

ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley, Cavill (from 7.10pm), Chapman, C. Cronshaw, D. Cronshaw, Ellis, Gage and Haskins.

In attendance: Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community, Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator, Mr K Perry, Bathpool Flood Warden and four members of the public.

91/26 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

Apologies were received from David Fothergill, Somerset Council and Cllr Munson.

92/26 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.

93/26 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 28th July 2026

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 28th July, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 28th July, proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed by show of hands.

94/26 To note Clerk's reports.

Clerk's Report:

General Admin:

- Reviewed AI summaries of PC minutes prior to publication.
- Village news contribution.
- Liaised with Parish Lengthsman regarding required works.
- Local Plan consultation response, drafted, finalised and submitted.
- Arranged letters to be sent to homeowners regarding overgrown hedges on Mead Way / Greenway.
- Responded to Somerset Bus Franchising Proposal.
- Developing NALC Council of the Year Nomination.

Finance / Payroll:

- Making payments / placing orders / accepting deliveries.
- Banking of POH proceeds.
- Managing / inputting Accounts using Scribe and updating paper account files.
- August payroll and finance reports.
- External audit enquiry.
- Expenses Policy updated with new mileage rate and backdated amounts calculated.
- Audit Working Party meeting; recommendations in Finance Report.
- Gathering quotations for inclusion in the August Finance Report for ride on lawn mower, football post installation, benches, hedge cutter, sports pitch rugby container.

Highways:

- Liaised with Traffic Management regarding agreeing an additional SID location on Bridgwater Road. Lighting column identified, awaiting approval from Somerset Council.
- Advised police of speeding issue on Bridgwater Road.

- Meeting with TTC regarding Tudor Park Crossing Point.
- Gully Sucking on School Road scheduled to take place on 19th August.
- Development of SRA grant application for drainage improvements on Gotton Lane / Hob Lane.

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

- Lottery project evaluation report updates.
- Lottery progress report and review of remaining year 2 funding.
- Site meeting regarding mower demonstration.
- Collected and delivered additional signage – countryside code and no fires / BBQs.

Sports Pitches

- Meetings with contractors.
- Pump track routine inspections and log of inspections.
- Collected replacement signage for pump track.
- Rugby post installed and remaining track works carried out.
- Ordered and took delivery of flagpoles.
- Toilet cleaning arrangements.
- Escalated utility connections with Persimmon / liaising with contractors.
- Liaising with the Bicycle Chain regarding sponsorship.
- Sports Pitch Committee meeting on 7th July and 29th July. Agenda / minutes / actions. Next meeting scheduled to take place on 15th September at 9.30am – focused on Pavilion design / requirements.
- Sports Pitch tidy up working party on Saturday 18th July from 10am until 1pm.
- Drafted Sports Ground risk assessment.
- Signage design developed and circulated for feedback.
- Secured scaffolding poles for CCTV from local business in exchange for advertisement.
- Grand opening on 9th August 2026 from 2pm.

BACH:

- Jess supporting with invoices.
- Accounts / scribe updates.
- Additional funds transferred to Nationwide fixed 1 year saver attracting 4% interest.
- Liaised with Painter and Air Conditioning company about planning works / obtaining quotes.
- BACH Committee meeting scheduled to take place on 16th October at 10am.

Meetings last month:

1st – 3rd July	Annual Leave
6th July	Course check in - online
7th July	Sports Pitch Committee meeting
	Agenda run through meeting
	CP site meeting to review mowers
8th July	Flood café
9th July	Team Meeting
10th July	Course check in - online
14th July	Sports pitch site meeting
	PC meeting
15th July	LGR Clerk Session
	Youth Café help
16th July	Team Meeting
17th July	Taunton Garden Town Advisory Board meeting
18th July	Sports pitch tidy up working party
20th July	Meeting with Taunton TC re Tudor Park Crossing Point
21st July	Agenda run through meeting

	Meeting with Taunton Croquet Club
	Hestercombe LCN Meeting
22nd July	Cuppa with a cop
23rd July	Team Meeting
	Events Meeting
24th July	Audit Working Party Meeting
27th July	Village Hall noticeboards site meeting
28th July	PC Meeting
29th July	Sports Pitch Committee Meeting
30th July	Mower demo at CP / trailer loading for flower show.
30th July	Team Meeting
31st July	Flower show set up
Meetings this month:	
1st August	Flower Show
2nd August	Flower Show tidy up
3rd August	Meeting re Tudor Park Crossing Point
4th August	Agenda run through meeting
5th August	MH2 Meeting
6th August	Team Meeting
9th August	Sports Ground Grand Opening
11th August	Meeting with the Environment Agency re Bathpool Pumps
	PC Meeting
12th August	Flood Cafe
13th August	Team Meeting
19th – 28th August	Annual Leave
31st August	Bank Holiday

