Balances as at the 11th May 2025 the Community Account Balance was £10,264.50. A service charge of £4.25 has been debited for April 2025. No other payments made The Community Instant Access Business Account balance was £1091.62 and we received 90 pence interest for April.</p> <p>When we move accounts £5K to be kept in the current account and the rest in a 90-day higher interest account</p>	DH
8	<p>Planning Washbattle Mill Cottage planning application to be revised Higher Beverton Farm class Q application not in the parish.</p>	
9	<p>Emergency Plan SK continuing to review – will need volunteers for aspects</p>	SK
10	<p>Volunteer Day - has changed into more of a campaign asking people at events if they would like to help for a few hours, a list of jobs is available and will include a litter picking event.</p>	
11	<p>AOB Policies and Procedures. SK will review online and update and email to all councillors for sign off</p>	
12	<p>Next Meeting. Tuesday 8th July 2025 at 7:30</p>	