

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 13th January 2025

2301 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. A. Plumbly (Chair), Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. J Mann and Mr. M Rastrick

Public: None

Apologies: Mr. P Dibble, Mr. J Down.
Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2302 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2303 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 14th October 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2304 Matters arising from the minutes.

- Update on Telephone Kiosk Repairs**

The solar light only appears to be working intermittently, and they may be a problem with the battery. The Council agreed that Mr Burrough should purchase some replacement batteries.

2305 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised

2306 Matters of Report

- Footpaths**

There are no new issues to report.

- Highway matters**

The gully at the end of Stocks Lane appears to have been cleared and this together with the work previously carried out by Mr Down in the adjacent field, has prevented the area from further flooding.

It is noted however that the use of large agricultural vehicles by certain contractors are eroding the hedges and verges of Stocks Lane, causing mud and debris to clog the drains.

There is a large pothole/defect along Broadmead Road which will be reported online.

- **A358 Update**

National Highways has confirmed that the proposed A358 dualling from Southfields to Taunton has now been cancelled. This is due to the cost of the scheme.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting.

- **Village Hall**

The installation of the solar panels and infra-red heating has been completed.

The Village Hall continue to arrange fund raising events as expenditure currently exceeds income. The target for letting is currently 500 hours per annum and at present, only 400 hours is let on a regular basis.

2307 To agree budget and precept for 2025-26

The Council considered its budget for 2025-26. It was agreed to include a figure of £250 to cover the cost of the annual Village BBQ, and £100 to cover the cost of the Christmas Tree on the Green. The Village Hall grant will increase to £300. Total expenditure is forecast to be approx. £2000, but as the Council has sufficient reserves, it was agreed that the precept would remain at £1860, giving a Band D equivalent of £26.97p.a.

The Clerk will submit the Council's requirement to Somerset Council.

2308 To consider an application to Somerset Rivers Authority Grant scheme.

The Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) has introduced a grant scheme to assist parishes with flood prevention or improvement schemes. As the main flooding issue, the blocked gully at Elmbridge, has been rectified, the Council agreed not to submit a grant application.

2309 Formal Expenditure Approval

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 175.00
b) CMBCVH – Annual Grant	£ 225.00
c) Beercrocombe PCC	£ 150.00

2310 Correspondence for information and items of report

- Somerset Prepared Resilience Road Show – 25/02/25**

Somerset Prepared are holding a resilience road show and drop-in session at Neroche Hall on February 25th. Mrs Mann will attend to represent the Council.

- Somerset Rights of Way – Offer of gates**

To prepare for the forthcoming restructure at Somerset Council, the Rights of Way team is looking to distribute as much furniture as possible so that it is funded by the current year's budget.

If any landowner requires a gate for a public Right of Way, these are available free of charge, but the landowner would be responsible for installing them.

2311 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 10th March 2025**

Further meetings will be held on:

Monday 12th May 2025

Monday 14th July 2025

Monday 13th October 2025

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 10th March 2025

2312 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. A. Plumbly (Chair), Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. J Down, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. J Mann and Mr. M Rastrick

Public: None

Apologies: Mr. Dibble, Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2313 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2314 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 13th January 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2315 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

2316 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised

2317 Matters of Report

• Footpaths

Flooding continues to be a problem along Footpath L5/13 and the Council discussed how this could be prevented. The ditch needs to be dug out and the footpath surfaced raised to avoid future flooding but access to the ditch could be difficult due to the narrow nature of the path. The Clerk will ascertain whether any grants are available to carry out this work and Mr. Down has agreed to look at the situation to see if he can assist.

• Highways

The Council wished to place on record its thanks to Mr Down for clearing the ditches along Broadmead Road which will help to alleviate any future flooding.

The potholes in Broadmead Road have been reported and some repairs have been carried out.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting.

- **Village Hall**

Two recent fundraising events have been successful and raised approx. £1000 in total. This will help to reduce the deficit for the year to below £1000.

2318 To consider in what ways the Parish Council could support the purchase of The Bell Inn, Curry Mallet as a community run asset.

