



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Cavill, Chapman, Gage, Haskins, Munson, C. Cronshaw and D. Cronshaw.

In attendance: Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Candy Sully, Country Park Volunteer Coordinator, Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community Mr K Perry, Bathpool Flood Warden and David Fothergill, Somerset Councillor (from 7.45pm) and two members of the public.

201/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

Apologies were received from Cllr Besley.

202/25 To note.

- a) Declarations of Interest: No change.
- b) Dispensation Requests: None
- c) Amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: None had been notified to the Clerk.

203/25 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th December 2025

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 9th December, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th December, proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed by show of hands.

204/25 To note Clerk's reports.

Clerk's Report:

General Admin:

- Website
 - Accessibility assessment report actions completed on website. Awaiting updated report from SWS to inform accessibility statement.
 - Additional menu tab requested for website 'Assets' – The Heathfields Public Open Space page will be available from this menu option.
 - Poppy of Honour fundraising page updated with logos of businesses who have made donations.
- Replacement pads for BACH defibrillator delivered and installed.
- Checking AI summaries of PC minutes prior to publication.
- Boundary Review consultation response drafted and circulated.

Highways

- Grit bin at Sidbrook empty (full in September on review) and roads icy. Reported to Highways.

Finance / Payroll:

- Making payments / placing orders.
- Float for bingo event and banking proceeds.
- Managing / inputting Accounts using Scribe and updating paper account files.
- January payroll and finance reports.
- Gathering quotations for inclusion in the January Finance Report.
- Finalised budget / precept calculations for approval.
- Provided HMRC with additional information to support first VAT registration claim. Now approved.
- Quarter 3 finance reports including £500 spend report, bank reconciliation, Asset Register updates, BACH Deposit Records updates, Q3 CIL Report.
- Quarter 3 VAT submission review.

Planning:

- Jess supporting with the updating of the Planning Log with planning decisions / conditions weekly.

- Preparation of PowerPoint presentation in respect of planning applications received for PC meetings and submission of agreed response to planning applications.

Country Park and Somerset Wood

- Compound fencing installed in December.
- CCTV installation delayed and is due to commence on 6th January.
- Lottery project evaluation report updates.
- Lottery project progress report development for meeting on 27th January.
- Ordered and took delivery of tools and equipment for volunteer hub.
- Publication of specification for pathways, dealing with enquiries, site meetings. Deadline for submissions 16th January – to be considered at the next PC meeting.
- Ordered water bowser, wheel clamps and wildflower seeds.
- Meeting with Poppy of Honour Committee on 6th January, agenda, notes and actions.
- Grant funding for Poppy of Honour research.
- Research / review of Country Park Vision.

Sports Pitches

- Awaiting determination of the planning application. Planning Team have confirmed by email that planning consent will be issued. Decision notice awaited.
- Escalated outstanding utility connections with Manager Director of Persimmon Homes SW. Response then received regarding utility connections; water and electric supply by 31st January 2026.
- Liaising with Persimmon re design for sewerage connection.
- Pavilion options research.
- Contract Award notice published for Pump Track. Liaised with contractor – work unlikely to commence until April. Meeting with contractor being arranged.
- Various site meetings with contractors interested in tendering for flood lighting work. 10 tender submissions received for work.
- Site meeting on 6th January – reviewed ducting position, flood lighting column positions, cricket net fencing and car park / track works.
- Started to complete grant applications for funding for pavilion and gathering indicative prices.
- Next Sports Pitch Committee meeting on 20th January 2026 at 9.30am.

Hartnells

- Reports received from residents that the bins near the play park are not being emptied. Escalated with Persimmon.

MH1

- Replacement bins awaiting installation by Parish Lengthsman. Cllr Chapman advised locations.
- Noticeboards ordered, delivery awaited.
- Platinum Walk signs delivered. Installation awaited.
- Made contact with Planning Officer about proposal for Wellbeing Unit in to be built Redrow Unit – noted by Planning Officer.
- Followed up Persimmon regarding saws in former Amp site boundary.
- Continuing to liaise with Persimmon regarding outstanding remedials. Assurance has been provided that remedials will take place (play park and knee-high fencing) in January.

BACH:

- Jess supporting with invoices.
- Accounts / scribe updates.
- Welcome screen kept up to date and monthly condition checks completed.
- Additional warm hub screen installed in lobby.
- BACH Committee meeting scheduled to take place on 3rd February 2026 at 7pm

Meetings last month:

- 1st December – meeting at Community Fridge re surfacing
- 2nd December – Sports Pitch Committee meeting
- 2nd December – Agenda run through meeting
- 2nd December – Festive Volunteers Evening
- 4th December – POH meeting
- 4th December – Flood lighting tender site meetings
- 5th December – SLCC Branch Meeting
- 6th December – BACH opening / closing

9th December – Parish Council meeting
11th December – Fire Extinguisher installation at CP.
11th December – Events Working Group meeting
11th December – Hestercombe LCN Meeting
11th / 12th December – CP Fencing Installation at CP – meetings with contractors at commencement / end of work
16th December – Christmas trailer decoration
17th December – LGR Session
18th December – Community Sing Song
19th December – Tractor / Trailer event
20th December – Trailer pack down.
22nd December – 1st January – Annual Leave

Meetings this month:

6th January – Agenda run through meeting
6th January – Sports Pitch site meeting
6th January – CCTV installation at CP
6th January – Pathways site meeting at CP
6th January – Poppy of Honour meeting
9th January – Garden Town Advisory Board meeting
13th January – PC meeting
15th January – Level 5 Community Governance Course Induction Meeting AM
15th January – Events Meeting
16th – 19th January – Annual Leave
20th January – Sports Pitch Committee meeting
20th January – Agenda run through meeting
21st January – LGR Session
22nd January – EA Catch Up
23rd January – Audit Working Party meeting
27th January – PC Meeting