Assistant Clerk's Report:

Community - General

- Responding to emails/messages
- Updating Communications Report
- Assistant Clerk's Report
- Creating AI Minute Overview/Checking full minutes
- Organised collection and site meeting at Village Hall for noticeboards

Grant Funding

- Applied for £10,000 grant from Somerset Community Foundation, Older Peoples Fund which will cover Seasonal Lunches/Health and Wellbeing Sessions/Equipment for Heathfield Hall/chair exercise classes/organised activities/plus funding for WMPC staff time
- Applied for funding for Mural Art Project from Hugo Burge Foundation
- Set up GoFundMe Page for Mural Art Project – shared across social media and posters put up at the pump track

Community Groups

- Supporting Bereavement and Repair Cafes
- Weekly Community Café and supporting the Well-being Wednesday Sessions
- Supporting the Pain Café Sessions – pick up and drop off of new vulnerable attendee

Youth Work

- HYPE
 - Meetings for HYPE/LCN Working Group
 - Creating and amending schedule for youth work provision across LCN
 - Responding to actions from meetings
 - Communication with providers to plan the next terms HYPE sessions
 - Organising detached sessions at North Petherton, Creech and West Monkton (Summer Programme)
 - See notes re: HYPE meeting attached
 - Meeting with Dr Hayden Bird re: research around HYPE and processes for SALC funding

- Detached Youth Work
 - Employment of 2 youth workers for detached youth sessions
 - DBS checks completed
 - Prepared risk assessments/policies and forms for detached youth work
 - Organising detached youth work sessions across the LCN – Youth Unlimited delivering sessions in North Petherton – Youth Workers from WMPC delivering sessions at West Monkton and Creech
 - Purchase of new sports/craft equipment for use at detached youth sessions
 - Contacted PCSOs to inform of detached work locations and timings
 - Feedback:
 - 111 young people engaged during reccy of area on the 20/7/26
 - Areas covered: End of day at Monkton Wood academy, Maidenbrook Country Park, Farriers Green Park, Hyde Park Sports Ground Pump Track, Creech Recreation Park, Hardy Road to playground, West Monkton Cricket Club (MUGA), Knight Close/Furs Close and back to BACH
 - 30 + young people engaged in games/activities on the 28/7/26
 - Young people have asked if they could have skate ramps built.
 - Adults mentioned that a shelter would be useful in the winter months or if it was raining.
 - Youth Workers have discussed health and safety issues, especially regarding climbing on the container. Seating area being used to climb up onto container.
 - Young people asked if pipe could be removed – Lengthsman to action
 - Young people would like music to be played during sessions – one of the rules is not playing music at the pump track but have agreed that music can be played on the pitch while the youth workers are running activities.
- Youth Café
 - Supported Go Create and TYCA at Youth Café sessions
 - Continuing to manage volunteers and staff at Youth Café – especially over the period of change recently
 - Delivering 4 hour sessions every Wednesday between 12 and 4pm, first session 29/7/26, 10 young people attended. We did have some younger children attend with their parents, have advised that they can come for lunch but not stay for the whole session.
 - New Young Leader for the summer who is doing his hours for DofE
 - JUICE onboarding session– Management Information System (free for one year)
 - Set up of new management system
 - Text out to all parents asking them to register their young person on the system
 - Created logins for staff and volunteers

Other Volunteering

- Dealing with queries and concerns from volunteers as they arise.
- Following the Flower Show we recruited one new volunteer at the Community Fridge
- In contact with potential new companion volunteer following Flower Show
- Responding to NEET young person who contacted us about voluntary work
- Margaret Rosewarn – Companion Volunteer on the mend following 6 months of treatment but still unable to drive – looking for someone to support with transport

Events

- Events meeting
- Agenda/Minutes for event meeting
- See notes from Event Meeting attached
- Created/Ordered banners for Flower Show/ HYDE Park Opening
- Ordered WMPC Flag for Hyde Park Sports Ground
- Contacted Wave Game re: Hyde Park Sports Ground Opening
- Sent invites to all pertinent organisations and contacts for the Grand Opening of Hyde Park Sports Pitches
- Organising cancellation of classes and judging of children's classes for Flower Show
- Worked with Jess to prepare for the Flower Show/signage/posters/shopping/donkeys

