

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. Morgan, Aldridge, Bowhay, Mattick, Moore, Manley, Sinclair, Terry and Newman.

Apologies: Cllrs Simmons, Pike and Holme.

A period of silence was given in respect to CCllr Tony Robbins who recently died after many years of public service.

1. **Public participation:** One resident arrived late.
2. **Minutes of the Previous Ordinary Meeting:** The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.
3. **Ongoing & Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Traffic Safety at Lynch Hill:** The full pavement all the way to the Old Down is unlikely to happen. There is now a gateway sign, phase 1. Pavement now up to the Mulberry. Phase 2. The PC agreed that this was an ongoing matter whilst waiting for phase 3. Questions still remain about a post-pavement meeting with Highways. Clerk has written again to Highways saying that the PC want a face-to-face meeting and SC can choose the date.
 - b) **Allotments:** Clerk reported that he had written to the charitable trust. Cllrs would need to have a look at access. Cllr Bowhay reported that they might have to look at something else – maybe buy some land. If the PC was thinking of allotments on S&D land, they would need ten pitches of 21x6metres.
 - c) **Co-op road:** It had been reported that the Co-op are on board with the idea of making it one way around the shop. Clerk has written to SCC Transport. Ongoing. Clerk reported that the Co-op were still behind the idea and he had written again to SC. Clerk has chased highways. Ongoing
 - d) **106 money:** Money is still due for the school from Pickford Fields and Brimscombe Meadow. £122,000 and £49,000. Clerk has contacted the SCCllrs about this
 - e) **Bowden Hill green:** Clerk has written to SC asking for strong bollards to protect the area. Clerk reported he had written again. Clerk has chased highways. Ongoing.
 - f) **Coal truck:** Cllr Mattick had reported that it has been taken away for repair, still in workshop.
 - g) **Heritage asset list:** Cllr Sinclair reported that the parishioner's asset list was now on the website. However, he has also found another village list put together by a Somerset Heritage group. The ideal would be to merge the two and indicate location with 'what three words'. This is going to be a long task. Cllr Manley offered her help.
 - h) **Cllrs in calligraphy:** Cllr Mattick said he would take away the existing document to show Hannah Smith, if she was up for it clerk would provide date details.
 - i) **Traffic feasibility study:** It was agreed that there was now some urgency as potential 106 funds request. Quotes were needed, Easter was set as a target. Cllr Holme produced a 3 page report on what was needed for the study, on what was expected of the prospective companies. Cllr Manley suggested there should be a comparative element with other villages. It was agreed to go ahead and contact companies. Cllr Sinclair

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reported that Cllr Holme was identifying local companies that might give competitive tenders.

j) Fence in play area: Ongoing.

k) Path to Stratton: There has been another email about this. But ongoing. Cllr Mattick is in discussion with Andrew Osborne. Clerk to reply to email.

4. Committee reports: PEG - Cllr Newman reported that there was a meeting on 9/2, six events were being discussed including a children's talent show, a pop up coffee bar and a village walk. **OLD REC** – It was reported that a tent had been put up in the children's play area. What appears to be a blanket is inside plus a few other items but no one has been seen. The clerk has reported to the police. Cllr Sinclair has been researching protocol about what can be done. SC told him that their enforcement officers might be able to advise, waiting on this (they later offered advice but stated they cannot assist in clearing). Meanwhile as the tent appears to be unoccupied a sign will put up on the tent saying it must be removed immediately. If this does not happen then it can be removed after 48 hrs for disposal after 14 days. Councillors plan to execute these actions between Thursday and Saturday. **FOOTPATHS** – Path between the Valley and the Wagon reported as bad, Cllr Mattick to get Andrew Osborne to take a look. A budget was agreed on £500.

5. Grasscutting/repair/potholes: The new contract from Primrose was agreed. Clerk to let them know. Pothole markings had been made on The Street, then washed away in the rain.

6. Electricity in the Old Rec: With Cllr Moore's initiative, a quote has been given to reconnect to the National Grid at £1,800. This was agreed. But work is also required from builder/electrician to box in and protect. Up to £3,000 was agreed. A supplier would then need to be found.

At this point the meeting was adjourned as the resident present kept interrupting thereby upsetting and intimidating cllrs. After he had gone the meeting was reconvened.

7. Get Together: Date has been set for event at the Old Rec, 27/6. Cllr Manley reported that they would need volunteer support from cllrs on the day. There are grants already promised, but currently the committee estimate that in order to keep the event free to all, a further £3,000 may also be needed to cover costs. Additional grant funding and sponsorship is being sought but if there is still a shortfall the PC agreed to cover this. **Dog/litter Bins:** Somerset Council have asked for £811.20 to empty the bins at the Old Rec and in the Church car park. This was agreed by the PC. Clerk to tell SC. Re the bin that was by the Sports ground and was taken away because it was being used for building rubble. But it was used on a regular basis by litter pickers. Cllrs Bowhay and Mattick to agree on a suitable spot in that area.

8. Planning Applications: None.

Subcommittee: 2026/0030 Rear extension. 2 Greenditch Close. Recommend approval.

Cllr Bowhay talked about the bin that used to be near the sports ground. Put on agenda.

10. Accounts:

820 – BWP Creative Ltd	- website	-	273.60
11.	821 – M. Rigby	- clerk's salary	- 621.70

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12.	822 – HMRC	- tax	-	155.20
13.	823 - M. Rigby	- reimbursements	-	19.35
14.	824– Chil VHMC	- rent	-	24.00
15.	825 – Starboard Systems		-	accounts
	software	-	599.96	
16.	826 – The Marquee Hire Company		-	event tent
	deposit	-	992.93	
Total				2686.74

- 11. Correspondence:** Cllr Manley said there may be a Youth Club contract for Cllr Pike to sign. Clerk to look. Re M. Pickford's email about Wagon/Valley path, see above, clerk to contact Marlene. Re email about potentially dangerous trees in the old rec. Clerk to tell them to go ahead with safety cutting. Relationship between the PC and SC, particularly highways. Clerk to put on future agenda.
- 12. Police report:** None
- 13. Any Other Business:** Cllr Mattick said that a decision needed to be made about excluding the resident who keeps interrupting the meeting on a regular basis, get advice from SALC. Clerk to write to SALC ccing Cllr Sinclair for any comments. Cllr Sinclair said that info about the RSV virus and 70 year olds should be put on social media. Cllr Morgan would. Magazine article on the skate park should be forwarded to be put on social media. Clerk to forward and Cllr Morgan to put on. Cllr Sinclair said that he and Cllr Manley would look out for important emails and planning applications.
- 14. Date of next meeting:** This was fixed for Wednesday 11th March 2026. Planning meeting Monday 25th February.
- 15. Close:** The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.32pm.