Assistant Clerk Community Report:

Community - General

- Responding to emails/messages
- Trips to Bookers for café items
- Updating Communications Report
- Produced AI summary of Parish Council minutes
- Community Update Report
- Assistant Clerk's Report

Grant Funding

- Applications for HYPE Funding from HPC, Awards for All (Lottery) and Norman Family Trust
- Successfully secured funding for Community Garden from Sainsburys Good for All Grant in the sum of £1500
- Continued research and meetings to discuss funding for HYPE
- Feedback to Hubbub for Youth Café Grant for 2024/25

Community Fridge

- Keeping in touch with volunteers to keep them updated on news/emails
- Responding to social media messages with queries and information
- Actions following meeting with Fareshare; coldbags/monitor temps/level 2 training/labelling freezer items
- Completed Level 2 Food Safety Course and organised for Jess to undertake the same course

Community Cafe

- Running a weekly Community Café at the BACH
- Run 'Repair Café' on third Wednesday of each month – contacting members of the public about various repairs and liaising with the team.
- Rev Jim Cox runs the Loss and Bereavement Drop in Cafe on the first Wednesday of each month

Youth Work

- HYPE
 - Meetings for HYPE/LCN Working Group
 - Creating and amending schedule for youth work provision across LCN

- Organising sessions at the 3 Youth Hubs in the LCN for January to March; liaising with providers
- Planned TYCA 'Rap sessions' with the Youth Hubs in the new year
- Liaising with 'On Your Bike' about sessions for 2026
- Responding to actions from meetings
- Managing HYPE Facebook page
- SYT – emails for Primary Schools to arrange SYT workshops in schools from January
- Prepared feedback on HYPE for LCN Meeting
- Youth Café
 - Supported Go Create and Dance instructor to provide sessions at the Youth Café
 - Planned and ordered resources for planned sessions at Youth Café including planned Christmas session
 - Managing volunteers and staff at Youth Café
 - Supervision sessions with Mandy Cooper for her Level 3 Training in Youth Work
 - Preparing for Festival of Trees with young people – Poppy of Honour Theme
 - Preparing Youth Leader Guidelines for new year – we will be offering volunteer youth leader roles for 2 young people

Other Volunteering

- Dealing with queries and concerns from volunteers as they arise.
- Contacting any new potential volunteers
- Preparing for Volunteer Awards Evening
- Added volunteer opportunities on Spark a Change webpage

Events

- Events meeting
- Agenda/Minutes for event meeting
- Planning and preparation for Volunteer and Awards evening
- Organising and Planning Tractor/Trailer event and liaise with Kev Smith re: tracker
- Preparation for award evening
- Liaising with CAG re lending rails for Swish Event
- Preparation for Community Sing Song and Tractor/Trailer Event

Forthcoming Events 2025/26

24th March – Annual Parish Meeting
 4th April – Easter egg hunt
 18th April – SWISH event (Clothes Swap)
 9th May - Somerset/Shindig (possibly combining spring dog show as well)
 12th May – Annual Parish Council Meeting
 6th June – Share event
 11th July – Funfest
 1st August – Flower Show
 23rd August - Summer Dog Show

Meetings, Events and Groups

1/12/25 Somerset Youth Alliance Conference and Networking Forum
 2/12/25 Agenda Run Through Meeting
 2/12/25 Online Meeting with Andy Moate – Shaw Trust
 2/12/25 Festive Volunteer Evening and Award Ceremony
 3/12/25 Community Café/Bereavement Café/Youth Café
 4/12/25 Team Meeting
 5/12/25 Cover Warm Hub at BACH
 5/12/25 Annual Meeting with Fareshare (Online) for Community Fridge Update
 8/12/25 HYPE Meeting (Online)
 9/12/25 WMPC Meeting
 10/12/25 Community Café/Youth Café
 11/12/25 Events Meeting
 11/12/25 LCN Meeting (Online)
 12/12/25 Set up for Tree Festival at West Monkton Church
 15/12/25 Meeting with Andy, Tacchi Morris at MCP
 16/12/25 Tractor/Trailer Set Up/Decorating
 17/12/25 Community Café/Repair Café/Youth Cafe
 17/12/25 Christmas Quiz Night

18/12/25 Final Prep for Tractor/Trailer
18/12/25 Community Sing Song
19/12/25 Cover Warm Hub at BACH
19/12/25 Meeting with new Community Fridge volunteer
19/12/25 Tractor/Trailer Event

The agenda was interrupted to take item 6 'Feedback from Hestercombe LCN Meeting on 11th December 2025'

205/25 Feedback from Hestercombe LCN Meeting on 11th December 2025

Cllr Cavill provided feedback from the Hestercombe LCN Meeting on 11th December, the following reports were provided:
Highways and transport – impact of new developments, North Petherton and Langaller in particular, concern is being expressed by North Petherton Town Council that the developments will lead to Junction 24 being over capacity.
Transport hub update at Castle Green that will incorporate lots of parking for bicycles.
Hype project and youth provision - ongoing funding applications. All PCs keeping sums in budget for youth provision for 2026/27.
Hestercombe House and Gardens – administrators decision awaited – on hold until then. Cllr C Cronshaw advised that you can still visit the gardens and are asked to make a donation for the visit. Information to be shared on Monkton Matters.
Hinkley Point workforce update – accepted that parts of Hestercombe LCN are in area affected by Hinkley Point but funding isn't forthcoming. Need to justify applications with the impact.
Boundary Review consultation – live until 14th January.
Slinky bus service.