Forthcoming Events 2025/26

23rd August - Summer Dog Show
6th October – BINGO at BACH

6th November – Remembrance Service at MCP

14th November – Swap Event

Meetings, Events and Groups

1/7/26 Meeting with Mandy and Maria re: Youth Cafe
1/7/26 Wellbeing Wednesday Group/Community Café/Bereavement Café/Youth Cafe
2/7/26 Team Meeting
6/7/26 HYPE Meeting
6/7/26 Meeting with Sarah Warran re: Back to Exercise Groups
6/7/26 Pain Cafe
7/7/26 Sports Pitch Committee Meeting
7/7/26 Agenda Run Through Meeting
7/7/26 Youth Alliance Day
8/7/26 Wellbeing Wednesday/Community Café and Youth Cafe
9/7/26 Team Meeting
9/7/26 Meeting with David Stripp and Dr Hayden Bird re HYPE
15/7/26 Online meeting – JUICE onboarding
15/7/26 Wellbeing Wednesdays/Repair Café/Youth Café
20/7/26 Pain Café
21/7/26 Agenda Run Through Meeting
22/7/26 Meeting with Sarah Warren re: Groups
22/7/26 Wellbeing Wednesday Group/Cuppa with a Cop/Youth Café
22/7/26 Community Quiz Night
23/7/26 Team Meeting
23/7/26 Events Meeting
27/7/26 Pain Café
28/7/26 WMPC Meeting
29/7/26 Summer Youth Café
30/7/26 Team Meeting
31/7/26 Set up for Flower and Produce Show

95/26 Somerset Council report from Cllrs Cavill and Fothergill

In Cllr Cavill's absence this item was deferred until later in the agenda.

96/26 Reports, including recent developments, matters to consider and decisions to be made:

a) Bathpool Flood Warden report: Mr Kevin Perry. Feedback from meeting with Environment Agency on installation of Bathpool Pumps

Mr K Perry reported on the following:

- July was another dry month with 1mm of rain recorded. The region experienced 4% of the long term average rainfall. In the last 6 months there has been 80% of the long term average rainfall in region. Reservoirs at 58%. At the moment there is no prospect of a hosepipe ban.
- Resident in Yew Tree Lane hoping to get back into property next week following flooding in January.
- Collapsed riverbank – bore holes have been done, ecological survey now to take place, EA in progress of determining the permit – can take up to 20 weeks.
- No substantial news to report back from meeting with the EA regarding the pumps. They have appointed a design company. 3 site visits, another next week. The EA are now using separate companies for design and construction.
- Proposal has been agreed with National Grid with an underground supply that crosses the field rather than A38.
- Consideration is being given to installing a permanent generator, plus a substantial track. Internal screening officers at the EA have given their view that planning permission will be required for the proposal. This is being checked.
- EA in discussion with network rail about height of bund. Temporary improvements to bund likely to take place for this winter.
- An update on the £50m DEFRA funding allocation was received.
- Section 19 investigation into the January floods has been concluded and a draft report shared. The agencies are providing their feedback on this prior to it being published.

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 1764
- 100.4K views
- Posts added sharing news items that are added to the website.

Monkton Matters

- Page likes / followers now at 656
- 18 new articles added in July
- Articles on Monkton Matters being shared on Monkton Matters Facebook page to pull users to the website.
- 28.4K views
- Business directory has details of 30 businesses so far.

Community Fridge/Community Garden Facebook Page:

- Page likes /followers 1475
- 9.5K views

Maidenbrook Country Park Facebook Page

- Page likes/followers now at 1485
- 30.1K views

HYPE

- Page likes/followers – 36
- 1.2K views (significant increase)

Village News Contribution

- Developed by the Clerk's

Noticeboard Updates

- Jess updates and maintains the noticeboards, ensuring they are always tidy and filled with the latest information. Her consistent efforts not only keep the boards organised but also make them a valuable resource for everyone who relies on them.

d) West Monkton Village Hall Management Committee; noticeboard / installation, consider donation to Men's Group.

Clerk confirmed that the location of the noticeboards has been agreed and steel legs are being made.

Cllr Ellis reported that CCTV has been installed at the hall.

e) The Spital Trust: Cllr Ellis to report.

Cllr Ellis confirmed that there was nothing to report as no meeting had taken place.

Cllr Cavill joined the meeting.

f) Any other events at which WMPC was represented. Broadband Meeting (Cllr D Cronshaw)

Cllr D Cronshaw provided feedback from a meeting organised by Gideon Amos MP and his team about broadband. The meeting was attended by 30+ parish councillors, mostly representing the town and parish councils in rural areas. Openreach, BDUK, and Connecting Devon and Somerset were also in attendance. Since 2014 work has been taking place get superfast broadband into 99% of houses and businesses by 2032.

BDUK are responsible for managing the subsidies including voucher systems. The system was working quite well but Airband have now pulled out on a lot of the contracts. The voucher system enables providers to provide quicker speeds to rural properties. The system worked well initially but it is not working as well for really remote properties.

The target of getting superfast broadband into 99% of properties by 2032 is unlikely to be reached.

MP is keen to try to get communication improved and has already been in contact with most of the people who attended confirming intentions. Cllr D Cronshaw to share a contact email address with the Clerk for Openreach where enquiries about estimated installation dates can be directed.

g) Election of Parish Representatives to the Quantock Hills National Landscape Partnership

It was agreed to advertise the role to see if a member of the public would like to be the parish representative.

