

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on - 9th December 2025 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Stephen Kimsey (SK) (Chair), Dot Hayward (DH), Marc Vyvyan-Jones (MVJ), Sarah Payne (SPa), Louise Cook (LC), Steve Powles (SPo) and Stephen Pugsley (SPu).

No	Discussion	Action
1	Apologies -Mary Abel (MA), Chris Chanter (CC), Francis Nicholson (FN).	
2	Declarations of Interest - none declared	
3	The Minutes were agreed as an accurate representation of the discussion	
4	<p>Matters arising-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scotts Hill work has started and is close to being finished ● Finger post painting Joss has fed back to LC and Jeremy has sent instructions ● Finger Post repairs we are still awaiting quotes ● Emergency plan is minuted below ● Village Hall we need to make a decision and quotes in order to grant fund. Broadband, paving and sound systems (amps and speakers) are all options. Need to check BT Speeds ● We have joined CPRE who are helping with the woodland building on the Cleeve. ● Barbed wire on the Cleeve is still an issue, complaints have been received. 	
5	<p>Somerset Council Updates</p> <p>Thank you to SPu for the suggestion of the CPRE, we had a useful meeting with their planning officer on the Cleeve.</p> <p>The Boundary Commission has reopened the consultation to allow for some areas to have 2 County Councillors. All existing comments would be carried forward. Findings will be published in mid March. Unlikely to affect our area, a delay rather than a change to the proposals.</p> <p>Exmoor National Park is doing a Housing Needs Survey, SPu and FN are asking if this could be extended to the Brendon Hills, if not could we have a copy so that we could do our own version?</p> <p>Highways:- there is lots of resurfacing on the road from Beulah to Cutcombe over the next few weeks, they are not working on market day to allow the farmers through. Cutcombe hill repairs to be completed in the spring.</p> <p>SPo raised the issue of the Beulah Chapel junction, SPu hoping to get a STOP sign installed. There are also issues of overgrown trees in the adjacent fields making the road very dark. Trees are the landowners responsibility and they are not a road hazard.</p> <p>The timing of Road Sweeping is not helping with blocked drains.</p> <p>A number of parish councils have complained that bags of grit have been delivered but bins have not been filled. We need to report this back if it is an issue.</p> <p>We have a letter about hedges overhanging roads that needs to be sent out 2 areas identified opposite the end of West Coombe Lane and on the road to Winters Cross from Potters Cross. DH to send letters. If no response then The County will cut them and send a bill. We need contacts for absentee landlords.</p>	<p>SPu, FN</p> <p>SPu</p> <p>DH</p> <p>DH/ MVJ</p>
6	<p>Highways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scotts Hill there are important cables under the road that still need attention. 	

	<p>SK raised the issue that the fence around Watercombe House still needs repairing following the accident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Road Safety white lines and Slow markings have been reported but due to weather and budget issues Somerset Council cannot do this until the spring. It is also proposed that we obtain green advisory speed limit signs and put these onto existing poles. ● Parking issues were discussed and a meeting was held with residents. ● General Winter Maintenance <p>SPa raised the issue that there is no Give Way sign on the Cleeve approaching the Tanners junction, there have been 3 collisions there and it has very difficult visibility.</p>	<p>SK/DH</p> <p>DH</p>
7	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Precept: There do not seem to be any more proposals from the County Council to delegate further functions down to parishes at the moment. Therefore SK proposed that the Precept be kept the same as it is at the moment, SPa seconded this proposal and it was agreed unanimously. ● Since the last meeting we have spent £60 on CPRE membership, £500 on village hall rent, £955 on wages for 6 months and we have a balance of £9704.27p ● Opening an investment account with a suggested £5K. ● It is important to agree grant spending plans with the village hall and also invite Denise from the Church to see what grant funding opportunities there might be. 	<p>DH</p> <p>DH</p>
8	<p>Planning</p> <p>The Old Rectory have an application for the gatehouse Catford House have an agricultural building with deemed planning permission Washbattle application has gone to appeal. CPRE are helping us put pressure on the Enforcement team re the building on the woodland on the Cleeve.</p>	
9	<p>Emergency Plan</p> <p>SK has been able to share information with Clatworthy. The general principle is to encourage good neighbours to knock on doors, keeping a watch on vulnerable residents. Communication is the key. Possibly look into getting power packs for the village hall, but these will need maintenance. When Search and Rescue came they really valued having a Toaster and a Microwave and were really grateful to Sharon for providing hers with some bread. Could the village hall become a community place of safety?</p>	
10	<p>Parish Communications</p> <p>There have been a number of complaints that the village Facebook group has been taken over by things happening in Wiveliscombe. This means that important village information can get buried very quickly. A number of parish councils have their own Facebook Groups and SK has been looking into this. In Milverton they have banned the Wivey groups from posting on their site.</p>	<p>SK</p>
11	<p>AOB: LC has obtained a number of free trees for planting hopefully at the village hall but we need to have their permission to do this.</p>	<p>LC/DH</p>
12	<p>Date of Next meeting:- 13th Jan 2026</p>	