The agenda was interrupted to take item 7 'Reports, including recent developments, matters to consider and decisions to be made:'

206/25 Reports, including recent developments, matters to consider and decisions to be made:

a) Bathpool Flood Warden: Mr Kevin Perry.

Mr Perry updated on the following:
Catchment has been on flood alert once since last meeting and flood warning on 16th December. Bridgwater Road and Yew Tree Lane properties had water in back gardens. Yew Tree Lane properties partly due to Network Rail ditch issue.
Inflatable flood guards arrived after flood warning and distributed. Add 6 to 8 inches of height.
Relief pump has been on 4 times, 120 hours of pumping. Provided relief and properties stayed dry.
Reservoirs now at 72%.
EA update on 22nd January. Clerk to request that the meeting is a face-to-face meeting.
More rain forecast on Thursday, but the forecast keeps changing.

b) GDPR update:

No update

c) Communications Report

Parish Council Website

- Regular updates to Highways (including road closures), Planning, Finance and Parish Council carried out.

Parish Council Facebook Page:

- Page likes / followers now at 1,591
- 92.9k viewers
- Posts added sharing news items that are added to the website.

Monkton Matters

- Page likes / followers now at 611
- 11 new articles added in December
- Articles on Monkton Matters being shared on Monkton Matters Facebook page to pull users to the website.
- 16.2K
- Business directory has details of 28 businesses so far.

Community Fridge/Community Garden Facebook Page:

- Page likes /followers 1415 (increase of over 100)
- 24.6K viewers

Maidenbrook Country Park Facebook Page

- Page likes/followers now at 1013
- 8.8K post reach

HYPE

- Page likes/followers – 30
- 57 viewers

Village News Contribution

- Developed by the Clerk's

Noticeboard Updates

- Noticeboards are updated by Jess on a regular basis

d) West Monkton Village Hall Management Committee

Assistant Clerk Community reported that she had met with Ian Pitchfork from the Village Hall and the following updates were provided:

- Committee needs more members – there are currently 8
- Also low on Trustees – only 5 are trustees
- Solar Panels wanted – looking for match funding and grant funding
- Replacement noticeboards being considered. Clerk to send a copy of our quotations to Ian to pass on to the Committee
- Village Hall well used – full itinerary of classes
- Noise pollution control system to be repaired
- West Monkton Village Hall Facebook – share monthly/bi-monthly basis
- Advice to be sought from Bethan Turner on how they can utilise Facebook more effectively
- Assistant Clerk Community to make contact with the Taunton Table Tennis Club about free children's sessions on Tuesday evenings.

e) The Spital Trust: Cllr Ellis to report.

In Cllr Ellis' absence there was nothing to report.

f) Any other events at which WMPC was represented; Taunton Garden Town Advisory Board meeting on 9th January.

Clerk provided feedback from the Garden Town Advisory Board meeting on 9th January. A presentation was provided on Firepool and the Town Centre Masterplan for which a project brief is being developed. An update was provided on the Green Wedge review. The review is complete but new a new draft of the NPPF was published and went out for consultation before Christmas. A further review is therefore taking place to ensure that the green wedge policy is fully compliant. Next meeting scheduled to take place on 24th April 2026.

g) Consultations; Somerset Council Division Boundaries – Draft Recommendations consultation; Approve response (R)

The draft response to the consultation, shared in advance of the meeting and shared on screen was approved. Clerk to submit response.

The agenda was interrupted to take Public Question Time'

Public Question Time

Cllr Haskins reported that there are too many potholes on village roads to report.

Cllr Cavill reported that scheduled resurfacing works will help on some of the main roads.

Cllr Gage reported that water is flowing onto the road near the Hestercombe back entrance. Issue with overgrown hedge and blocked ditch.

Cllr Munson reported that the work carried out by the Parish Council on Red Hill and clearing the ditches on Blundells Lane has been successful with the roads being clear of water. Cllr Haskins reported that there are a couple of areas of ditches that need trees / brambles removed – the Parish Lengthsman has been instructed.

Cllr Haskins reported that there is a post on social media requesting clarification regarding responsibility for the ends of gardens that go onto Dyers Brook on Heathfield Drive. It was noted that the responsibility is with the homeowner up to the middle of the brook.

Clerk to report potholes on A3259 between Country Park and Priorswood roundabout.

Clerk to write to landowner requesting hedge cutting and ditch clearance works take place.

Clerk to confirm responsibilities if approached.

Assistant Clerk Community outlined a request received from a member of the public for more bins on Bridgwater Road. There are no bins from the Primary School to the bus gate.

Clerk to obtain quotations for bins at the bus shelters on Bridgwater Road near Roys Place.

There were no questions from members of the public present at the meeting.

The agenda was interrupted to take item 8 'Planning'

207/25 Planning

a) To consider any planning applications (listed on Somerset Council website) (R)

Cllr Cavill, as a member of the Somerset West Planning Committee did not take part in discussions of the planning applications to avoid fettering his discretion.

48/25/0068: Erection of a 4-metre fence inside northern boundary of garden of Mulberry House, The Street, West Monkton

Cllr Munson declared a prejudicial interest and left meeting at 7.45pm

The Parish Council generally understands the reasoning behind erecting a 4-metre fence along the boundary but recommends that further information is requested from the applicant including:

- Finished ground levels.
The land upon which the fence is proposed to be erected falls significantly from west to east. A plan of the proposal incorporating the scaled topography of the site with the proposed finished levels of the fencing should be submitted to be able to fully understand the proposal. The submitted information doesn't illustrate the site fully. The Parish Council recommends that the planning officer schedules a site visit.
- Heritage Wall.
The eastern end of the proposed fence adjoins a heritage wall. The Parish Council recommends that the proposal is amended so that the fence joins the heritage wall in a more sympathetic manner, perhaps with the eastern end of the fence reflecting the height of the heritage wall.