Cllr Haskins to request extra time from SALC for the nomination. Clerk to arrange for an article to be added to Monkton Maters.

h) Consultations.

i. Proposed Changes to Parish Councillor Numbers: <https://somesetcouncil.citizenspace.com/democratic-services/councillor-numbers/> (Deadline 25th August 2026)

Change from 9 to 13 Parish Councillors for WMPC from 2027 election proposed. It was agreed to make no comments in respect of the consultation.

ii. Polling District and Polling Places Review: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/polling-review> (Deadline 3rd September 2026)

Clerk confirmed that both the BACH and West Monkton Village Hall are proposed as polling stations in the review. It was agreed to make no comments in respect of the consultation.

iii. Somerset Connectivity and Integrated Transport Strategy (SCITS) consultation:

<https://somesetcouncil.citizenspace.com/highways/b483a6dc/> (Deadline 11th September 2026)

Clerk summarised the consultation that identifies a number of proposed corridor improvements in Somerset. The consultation requests views on the identified challenges and proposed improvements. The main route of interest for WM is connecting Taunton to Bridgwater. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate details of the consultation to councillors and add the consultation to the agenda for the first September meeting for the PC to consider / agree any comments to submit.

Public Question Time

A member of the public expressed concern about the condition of the pavement between Brittons Ash down to the location of the new Tesco store. Cllr Haskins confirmed that the work that is taking place at the moment is remedial work by the Developers and won't extend to the pavement. Responsibility for the pavement is SC Highways.

Cllr Chapman reported that the new Tesco store is scheduled to open at the end of this month. Then nursery will be worked on after that.

A member of the public raised the overgrown hedges on Mead Way / Greenway. Clerk confirmed that letters have been written to the homeowners.

Clerk reported that a member of the public from Gotton Lane had been in contact about SC vegetation clearance that has removed vegetation that has taken years to establish and exposed bare earth. Concerns also expressed about bank erosion. Clerk confirmed that the member of the public has complained to SC but no response has been received.

Assistant Clerk Community raised concerns from members of the public about anti-social behaviour in Beacon Close. The police have attended on numerous occasions.

Cllr Chapman reported that he has been approach by the Primary School requesting help to recreate the flower bed in the nursery group section. Cllr Chapman asked if there was any funding available to support this work. Clerk confirmed that the Primary School could apply for a social and wellbeing grant in the next funding window (1st September to 15th October).

Cllr Cavill to raise with SC Highways.

Review of hedges to take place and further letters to the homeowners to be prepared.

Cllr Cavill to follow up complaint with SC Highways

Issue to be raised at next Cuppa with a cop. Clerk to write to Abri Homes

Cllr Gage provided an update on energy generated from the Primary School solar panels. In the three months May, June and July the solar panels have saved the school approximately £5000 as all energy generated by the school has been used.

Cllr Gage raised the potholes on Noahs Hill that are getting bigger.

Clerk to report potholes to SC
Highways

The agenda was interrupted to take item 9 (deferred from earlier in the meeting) Somerset Council report from Cllr Cavill

97/26 Somerset Council report from Cllr Cavill

Cllr Cavill reported on the following:

Government Issues Best Value Notice to Somerset Council: The Government has issued Somerset Council with a Best Value Notice following concerns about the authority's financial resilience and governance. The notice describes the council as being in a "fragile financial position" and identifies weaknesses in financial management, continued reliance on Exceptional Financial Support, low reserves and instability in financial leadership. The notice comes almost three years after Somerset Council declared a financial emergency and follows a series of financial challenges, including an expected £90 million loss on the council's commercial property investment portfolio.

A Best Value Notice is a formal government intervention and is generally regarded as the final stage before more direct intervention, such as the appointment of government commissioners, if sufficient improvement is not made. While the notice does not remove decision-making powers from the council, it requires Somerset Council to report to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government every three months for at least one year on progress against a series of improvement actions.

New Chief Finance Officer Appointed: Somerset Council has appointed Lizzie Watkin as its new permanent Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer), the statutory officer responsible for the proper administration of the council's finances. Ms Watkin joins from Wiltshire Council and takes up the role from 31st July. Ms Watkin becomes the sixth person to be appointed to the role in just over four years, during a period in which the council has declared a financial emergency, accumulated borrowing of more than £1 billion and remains under significant financial pressure.

Councillors Back Stronger Financial Oversight: Somerset Council has agreed to introduce enhanced monitoring of its Financial Management Improvement Plan following the independent Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) review, which rated the authority's financial management as "weak" and awarded it one star out of five. The measures, brought forward by the Conservative opposition group, are intended to strengthen transparency and accountability as the council works to improve its financial management and deliver long-term financial sustainability.

