



Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2026 in the Memorial Hall at 6.30pm

**Present:** Jon Abbott (Chair), John Bridges, Nikki Hutchison, John Scadding, David Stone and David Wilson.

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), PCSO Natalie McKintosh, Cllr Sam Phripp, and two members of the public.

### Public Forum

PCSO Natalie McKintosh provided an update on recent activities in Binegar and Gurney Slade. The meeting commented about teenagers using motorcycles in Binegar quarry and also speeding along the A37 through Gurney Slade.

1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> The meeting received apologies for absence from Cath Law.		
2	<b>Chair's Announcements</b> The meeting noted the following announcements: <b>Village Hall Conservation Area</b> The meeting noted that a planning enforcement officer had visited the site and met with the Chair. <b>Parishioner email</b> A request had been received from a parishioner regarding the placement of signage on the A37 and through the village to warn drivers of deer. The meeting agreed that in a rural environment drivers should be driving appropriately. <b>Somerset Council Chair's Service to the Community Awards 2026</b> The Chair informed the meeting that an email had been received regarding the Somerset Council Chair's Service to the Community Awards 2026. It was agreed that any nominations would be considered at the July meeting. <b>Notice Boards</b> The Chair commented that the Parish noticeboards (4) required maintenance.		
3	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.		
4	<b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to sign the Minutes of the 5 May 2026 meeting as a correct record.		
5	<b>Local Government Reports</b> The meeting noted that no government reports had been received.		
6	<b>Local Community Networks</b> <b>Active Travel Working Group</b> It was noted that the Active Travel meeting clashed with the Parish Council meeting <b>Highways Working Group</b> The next meeting of the Highways Working Group is taking place on Tuesday 9 June at the Portway Annex, Wells. The Chair undertook to attend. <b>Main LCN</b> The meeting noted that the next Local Community Network meeting would be on Monday 13 July at 6.30pm at Coxley Memorial Hall and would be the Annual General Meeting.		



7	<b>Planning applications</b> There were no planning applications for consideration.		
8	<b>Financial matters</b> <b>1. Financial Position</b> The meeting noted the financial position to date. <b>2. Receipts noted since the last report:</b> £18.81 – C & G Collections – Textile Bank £1,000 – Selway – Land Rent <b>Standing order payments noted since the last report:</b> £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – May salary payment <b>3. Online banking payments noted since the last report:</b> £763.27 – Clear Councils – Insurance £1480.00 – Combe Garden Maintenance – Grass Cutting £300.00 – Combe Garden Maintenance – Binegar Bottom leaky pond £288.00 – Auditing Solutions – Internal Audit		
9	<b>2025-26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)</b> 1. The meeting received the <i>Annual Internal Audit Report</i> and noted the single recommendation raised. 2. The meeting received and <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve for signature the <i>Annual Governance Statement</i> . 3. The meeting received and <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve for signature the <i>Annual Accounting Statements</i> . 4. The meeting received and <b>RESOLVED</b> to certify the Certificate of Exemption as a smaller authority with an income and expenditure of less than £25,000. 5. The meeting noted the dates (3 June to 14 July 2026) for electors to exercise rights relative to the annual accounts.		
10	<b>Assertion 10</b> The meeting received an update on Assertion 10 and noted that the website required updating / replacing to meet the required accessibility standards. The Clerk was making enquiries with respect to the way forward and costs.		
11	<b>Playground</b> <b>1. To note the monthly report</b> The meeting noted the monthly report and the Chair highlighted areas of concern including swings, slide, back fence and ingress of vegetation. It was agreed to hold a working group on Saturday 6 June at 11am. <b>2. Annual Playground Inspection</b> The meeting noted the Annual RoSPA Playground Inspection is due to be carried out in June.		
12	<b>Wayleaves</b> 1. The meeting considered and agreed to accept a request from Openreach to run a cable across Parish Council land at Coalpit Lane with a one off wayleave payment. 2. The meeting noted that a new George Inn sign had been placed at Clarke's Pool which is Parish Council land. The Clerk undertook to correspond regarding a wayleave.		
13	<b>Bus Diversion – Burntwood Crossroad Works</b> The meeting considered the implications to parishioners on the 173 bus diversion. The Chair proposed an alternative route to that suggested by First Bus which would be taken forward by Cllr Sam Phripp along with considerable feedback from parishioners. The Chair thanked Nikki for her work in engaging with parishioners.		



14	<b>Elections Costs</b> The meeting noted that information had been received from Electoral Services at Somerset Council regarding future electoral costs which will no longer be subsidised. Future elections would have huge financial implications on the Parish Council (up to £5,000) which would need to be met from Parish funds. Cllr Sam Phripp undertook to investigate with Somerset County Council.		
15	<b>Emerging Somerset Local Plan</b> The meeting noted that an online briefing would be taking place on Wednesday 10 June at 4.00pm. The Chair undertook to attend and requested that all councillors available should also attend.		
16	<b>Nature Information Boards</b> The Clerk shared an update on content for the Nature Information Board and requested feedback from members.		
17	<b>Children's Christmas Party</b> The meeting received a request from the Village Hall Committee to continue support of the villages' Children's Christmas Party entertainment at a cost of £235.00. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to support.		
	<b>Events Attended</b> There were no events attended.		
18	<b>Parish Maintenance</b> No new comments were raised.		
19	<b>Dates of future meetings</b> 2026: 7 July, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December – 6.30pm		

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.58pm.