Cllr Munson rejoined the meeting at 7.50pm.

Little Marlows, The Street – Tree Management Works

The Parish Council has no objections to the proposed tree management works.

b) To note that Planning decisions made are available on Somerset Council website filed under the application number.

Noted

The agenda was resumed.

208/25 Somerset Council Report from Cllr Cavill

Cllr Fothergill reported on the following:

Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2026/27 Published: Somerset Council has received the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27. The settlement is a one-year allocation but includes illustrative funding figures for 2027/28 and 2028/29. For Somerset, Core Spending Power increases from £653.6 million in 2025/26 to £684.95 million in 2026/27. The Council's structural budget gap now stands at £54.9 million, reduced from £101 million earlier in 2025. The remaining gap is expected to be managed through one off measures, savings, transformation activity, and council tax increases above the standard referendum threshold. Somerset Council has confirmed that it has again asked Government for Exceptional Financial Support to help balance the books for 2026/27.

Somerset Council Budget Consultation 2026/27: Somerset Council's Budget Consultation for the 2026/27 financial year opened on 3 December and runs until 14 January, inviting residents, businesses and local organisations to have their say on spending priorities and resource allocation for services such as social care, waste collection, roads, education and leisure. Feedback will help shape budget decisions ahead of final proposals being considered by Executive and Full Council in early 2026:

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/comms/budget-consultation-2026-2027>

Somerset Council Divisional Boundaries – consultation on Boundary Commission draft recommendations closed on 14th January 2026.

Burrowbridge Road Works – bridge in Burrowbridge will be closed for a period of 6 weeks during the summer to install new traffic lights.

Cllr Cavill reported on the following:

Finances: Cllr Cavill outlined the difference in Band D equivalent Council Tax bills in Somerset compared to the average for the South West. Cllr Cavill confirmed that the budget will be considered by Full Council in February.

Council 'Got It Wrong' After Cutting Over 500 Job Posts: Somerset Council's Chief Executive has acknowledged that the authority "got it wrong" in at least three departments after more than 500 posts were cut over the past year. He told councillors that recruitment is now one of the biggest challenges facing the Council, with shortages of experienced and qualified applicants making services harder to run. He said the Council is using reserves to rebuild capacity in areas such as housing, where teams are no longer considered large enough to manage workloads.

Sunday Parking Charges Decision Deferred: Somerset Council has decided not to proceed with the introduction of Sunday parking charges in council run car parks at this stage, following strong public opposition. Proposals to introduce charges in towns including Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater were considered after a public consultation held in September and October, which attracted around 4,200 responses, with almost 93% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. Instead, the executive has agreed to carry out a wider review of parking arrangements across the county.

209/25 Environment

a) Access to Taunton 5/13 Level Crossing – view on keeping it open or closing the access point (R)

Clerk outlined an email received from Gideon Amos MP about a proposal to close access to Taunton 5/13 Level Crossing following a recent fatality. Gideon Amos MP has requested a view from the Parish Council regarding the proposal.

A discussion followed about the crossing point; it was noted that the crossing leads to the river bank and pedestrians can only cross the river at Hankridge / Bathpool or at Obridge. It was felt that the route isn't well used.

Cllr Cavill outlined the ambition for there to be a pedestrian route from Halcon to the Country Park and beyond and suggested that information about this and the possible re-use of the Morrisons bridge across the canal should be mentioned in the reply to the MP. It was resolved to respond to the MP confirming that the Parish Council is in favour of closing the crossing point but to highlight the plans to provide a pathway to the Country Park in the response. Proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour.

210/25 Community

a) Feedback from Christmas events

Cllrs discussed and provided their feedback on the events that took place leading up to Christmas including the festive volunteers evening and the Christmas Trailer event.

Assistant Clerk Community thanked Cllr David Fothergill for attending and introducing the awards at the festive volunteers evening. It was noted that the plan is to receive nominations for awards next year from the community and have a voting system in place.

The tracker on the Christmas Trailer worked really well. Clerk reported that £135.86 was received in donations.

It was noted that there was lots of positive feedback from the community regarding the Christmas Trailer and that it was a good event to share information about the work of the PC and talk to members of the community.

b) Approval of 2026 Community Events leaflet and printing costs (R)

The proposed 2026 Community Events leaflet was shared in advance of the meeting and shared on screen.

Cllrs were supportive of the leaflet and thanked the Admin and Events Assistant for her work producing it.

Clerk shared quotes for printing costs and outlined options to either print an A5 booklet or an A5 concertina leaflet.

Cllrs expressed their preference to print an A5 concertina leaflet.

Clerk confirmed that £250 of warm hub grant funding will be used towards the printing costs that will not exceed £650.00. The remainder of the costs will be funded from the Youth / Community general cost code.

It was resolved to proceed with printing the leaflet. Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

211/25 Assets

a) Country Park and Somerset Wood update;

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator reported on the following:

Gas leak – near the hedge / layby at the bottom of the park. Reported to Wales and West who are investigating.

Hedging for volunteer hub perimeter – trees and hedging has been received at no charge. They will be heeled in on Saturday.

Bin – at bottom of park needs repairing or replacing.

Noticeboard – at top of park needs adjusting.

CCTV installation – not complete yet – Clerk to follow up.

Service hatch gates need stoppers to be added for when they are opened.

New Duke of Edinburgh volunteers coming forward. One will be working to apply antivandal paint to the Forest School. Two other DoE volunteers are coming forward too – helped by Small Woods.

Somerset Wildlife Trust have offered a training budget – training needs being explored.

James Chapman from Reimagining The Levels has offered to help with the Park's management plans.

Pond bank planting to start soon.

Big garden bird watch end of January.

Lottery open week – 7th and 14th March.