£7 Million Property Loss Equivalent to 65,000 Pothole Repairs: During a meeting of Somerset Council's Executive, councillors discussed the sale of the former Steelite site in Stoke-on-Trent, which was purchased by the former Somerset West and Taunton Council for around £21 million and later sold for approximately £14.4 million, resulting in a loss of around £7 million. Based on Somerset Council's published average cost of repairing a pothole, that sum would have been enough to repair around 65,000 potholes across the county. The discussion formed part of wider concerns about the council's commercial property investment portfolio, which is expected to generate an overall loss of around £90 million as assets continue to be sold.

Temporary Limits on Fridge and Freezer Recycling: Somerset Council has announced a temporary limit of one fridge or freezer per household at its recycling sites throughout August due to a national shortage of specialist treatment capacity for cooling appliances. The shortage has been caused by reduced UK reprocessing capacity, disruption at specialist treatment facilities and increased seasonal demand.

Cllr Gage suggested that the PC write a letter to SC to state that the PC has lost all confidence in the Council.

Cllr Cavill reported that he has enquired with SC about advertising for the Sports Ground on the adjacent roundabout. SC have indicated their agreement to add to signs to the roundabout and have confirmed that they will approach Persimmon Homes requesting that they provide funding for the cost of the advertising boards.

The agenda was resumed.

98/26 Planning

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

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

34/16/0014: Outline permission (with all matters reserved except for access) for the erection of up to 915 residential units, a primary school, 1 ha of employment land, local centre, open space including allotments and sports pitches, green infrastructure, landscaping, woodland planting, sustainable drainage systems and associated works; including provision of an internal spine road to connect A358 Staplegrove Road to Kingston Road on land at Staplegrove (East), Taunton.

Amendment:

Revised and refreshed application inclusive of revised Environment Statement (including Non-Technical Summary), Planning Statement, Design and Access Statement, Transport Statement, Nutrient Neutrality Assessment and Mitigation Strategy, and revised application plans (parameter plans and Indicative Framework Masterplan). Reduction in quantum of proposed employment land. Amendment to application red line (the extent of the application)

It was agreed to make no comments in respect of the application.

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

99/26 Finance

a) Finance Report including;

i. Consideration of quotes including benches, 40ft storage container for sports pitches, hedge trimmer for Country Park, mower insurance renewal, Ferris ride on lawnmower, Bridgwater Road football post installation.

Bridgwater Road Pitch Football Post installation.

Clerk advised that the quote for the post installation was awaited.

It was resolved to delegate agreement of the quotation to Clerk and Chair. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconder by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

Benches

(using remaining £1400.00 lottery funding)

Somerset Timber Services Limited – 5ft garden bench (same as around the pond at the CP) - £380.00 + VAT each.

Option 1 Oakworld:

Oakworld Alfresco 1.2m Timber Bench | Oak World

Option 2 Summer Garden Buildings:

https://www.summergardenbuildings.co.uk/products/garden-furniture/garden-furniture-bench-10940210.html?rc=00101&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=17425394114&gbraid=0AAAAAD_BU4N94wso1ZRdPrkhZmKXxjeCD&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-MDTBhCgARIsAKAkdITk99OzCR2y9Yn_Inw_I2Zrakc38XOpjXu1q9jfMWIOWNodWdP6q4MaAk1nEALw_wcB

Resolution to proceed with order of 1 5ft garden bench from Somerset Timber Services Limited and six 1.2m timber benches from Oakworld. Proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

40ft Container for Sports Pitch for Rugby Equipment Storage

Lion Containers

40ft used container: £2350.00 + VAT delivered with a two year guarantee and guarantee buy back.

Cleveland Containers

40ft used container: £2750.00 + VAT

Resolution to accept quotation from Lion Containers. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

Dewalt Hedge Trimmer

(using CP lottery funding)

DVS Power Tools:

<https://dvspowertools.co.uk/shop/power-tools/garden-power-tools/hedge-trimmer/dewalt-dcmht562p1-18v-xr-55cm-19mm-blade-gap-hedge-trimmer-1x-5ah-battery-and->

[charger/?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=17182721425&gbraid=0AAAAACoxYfff8v ht0aroReo R-7-YpSK&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-MDTBhCgARIsAKAkdlTY89hdYIIECjMogiyHJMD30SeDrZ6B0MLTbnZyfPWraJYF6FzWDa8aAv3SEALw_wcB](https://ahcpowertools.com/dewalt-dcmht562p1-gb-18v-xr-hedge-trimmer-with-1-x-5ah-battery/?setCurrencyId=1&sku=DEWDCMHT562P1-GB&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22755334060&gbraid=0AAAAADdSjCrzvkd5PnSWD00Ve8c3FQXhA&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-MDTBhCgARIsAKAkdlSx9Ql1Qh96GwsCEjRxaIEyJR3PaNkDUPR23rKXx80TLgUPULDEI5MaAhbNEALw_wcB)

