

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18 MARCH 2026 AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs. Aldridge, Bowhay, Mattick, Moore, Sinclair, Terry and Newman. With the absence of the chair and vice-chair, Cllr Sinclair was chosen as the chair for the night.

Apologies: Cllrs Pike, Morgan, Simmons, Manley and Holme. PCSO Natalie McIntosh.

1. **Public participation:** Three members of the public attended. Peter Tatar, chair of the VHMC, said that the instructions on the VH AED had been worn away. The PC agreed that if he bought new, then the PC would cover the cost. Jessica Parry talked about the dangers of traffic on The Street, also on water purity.
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) **Sports bin:** Ongoing, cllrs Mattick/Bowhay and Dave Travis.

4. **Committee reports:** These were all dealt with in the preceding Annual Parish Meeting.

5. **Grasscutting/repair/potholes:** Re S. Hanley email about broken post on The Street, cllr Mattick said he would contact Matthew Emery. Speculation about The Street being resurfaced.

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. Clerk to make out cheque when the invoice is sent on to him.

7. **Stockhill Graveyard:** It was agreed that if the diocese did not want the churchyard, neither did the PC.

8. **Standing Orders:** A change in S.O. was agreed that if the chair decides to eject someone from a meeting following disruption then it would need to be backed by a vote of the council. Clerk to make change. SALC advice about disruption was discussed.

9. **Planning Applications:** None.

Subcommittee: None.

10. Accounts:

827 – BWP Creative Ltd	- website	-	14.40
828 – M. Rigby	- clerk's salary	-	621.50
829 – HMRC	- tax	-	155.40
830 - M. Rigby	- reimbursements	-	19.35
831– Chil VPMC	- rent	-	48.00
832 – T.P.M.	- mag printing	-	1740.45
833 – R. Llewellyn	- bench repair	-	128.00
834 – Osborne Servives	- path maintenance	-	360.00
835 – Paul Mattick	- path maintenance	-	270.00

Total 3357.10

11. **Correspondence:** Re emails about turning skatepark into playground. PC noted. Re Stratton path. Done. Re M. Roberts about Midsomer Norton devpt, clerk to ask him to next full meeting. Re J.Fuller email about heritage list, cllr Sinclair has responded. Re emails about multi user path off Bakers Lane, clerk to reply saying the PC understands there is a strip of land on the old rail line which is not owned by residents. Re K.Doran email about Broadway crossing, clerk to send to

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traffic subcom. Re G.Smyth email about plaque on bench, cllr Sinclair dealing. Re email about allotments, PC noted.

12. Any Other Business: Cllr Moore commented on the recent issue of the village magazine being good.

13. Date of next meeting: This was fixed for Wednesday 8th April 2026. Planning meeting Wednesday 25th March.

14. Close: The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.