Big Tommy Sleep Out - 28th March. Events will be advertised on Facebook / websites.

Cllr Cavill suggested that any new tree / hedge planting is recorded on a plan and that blackthorn should not be planted in the park. Clerk reported that there have been lots of site meetings taking place with contractors interested in quoting for the pathway work – deadline for tenders is this Friday. Submissions will be considered at the next PC meeting with a view to the work being carried out by the end of April.

Clerk reported that she has made contact with the Town Council about drawing down the money for pathways. Information has been received confirming that the Parish Council should spend the money and then invoice the Town Council.

Clerk reported that she and Candy have started work to review the vision document for the Country Park. This document will be shared at a future meeting.

Finally, Clerk suggested that a cleaner should be found to clean the compound office and toilets on a self employed basis. It was agreed that the Clerk should advertise the position for a once a week clean.

212/25 Projects

a) Hyde Park Sports Ground; update

Clerk provided feedback from the site meeting last week. The position of the ducting and the position of the flood light columns were discussed and agreed during the meeting. Clerk confirmed that some of the markings for the ducting on the car park side of the rugby pitch does not correspond with the coordinates and need to be remarked.

During the site meeting, the need for parking for the rugby fixtures was discussed and an indicative quote was obtained from a local contractor to widen and surface the track and entrance as an interim solution. The amount quoted is high for a temporary solution and further quotes would need to be gathered prior to a resolution being made by the Parish Council to proceed with the work.

It was agreed that the Sports Pitch Committee needed to discuss the works required and the scheduling of it at the meeting next week and report back at the next PC meeting.

Clerk reported that 9 flood light tenders had been received. These will be considered at the next PC meeting.

Clerk also reported that a site meeting has taken place with the Lengthsman about filling the gap between the net fencing and the ground. Lengthsman has suggested boards or using the bricks on site to carry out the work. It was agreed for the Lengthsman to use the bricks. Once the gap is filled, the Lengthsman will grade the surface outside and inside the nets.

Cllr Gage raised concerns about the flood lights. Cllr Haskins confirmed that the Rugby Club have confirmed that only training lights are needed. Cllr Gage asked if the tenders being received are for training lights. Clerk confirmed that the specification that was agreed by the Parish Council and that is being used for the tender exercise is for training lights.

Clerk reported that Persimmon have appointed contractors to install the electric and utility supply by the end of the month.

Persimmon have a meeting with the contractors on 16th January. Clerk to follow up on progress after that meeting.

It was noted that dates of utility connection works are needed to ensure that fixtures and any other work on site do not conflict with the works.

b) Blundells Lane Flood Alleviation project update / gully sucking progress.

Clerk reported that the final part of the project to suck the gullies on Blundells Lane took place on 19th December. Clerk confirmed that she has requested an update from the contractors on progress but hasn't received one in advance of the meeting.

Clerk reported that the gully sucking appears to have identified some gullies where work is needed including on Greenway and Milton Hill. Clerk to report these to Somerset Council upon a report being received from the contractors.

The agenda was interrupted to take items 13 'Finance' and 14 'Other matters for report only'

213/25 Finance

a) Finance Report

i. Quotations and Updates

Youth Café iPad

(For signing in, collecting data on impact of youth café on young people and for evaluation of grant funding received).

Reserves in Youth Café – sufficient to year end to enable purchase

No sim required.

£150.00 +VAT (Refurbished) from Amazon.

Resolution to proceed with purchase.

Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour.

Thornash Close Layby Hedging

Viburnum tinus hedge

Hedges Direct

<https://www.hedgesdirect.co.uk/viburnum-tinus-eve-price-hedging>

£2.49 per 20-30cm potted plant (5 per metre recommended)

Hopes Grove Nurseries

<https://www.hopesgrovenurseries.co.uk/shop/hedging/viburnum-hedging/viburnum-tinus-hedging/>

£9.24 per pot 20-40cm (3—5 per metre recommended)

Pyracantha Hedge

Hedges Direct

Pyracantha Red 40/60cm 2L Pot £5.99 per plant (recommended that 4-5 are planted per metre)

https://www.hedgesdirect.co.uk/red-firethorn-pyracantha-red-column-40-60cm-2l-pot?utm_term=&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Shopping+-+Pots&campaign_id=21805476879&ad_group_id=180379333888&ad_id=732432157363&keyword_id=pla-2504235792677&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21805476879&gclid=CjwKCAjwisnGBhAXEiwA0zEORy217aVucpbGwV49qKFYlwWdsTnpc0ebrQu7IFgxov7wZ2m2S4q_hoCX2EQAvD_BwE

Grasslands.co.uk

Pyracantha Red 3L Pot £6.40 per plant (recommended that 2-3 are planted per metre)

Grasslands.co.uk

Pyracantha Red 3L Pot £6.40 per plant (recommended that 2-3 are planted per metre)

<https://www.grasslands.co.uk/collections/pyracantha-hedging/products/pyracantha-red-column-3-litre-pot>

Pyracantha Orange 3L Pot £6.50 per plant (recommended that 2-3 are planted per metre)

<https://www.grasslands.co.uk/collections/pyracantha-hedging/products/pyracantha-orange-glow-3-litre-pot>

Gardening Express

Pyracantha Orange 2-3 L pot £5.99 per plant (recommended that 3 are planted per metre)

https://www.gardeningexpress.co.uk/s10886-pyracantha-orange-charmer-firethorn?ff=10&fp=12927&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=17924458442&irclickid=VjI2SBVWuxyLTBgwUx0Mo3EoUkp1uFUdnRxXTw0&irgwc=1&Source=Im&utm_source=Impact&utm_medium=Affiliate&utm_campaign=41097

Pyracantha Red 2-3L pot £6.99 per plant (recommended that 3 plants are planted per metre)

https://www.gardeningexpress.co.uk/s70004-pyracantha-red-column-firethorn-1?queryID=3ba27bc19412f4db4bd677d77edabbcd&objectID=63301&indexName=magento2_default_products

Resolution to proceed with purchasing viburnum tinus hedge plants from Hedges Direct. Quantity to be confirmed once area measured. Expenditure up to £625. Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

Country Park Picnic Benches

Lottery Funded £2080.00 available

Obtained prices for smaller tables than the ones ordered last year.