AHC Power Tools:

[https://ahcpowertools.com/dewalt-dcmht562p1-gb-18v-xr-hedge-trimmer-with-1-x-5ah-battery/?setCurrencyId=1&sku=DEWDCMHT562P1-](https://ahcpowertools.com/dewalt-dcmht562p1-gb-18v-xr-hedge-trimmer-with-1-x-5ah-battery/?setCurrencyId=1&sku=DEWDCMHT562P1-GB&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22755334060&gbraid=0AAAAADdSjCrzvkd5PnSWD00Ve8c3FQXhA&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-MDTBhCgARIsAKAkdlSx9Ql1Qh96GwsCEjRxaIEyJR3PaNkDUPR23rKXx80TLgUPULDEI5MaAhbNEALw_wcB)

[GB&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22755334060&gbraid=0AAAAADdSjCrzvkd5PnSWD00Ve8c3FQXhA&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-MDTBhCgARIsAKAkdlSx9Ql1Qh96GwsCEjRxaIEyJR3PaNkDUPR23rKXx80TLgUPULDEI5MaAhbNEALw_wcB](https://ahcpowertools.com/dewalt-dcmht562p1-gb-18v-xr-hedge-trimmer-with-1-x-5ah-battery/?setCurrencyId=1&sku=DEWDCMHT562P1-GB&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22755334060&gbraid=0AAAAADdSjCrzvkd5PnSWD00Ve8c3FQXhA&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-MDTBhCgARIsAKAkdlSx9Ql1Qh96GwsCEjRxaIEyJR3PaNkDUPR23rKXx80TLgUPULDEI5MaAhbNEALw_wcB)

Resolution to proceed with purchase of hedge trimmer from AHC Power Tools. Proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed with all in favour.

Mower Insurance Renewal

Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Limited

Non-Fleet Rated Commercial Motor Insurance for Ride On Lawnmower

Renewal with MS Amlin for period 14th August 2026 – 13th August 2027.

£553.42

(Reduced from £738.42 last year)

Resolution to accept quotation. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed with all in favour.

Ferris Ride On Lawnmower:

It was agreed to defer the consideration of the mower purchase pending a demo of an alternative make / model of mower.

Bus shelter repairs

Quote delayed - to follow at the next meeting.

ii. Approval of receipts and payments

Information relating to named, or otherwise identifiable, individuals is confidential and has been redacted in documents placed in the public domain.

Receipts 1st July – 31st July 2026:

See Receipts Report

Payments made 1st July – 31st July 2026:

See Payments Report

Payments to authorise:

See Payments to authorise report

Resolution to note receipts and payments in July 2026 and to authorise payments.

Proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Gage and agreed with all in favour.

Transfer between accounts / budget lines

Transfer £2610.12 from PC Treasurer Account to Poppy of Honour Account (income minus expenditure in July)

Transfer £150.58 from BACH Treasurer Account to PC Treasurer Account (for cleaning supplies and young person sponsorship items)

Transfer £50000.00 from PSDF to PC Treasurer Account for cash flow.

Resolution to make transfers. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

b) Consider application for grant funding for young person

It was resolved to provide £500 of grant funding and to add a cap to the grant funding of £500.00. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Gage and agreed with all in favour.

c) Budgeting and Summary Report to 31st July 2026

The budget monitoring report was circulated in advance of the meeting and its contents was noted.

d) Consider recommendations of the Audit Working Party

AUDIT WORKING PARTY

Meeting Friday 24th July 2026 at 9.30am

NOTES

Supporting documents were circulated to all participants prior to the meeting.

Present: Cllrs Haskins, Gage and Ellis and Clerk A Shepherd.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Munson.

2. Report of the fourth quarter meeting in April to be approved.

The report / notes from the meeting were approved.

3. To confirm first quarter bank reconciliation.

A detailed bank reconciliation for the first quarter and copies of the bank statements were circulated in advance of the meeting and the bank reconciliation was approved.

The bank reconciliation confirms a balance of £876,049.29 across the PC bank accounts at 30th June 2026.

Clerk confirmed that since the bank reconciliation £15,000.00 has been transferred from the BACH Lloyds Treasurer Account to the BACH Nationwide Building Society into a one year fixed savings account attracting 4% interest.

4. To review summary report and reserves report at the end of quarter 1.

The budgeting report and reserves report to the 30th June were shared in advance of the meeting and considered in detail. The Audit Working Party made the following points and recommendations to the Parish Council:

- The level of the MH1 reserves was noted. It was recommended that the Management Company be requested to develop a 5 year business plan, outlining expenditure to ensure that the reserves held are sufficient for any predicted replacement of play equipment or other infrastructure.
- Insurance cost code is overspent. Overspend is due to an increase in general insurance costs from increase in assets and the purchase of cyber insurance. The Audit Working Party recommended that the overspend is noted and sufficient budget is allocated for the 2027/28 budget.
- Community Garden budgeted amount and reserve almost all spent. The Audit Working Party recommend £200.00 is transferred from the public open space cost code to the community garden cost code to cover spend for the rest of this financial year.

