

# HUISH CHAMPFLOWER PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

**Members of the public** - None

Meeting started at 7:30 pm

|   |  | Action |
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| 1 | <b>Apologies</b><br>Stephen Pugsley,   |        |
| 2 | <b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> on 14th May 2024. Minutes were agreed as accurate. MA proposed they were accepted and SPa seconded, all voted in favour of accepting the minutes, which were signed off   |        |
| 3 | <b>Matters arising-</b> The road on Tanners Hill has been marked off for pothole repairs.  |        |
| 4 | <p><b>Parish Council report 24/25</b></p> <p>Having reviewed what I said last year, I would like to start by reiterating how much of a privilege it is to live in Huish Champflower. As a community we must never forget how very fortunate we are and must never take for granted what we have and enjoy.</p> <p>What makes Huish Champflower? I believe that the two most important components are the natural environment in which we live and the community.</p> <p>The Parish Council seeks to protect and where feasible, enhance, our environment. For instance, our diligent participation in the local planning process, and our on-going and active participation with the Exmoor LCN.</p> <p>Similar aims exist regarding the community, with us providing support for life-saving defibrillators and first aid kits, grants for the Village Hall and donations to St Peter's Church.</p> <p>Arguably most other matters we are involved in continue this relationship with our environment and community. For instance, trying to ensure that our highways, bye-ways and footpaths remain safe and accessible, and maintaining or replacing notice boards and grit bins.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we have neither the resources or the authority to undertake highway repairs – but I can assure everyone that we communicate on a regular basis with Somerset Highways and in recent months on a more frequent basis as we seek any information as to the progress of repairs to the Scots Hill/Watercombe road.</p> <p>The most recent update on this potentially very embarrassing incident for the County council, is that the Highways department and their contractor seemingly</p> |        |

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|   | <p>cannot yet agree how to progress. Personally, I suspect the delay boils down to the tight financial position of the council.</p> <p>In so many ways this highway issue clouds the otherwise generally good service that we receive – and I cite the work they recently undertook through Brown Lane.</p> <p>Financially, the Parish Council is in a good position and foresee no immediate need for any increase in the precept like that of a year ago. We are well-placed to face the challenges which might arise from any devolution of services by Somerset Council which would directly affect us. Most recently it seems that the County council are considering devolution of road verge cutting as well as provision of road grit – though they did provide us with a road gritter for a week or so.</p> <p>On behalf of the Parish Council and all residents I would like to express our gratitude to our two County Councillors – Francis Nicholson and Steven Pugsley. The advice and support they provide is invaluable.</p> <p>The Parish Council would also like to state how appreciative we are for those who continue to maintain the flowers by each of the Village Signs, and to Mr Duffy and Mr Trim for undertaking urgently required repairs to the Village Noticeboards.</p> <p>Last but absolutely not least, and on behalf of myself and the other members of the Parish Council, I would like to say a very sincere and heartfelt thank you to our Parish Clerk. Dorothy is simply excellent and highly valued by all of us.</p> <p>Unlike some other regions of our planet, Huish Champflower does not need to be made great again – Huish Champflower IS great!</p> |  |
| 5 | <b>Other matters-</b> None were raised  |  |
| 7 | <b>Closed meeting at 7:45</b>   |  |