Option 1: £585.00 each x 4 = £2340.00 + VAT

H780 x L1495 x W1460mm

<https://www.recycledfurniture.co.uk/Picnic-Tables/Best-Selling-Picnic-Tables/Heavy-Duty-Picnic-Table>

Option 2:

150 x 120 x 78 cm

£403.00 + VAT x 6 = £2418.00 or x 5 = £2015.00 + VAT

https://marmaxproducts.co.uk/product/heavy-duty-picnic-bench/?srsltid=AfmBOoq3WhmukH_oyqnxraMGWHZ3-RuHu1o80fQXajAVvxjsxyiapC4

Option 3:

1500 x 1370 x 770

£615.00 + VAT x 4 = £2460.00

<https://www.kedel.co.uk/picnic-tables-benches-recycled-plastic/recycled-plastic-picnic-table-ribble-range.html>

It was resolved to purchase 5 benches from Marmax Products. Proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr C Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

ii. Receipts and Payments

Receipts

Interest	
Lloyds (Monthly)	£15.05
Nationwide (Monthly)	£102.21
PSDF (Monthly)	£2399.94
Somerset West Lottery (Community Fridge grant)	£12.50
Poppy of Honour Donations	£50.00
City West Country (Poppy of Honour Donation)	£250.00
Vistry Devon South West (Poppy of Honour Donation)	£250.00

Adopted - Redacted

Mildren Construction (Poppy of Honour Donation)	£5000.00
Allotment rents	120.00
National Lottery (Capital grant claim (treatment plant))	£11561.47
Sainsburys The Neighbourly Foundation grant (Community Garden)	£1500.00
Salvation Army (Clothes bank credit)	£19.95

Payments

Payee	Net	Vat	Total	How paid	Cost Centre	Cost Code
To authorise payment of:						
Employee pension contributions	240.18	No vat	240.18	d-d	Salaries and expenses	Pension
	50.67	No vat	50.67	d-d	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Coordinator
Employer pension contributions	180.14	No vat	180.14	d-d	Salaries and expenses	Pension
	38.01	No vat	38.01	d-d	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Coordinator
A Shepherd Clerks salary SCP37		No vat		bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
		No vat		Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Administration
K Welsh assistant clerk-community salary SCP 29		No vat		Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
J Cox Admin and Events Assistant salary SCP 3		No vat		Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
C Sully Volunteer Coordinator salary SCP 21		No Vat		Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Coordinator
S Rolls Parish Lengthsman salary SCP 29 (20 hours)		No Vat		Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
HMRC Tax and NI Contributions	3288.17	No vat	3288.17	bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
	401.96	No vat	401.96	Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Coordinator
A Shepherd homeworkers allowance	27.00	No vat	27.00	Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Expenses
K Welsh homeworkers allowance	27.00	No vat	27.00	Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Expenses
Business all about you Climate Initiative PR WMPC 61	275.00	No vat	275.00	Bacs	Environmental / Open Spaces	Environment / Community
QSSIT regular maintenance / monthly sub	8.51	1.70	10.21	bacs	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Expenses claim A Shepherd (Travel)	40.75	No vat	40.75	Bacs	Salary and expenses	Expenses
Expenses claim S Rolls (Travel)	4.95	No vat	4.95	Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Expenses
Expenses claim K Welsh (Travel)	153.00	No vat	153.00	Bacs	Salaries and Expenses	Expenses
(Youth café items)	3.60		3.60		Youth and Community	Youth Cafe
Mowgate (Country Park / Maidenbrook Lane hedge cutting)	495.00	99.00	594.00	Bacs	Environmental / Open Spaces	Off carriageway maintenance

Payee	Net	Vat	Total	How paid	Cost Centre	Cost Code
Glyn Warren (Work at Country Park) (work at Sports Pitches)	225.00 90.00	45.00 18.00	270.00 108.0	Bacs	Country Park Environmental / Open Spaces	Country Park Sports Pitches
Devon and Somerset Fire Protection Ltd (Fire extinguishers Country Park Volunteer compound)	73.00	14.60	87.60	Bacs	Country Park	Country Park
Adosa (Hype Dance Sessions)	360.00	No vat	360.00	Bacs	Youth and Community	SALC Young People Grant
Expenses Claim C Sully (Travel)	36.56	No vat	36.56	Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer / Coordinator Expenses
Cutting Edge Coaching (Youth Café support)	157.50	No vat	157.50	Bacs	Youth and Community	Young People
Expenses Claim D Cronshaw (Trailer licence plates)	18.00	No vat	18.00	Bacs	Country Park	Poppy of Honour
Bramble and Wild (Christmas Tree and gold spray)	36.67	7.33	44.00	Bacs	Youth and Community	Community Events
Expenses Claim S Haskins (CP ramp work)	50.00	No vat	50.00	Bacs	Country Park	Country Park
Expenses Claim A Chapman (Community garden plants)	32.00	No vat	32.00	Bacs	Youth and Community	Community Garden
Travis Perkins (Postcrete for Bin installation)	192.58	38.52	231.10	Bacs	Environmental / Open Spaces	POS maintenance
To note payment of:						
Direct Debit						
Invoice Tailored Auto Enrolment 29/12/2025 (Pension administration)	16.80	3.36	20.16	DD PAID	Salary and Expenses	Pension
Invoice SWS 118432 2/1/2026 maintain gsuite	126.00	25.20	151.20	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Invoice SWS 118397 16/12/2025 MCP website. Hosting monthly plan	70.00	14.00	84.00	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Invoice SWS 118340 web-lite hosting (MM) and standard mailbox 20/12/2025	30.00	6.00	36.00	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
EMS (Card Payment System)	8.09	1.20	9.29	DD PAID	Youth and Community	Community Events
Somerset Web Services Inv 118341 (PC website hosting)	60.00	12.00	72.00	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Debit Card						
Canva (Subscription)	27.00 27.00	No vat	27.00 27.00	Deb Cd Paid	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Argos (Warm hub screen and bracket)	325.98	No vat	325.98	Deb Cd Paid	BACH	Warm Hub
Amazon (Santa Costume)	17.62	3.52	21.14	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Community Events
Amazon (BACH supplies)	7.59	1.52	9.11	Deb Cd Paid	BACH	Supplies and equipment