The Audit Working Party noted that the PC is performing well against the remainder of the budget areas at the end of quarter 1 and noted the level of general reserves held (£215,555.95).

5. To confirm first quarter VAT submission

Clerk confirmed that the first quarter VAT submission has been submitted. The net VAT reclaimed was £28,681.03. The submission has been processed and payment has been received.

6. To review CIL spend and review remaining funds

A document summarising CIL spend and the amount of CIL money remaining was circulated in advance of the meeting. The document was summarised, discussed and the current position noted.

It was noted that £241,485.09 of CIL money was held at 30th June 2026.

It was also noted that the PC is currently spending the pot of CIL received in April 2022, that needs to be spent by April 2027. £47,094.95 must be spent by April 2027. A further pot of £78,489.39 received in October 2022 must be spent by October 2027. The Audit Working Party recommended allocating £70,000.00 of the remaining CIL money towards the cost of constructing a pavilion at the Sports Pitches.

7. To consider any other financial matters brought to the attention of the RFO before the meeting.

Clerk confirmed that she had no other financial matters to raise.

Cllr Haskins raised the remaining SALC Health and Wellbeing Funding and suggested that Broomfield and Thurloxtton Parish Councils are encouraged to apply, if they haven't already, as funds could be obtained towards the ongoing LCN HYPE project.

Clerk to liaise with Assistant Clerk Community.

The football post installation at the Bridgwater Road pitch was raised. It was agreed to request a quote for installation of the posts and retractable bollards from the contractors who are installing the rugby posts at the Sports Pitches.

8. Date of next meeting Friday 23rd October 2026 at 9.30am via zoom.

Meeting finished at 10.30am.

Resolution to accept recommendations of Audit Working Party.

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

100/26 Projects

a) Hyde Park Sports Ground; progress update. Progress update.

Clerk provided an update on the electric connection. The order has been approved and paid by Persimmon. If the PC would like to vary the location of the connection from that designed by Persimmon, the process would add an additional 4-6 weeks to the timescales for installation. It was agreed to not request a variation and proceed with the installation as designed. Installation expected in approximately 4-6 weeks.

Clerk confirmed that the water connection order has also been signed off and the UPRN has been received from Somerset Council and passed to the contractors, this work should also be scheduled shortly.

Clerk to follow up Persimmon regarding the sewer connection design.

Identified issues with the pump track were discussed including:

Bank use – benches to be secured as soon as possible to mitigate the risk and make the bank unusable – enquiries to be made about drilling holes to enable the benches to be secured.

Wooden bench – to be repaired by Lengthsman.

Entrance gate latch – to be repaired by Lengthsman.

Signage – new signage to be installed by Lengthsman, replacement do not climb signs ordered for installation.

Wooden fencing on other side of green fence – not owned by PC – no action needed.

Green fencing repairs – tool required to repair. Clerk to speak with Giles Benbow from Cricket Club who may have the tools or order tools for repair.

Proposed shelter at Pump Track discussed and not supported.

Toilets / urinating behind container. Roundabout gates to be unlocked to enable easier access to the toilets. Sign to be added to pump track area confirming location of the toilets.

Scaffolding poles for CCTV being delivered tomorrow.

Container sort out / racking – 50% of Heras fencing to be moved to rugby container when it arrives. Container to be sorted and shelves / racks to be added. Working party to be organised once new container arrives. Admin and Events Assistant to do a stock take of the contents of all of the containers to aid organisation of their contents. In the interim Cllr Haskins to move the detached youth work equipment boxes to the front of the container.

Clerk to liaise with Kevin Chedzoy about modifications to Hyde Lane gate to raise its height.

Clerk provided further information about an enquiry to hold an event at the Sports Ground next year. Clerk to request further information including car parking arrangements, no glass, bag checks, contribution to be made to PC for use of the ground, arrangements / insurance for damage, clearing up, plan for wet conditions. Clerk to also check the proposed date with the Cricket Club,

Feedback was provided on the Grand Opening event. The event was a great success with lots of people attending and enjoying the new facility with great social media coverage before and after the event. The community provided feedback at the event referring to their support for community events for a couple of hours in the future.

b) Poppy of Honour update.

Cllr C Cronshaw provided an update including:

- Arrangements for storage of the Poppy of Honour over winter are being looked into and confirmed later this month.