Payee	Net	Vat	Total	How paid	Cost Centre	Cost Code
(Stationery)	3.32	0.67	3.99		General Administration	Sundry Admin and Equipment
(CP Volunteer Office Costs)	15.88	3.18	19.06		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
(CP Volunteer Costs)	23.92	4.78	28.70		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer costs
(Stationery)	20.57	4.12	24.69		General Administration	Sundry Admin and Equipment
Buy and sell Wellington (Festive Volunteer Evening items)	14.46	No vat	14.46	Deb Cd Paid	BACH	Community Events / Initiatives
Aldi (Festive volunteer evening items)	16.35	No vat	16.35	Deb Cd Paid	BACH	Community Events / Initiatives
Asda (Festive volunteer evening items)	46.95	No vat	46.95	Deb Cd Paid	BACH	Community Events / Initiatives
More Co (Volunteer refreshments)	5.86	No vat	5.86	Deb Cd Paid	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer costs
	5.86		5.86			
	5.86		5.86			
	5.86		5.86			
HSE Docs (Level 2 Food Safety Training)	19.98	4.00	23.98	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Community Fridge
JRB Enterprises (Dog poo bags for dispensers)	30.40	6.08	36.48	Deb Cd Paid	Environmental / Open Spaces	POS maintenance
Aldi Stores (youth café items)	52.50	No vat	52.50	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Youth Café
Ebay (Community Event Seating)	49.96	9.99	59.95	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Community Events
Booker (Festive volunteer evening items)	57.51	No vat	57.51	Deb Cd Paid	BACH	Community Events / Initiatives
(Youth café items)	31.98	No vat	31.98		Youth and Community	Youth Café
(Community event items)	44.15	8.83	52.98		Youth and Community	Community Events
Community Event items)	14.99	3.00	17.99		Youth and Community	Community Events
Festive volunteers evening items)	21.87	4.37	26.24		BACH	Community Events / Initiatives
(CP Volunteer office items)	7.29	1.46	8.75		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
Print 2 Media	275.62	55.12	330.74	Deb Cd Paid	Environmental / Open Spaces	POS maintenance
Amazon (Cup polish)	11.54	2.31	13.85	Deb Cd Paid	BACH	Cleaning supplies
Screwfix (Volunteer compound padlocks)	32.98	6.60	39.58	Deb Cd Paid	Country Park	Country Park
Amazon (Community fridge items)	9.16	1.83	10.99	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Community Fridge
Amazon (SID clamps)	9.84	1.97	11.81	Deb Cd Paid	Environmental / Open Spaces	Off carriageway works
(stationery)	13.45	2.69	16.14		General Administration	Sundry Admin
Amazon (Events items)	5.82	1.17	6.99	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Community Events
Amazon (Stationery)	15.82	3.16	18.98	Deb Cd Paid	General Administration	Sundry Admin
(Youth café items)	15.82	3.17	18.99		Youth and Community	Youth Café
(Stationery)	6.76	1.35	8.11		General Administration	Sundry Admin

Payee	Net	Vat	Total	How paid	Cost Centre	Cost Code
(Youth café items)	9.77	1.95	11.72		Youth and Community	Youth Café
B+M (Youth café items)	62.54	No vat	62.54	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Youth Café
Amazon (CP office items)	7.62	1.53	9.15	Deb Cd Paid	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
Amazon (CP Office items)	11.04	2.21	13.25	Deb Cd Paid	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
The Range (Community event items)	15.57	No vat	15.57	Deb Cd Paid	Youth and Community	Community Events
Amazon (Smoking bin for POS)	23.99	4.80	28.79	Deb Cd Paid	Environmental / Open Spaces	POS Maintenance
Amazon (CP Office items)	20.82	4.17	24.99	Deb Cd Paid	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
Amazon (Stationery)	3.95	0.79	4.74	Deb Cd Paid	General Administration	Sundry Admin
(CP Office items)	10.40	2.08	12.48		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
(CP tools and equipment)	6.64	1.33	7.97		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Tools and Equipment
(CP Office items)	9.77	1.95	11.72		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
(CP Office items)	7.92	1.58	9.50		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
(BACH supplies / equipment)	7.92	1.58	9.50		BACH	Other supplies and equipment
(CP Office items)	11.07	2.22	13.29		MCP Lottery Funded Project	Office costs
BACS						
Taunton Fencing (Country Park volunteer compound fencing)	5000.00	1000.00	6000.00	Bacs Paid	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Fencing
	2700.00	540.00	3240.00		Community Infrastructure Levy	CIL Expenditure
Heathfield Window Cleaning (bus shelter cleaning)	185.00	No vat	185.00	Bacs Paid	Environmental / Open Spaces	POS Maintenance

Any other invoices received before the next meeting will be added. Payments by bacs wherever possible.

Resolution: to authorise payments and note payments made during the month described above:

Proposed by Cllr D Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour.

Transfer between accounts / budget lines

From BACH Treasurer to PC Treasurer (Warm hub TV / equipment and festive volunteers evening items) £510.17

iii. To consider and approve 2026/27 budget and precept demand

The draft 2026/27 budget and precept calculations were shared in advance of the meeting and on screen.

Clerk reported that the total proposed budget is £569165. The amount of precept required is £239940.

The Council Tax Base figure has been confirmed as 2259.26; an increase from 2232.04.

The proposed budget and precept demand equates to an 11% increase. The Band D equivalent will rise to £106.20 per year from £95.32 per year previously.

It was resolved to approve the 2026/27 budget and precept demand. Proposed by Cllr Cavill, seconded by Cllr Gage and agreed with all in favour.

b) Budgeting and Summary Report to 31st December 2025.

The budgeting reports to 30th November were shared in advance of the meeting and the contents of the reports were noted.

214/25 Other matters for report only – items for discussion – no decision

Cllr Gage raised the proposed primary school solar panels and offered a solution of providing a grant to the Primary School to install the panels rather than the PC installing them and retaining ownership of them. Item to be included on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss and understand the implications of this and agree a way forward. Cllr Gage to prepare calculations for consideration at the meeting.

Clerk reported that MH1 will be on the agenda for the next meeting to include a discussion around the installation of football posts in central park (Clerk to obtain cost estimates).

Cllr Cavill reported that negotiations regarding the Bridgwater Road pitch are ongoing. Item to be included on the next agenda for a full update.

Cllr Haskins requested that Church Hill is added to the next agenda to discuss the condition and need for a tidy up.

Cllr C Cronshaw raised the Christmas do that it was agreed would take place in January. Ideas of venue to be sent to the Admin and Events Assistant.

Cllr D. Cronshaw raised a question following his Code of Conduct training and some advice that was given during the training.

Clerk provided advice.

a) Items for next meeting agenda - by Monday 19th January 2026 or 2nd February 2026

Noted

b) SALC Training Events

Clerk confirmed that Cllr D Cronshaw attended the Code of Conduct training on 12th January and Cllr C Cronshaw is booked onto AI training in February. Cllrs to advise the Clerk if they would like to attend any training.

Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that Safeguarding Training is taking place on 20th January.

c) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Noted

The agenda was resumed

215/25 Poppy of Honour fundraising update; feedback from meeting with Poppy of Honour Memorial Committee and agree next steps (R)

The notes from the meeting with the Poppy of Honour Committee were circulated in advance of the meeting.

A discussion took place.

Concerns were raised about the condition of the memorial and the proposed open structure and the risk of it attracting anti-social behaviour in the Park, particularly on the memorial side of the Park.

Cllr C Cronshaw reported that she has been doing some research and had prepared a paper which was circulated in advance of the meeting and shared on screen. The paper identified some options:

a) Leave the structure as it is but the POH must be placed in a controlled environment e.g. visitor centre or museum – This way it will be kept away from UV rays, direct sunlight and variations in external temperatures.

b) The POH is taken apart and a different medium used e.g. Waterproof vinyl medium. These would have to be printed, cut, re-written and put back together. (11,000 in total). If this was forthcoming then the following options C & D may be considered.

c) The POH is placed in the Country Park within a structure on a East/West Axis then it would need to be enclosed on the East, West & South sides. Doing this will mitigate the effects of the first 3 aforementioned fading factors dramatically. There is no need for the North side to be fully enclosed as this reduces the affect of 1 & 2 above. Should the POH be put on a North/South axis then only the southern face would need enclosing. The Memorial Group however, will need to put into place a programme that takes into consideration the need to repeat point B over time e.g. Every 10 years perhaps.

d) The POH is placed in the Country Park within an open structure. Doing this will not mitigate the effects of the first 3 aforementioned fading factors. Assuming the structure is on an north/south axis this will speed up the first 3 aforementioned factors. The Memorial Group will need to put into place a programme that takes into consideration the need to repeat point B over time eg. Every 3-5 years perhaps.

These options were discussed as were possible designs for an amended building to house the POH that can be closed. For example an oak framed building with a shutter system that could be operated remotely.

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It was noted that if the POH is placed in the Country Park some conditions need to be set around scheduling maintenance, the organisation of events etc. which would need to be planned via the Parish Council.

It was resolved that the position of the Parish Council is that if the POH is to be placed in the Country Park then option B above must be carried out followed by option C or D. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour.

Cllr C Cronshaw to carry out further research in advance of the next PC meeting when a final proposal to be put to the Poppy of Honour Committee at the next scheduled meeting will be agreed.

Cllr Haskins to develop some rough design drawings for an alternative building to house the POH.

Cllr C Cronshaw raised funding opportunities from Somerset Council and Taunton Town Council who were signatories on the Assignment of Ownership document. Clerk confirmed that she is enquiring with the Town Council, Cllr Fothergill and Cavill to take forward with Somerset Council.

216/25 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2026: 10th Feb, 10th Mar, 14th Apr, 12th May (Annual PC Meeting), 9th Jun, 14th Jul, 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

Fourth Tuesday in the month (Community / project focused meeting)

2026: 27th Jan, 24th Feb, 28th Apr, 26th May, 23rd Jun, 28th Jul, 22nd Sept, 27th Oct, 24th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 23rd January 2026 at 9.30am.

Annual Parish Meeting: 24th March 2026 at 7pm

BACH Committee 3rd February 2026 at 7pm

Budget and Precept Working Group: November 2026 at 7pm

Sports Pitch Committee 20th January 2026 at 9.30am

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 10pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 27th January 2026