- A response has been received from the leader of SC about funding, a reply has been sent requesting that SC match what has already been raised (£26k).
- IKO who make roof tiles made from recycled products have agreed to sponsor all the roof tiles for the pavilion.
- Need to get an architect involved for to draw up plans. Quotes for drawing up plans and oversee planning application to be gathered for consideration at the next meeting.
- Next meeting with POH Committee scheduled for 17th September – need to tie down what we want the pavilion to look like before the next meeting.
- Travis Perkins declined to sponsor. Bradfords contacted instead. If unsuccessful, CRS will be approached.
- Chased Cornwall Glass regarding sponsorship.
- The Poppy of Honour is going to Dunster Show – 21st August. POH needs to go over on 18th August, Honiton Hill on the bank holiday weekend and the Dorset Show – 5th and 6th September. Then permanent storage needed for the winter.
- Any ideas for fundraising to be sent to Cllr C Cronshaw.

c) MH2; feedback from meeting with planning officer on 5th August 2026

Feedback from the meeting was summarised and notes from the meeting capturing the key points discussed were shared on the screen.

Clerk reported that she had met with the CSMPC Clerk and CSMPC plan to meet prior to the meeting with WMPC.

The documents shared at the meeting will be updated with tracked changes providing the PCs feedback on the proposals. Updated documents are awaited from the Developers prior to the suggested changes being added. The Developers also committed to sharing a schedule of CIL payments. Receipt of this document is also awaited.

It was agreed that the next steps are:

- CSMPC to meet
- WMPC to meet to agree proposed changes once updated documents received.
- WMPC and CSMPC to meet.
- PCs to meet with Developers.
- Enquiries to be made as to the likely costs of LEAPs/ NEAPs/ MUGA installation to inform discussion.
- Clerk to make enquiries with SC about the scope of the planned CGR of Parish Boundaries.
- Clerk to circulate notes from meeting to Cllrs.

101/26 Community

a) General update

Assistant Clerk Community summarised the detached youth work update provided in the Clerks Report.

The Summer Youth Café was busy the first week and quiet the second. Plan to visit parks and open spaces to encourage young people to come to the Youth Café this week.

Pain café ongoing, enquiries are being made about using Heathfield Hall as a vaccination centre.

SCF grant application outcome awaited.

New data system for Youth café now in place.

b) Feedback from Flower Show and Hyde Park Sports Ground Grand Opening

Feedback from Hyde Park Sports Ground Grand Opening discussed above.

The flower show was a success, but improvements identified to run it again next year including advertising the event earlier, scheduling the event for June time instead of during the school holidays. Advertise as a community day with flower and produce show. Make the event more of a village fun day and arrange more stall holders selling fresh produce.

102/26 Assets

a) Country Park and Somerset Wood; update.

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator reported on work taking place at the park including:

- Lots of tree fleecing, the trees are not coping with the heat.
- Watering
- Red oxide painting of containers to start soon.
- Gate installed on nursery area.
- Chicken wire completed on nursery area.
- Seed collection from wildflowers
- Two Neuroconnect events have taken place at the park and another is planned for this week.

- Meeting with Somerset Youth Outreach who would like to use the park for their events.
- Homeless visitor still in the forest school – reported to authorities / referrals been sent.
- Mower demonstration.
- New blades on flail mower
- New tap in the hub
- Mini mower repaired for the second time.
- Still chasing CCTV repair.

b) Heathfield Gardens POS; update.

Cllr Chapman confirmed that he didn't have too much to report. More payments are being received following the enforcement letters.

Cllr Chapman confirmed that he is going to liaise with Rob Clark at Persimmon Homes regarding the transferred areas. Meetings have taken place with tree surgeons at Brittons Ash / Saffin Drive to obtain quotes for required works.

103/26 Environment

a) 20mph speed limit extension; update

Clerk reported that there was no update. Matter to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

b) Somerset Rivers Authority; Community Flood Action Fund Grant: Grants - Somerset Rivers Authority (Deadline: 25th August 2026) Consider / approve application for submission.

Clerk outlined the proposed costings / finances to include in application. The proposed costings / areas of focus for the grant money were approved. Clerk to finalise and submit the application.

104/26 Other matters for report only – items for discussion - no decision

Volunteer Coordinator asked if Cllr Chapman would like crocus bulbs for the school garden and raised that the turnip shy needs to be returned to Newport catering.

a) Items for next meeting agenda - by Monday 31st August 2026 or 14th September 2026.

Noted.

b) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Noted.

105/26 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2026: 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

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

2026: 22nd Sept, 27th Oct, 24th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 23rd October 2026 at 9.30am

Annual Parish Meeting: TBC March 2027 at 7pm

BACH Committee: 16th October 2026 at 10am

Budget and Precept Working Group: November 2026 at 7pm

Sports Pitch Committee: 15th September 2026 at 9.30am

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 9.45pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 8th September 2026

Adopted - Redacted