The Bell Inn, Curry Mallet, has been put up for sale and there has been interest within the community in establishing a Community Benefit Society to purchase and run the pub as a community asset. Pledges of more than £100,000 have been received from local residents and it is hoped that grant funding could be secured for the balance of funds required. In order to apply for grants, the Community Benefit Society must first be set up. This is a legal organisation registered with the Financial Conduct Authority and set up costs will be approx. £800.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to make a contribution up to a maximum of £400 for the specific purpose of establishing the Community Benefit Society.

2319 Formal Expenditure Approval

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 116.66
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2320 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Somerset Prepared Resilience Road Show – 25/02/25**

Mrs Mann attended the Resilience Road Show which provided useful information on what measures can be taken to protect properties from flooding. An updated list of emergency contact numbers will be put up on the noticeboard.

- **Date for Village BBQ**

It was agreed that the Village BBQ would be held on Saturday 14th June 2025.

2321 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 12th May 2025**.

This will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which will commence at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 12th May 2025

ATTENDANCE

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Five Parishioners, Clerk to the Parish Council, and Richard Wilkins, Somerset Council Councillor.

The Chairman of the Parish Council chaired the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2025 were received and approved.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Parish Council gave the following report: Somerset Council's ongoing financial challenges have not yet greatly impacted the parish though the growing proportion of its budget spent on adult and social care will mean less is available for road repairs, buses and other areas. Nevertheless the voluntary work from members of the village needs to be recognised. There is more council communication than before with regular LCN updates, 'Somerset prepared' resiliency planning meetings and correspondence and also a Somerset 'monthly round' email. While these go to council members anyone can access them if interested.

The issues at the start of the year included sporadic flooding of Stock's Lane by Elmbridge. John Down cleared the open culvert between the drain and the Fivehead river and, with some later work by the council to clear the drain, the flooding has not yet reoccurred. John has also carried out the reforming of the footpath by Mushroom farm, cleared the ditch along the whole length of Broadmead Road and filled in numerous potholes on verges and passing areas with road planings. Our grateful thanks must go to John for his work.

The proposed dualling of the A358 was finally stopped in the autumn. SCC said they were 'disappointed' in the failure to invest in Somerset infrastructure and a Henlade bypass.

The phone box/library, installed in 2000, needed repainting and repair and, while this cost £513 for new materials, the considerable labour was provided by villagers rather than subcontracting the work. The PV powered LED provides the only street lighting in Beercrocombe!

The Local Community Networks (LCNs) met every two months and our 'Moors & Levels' group have been well attended in person or on line. The discussion groups continue to be regarding health and wellbeing which looks at mental health, loneliness and physical health and Highways Active travel focusing on footpaths/cycleways though mainly between Somerton and Bridgwater. The proposal to create a 'Grail trail' between Hatch Beauchamp, Bridgwater, Langport, South Petherton and Glastonbury didn't raise the required funding.

We have not yet moved to the Ilminster and Crewkerne LCN but continue to monitor discussions should we need to effect a change.

Bob Burrough managed to set up a new website after the failure of the previous supplier. It runs till May '27 at a small cost.

The proposed sale of the Bell pub has created a positive community response and the council felt it important to make a financial contribution to set up a community company as a vehicle to manage the process.

Frances & Martin Saunders very kindly offered to host a village BBQ which was attended by over 50 people. We have planned to do this again on 14th June this year and it will be an annual event funded by the parish council.

The annual plant sale at St James' in May raised £616 while the church spring clean was postponed till the autumn.

The village green also looks good thanks to the mowing team who live around it and the barrels are maintained by Jayne Mann and others. Thanks to Niki and Simon Maggs for the donated Christmas trees on the green. Also, to Sally Gillichan who sorts the books in the phone box and keeps it tidy.

The Parish Council's financial situation is in good order and thanks go to Keith Thomas for his audit of the accounts.

My thanks go to Gillian for her diligent planning, recording, advice to me and in navigating the unfamiliar paths of local government. I would also like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and help during the year and for the volunteers who look after our village assets.

REPORTS FROM PARISH INTEREST GROUPS

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Rastrick reported that the Parish had not suffered any instances of crime during the past year.

Although there are 62 properties in Beercrocombe Parish, there are only 13 members in the Neighbourhood Watch Group and Mr Rastrick is keen to encourage more members to join.

Roads and Footpaths

Mr. Harvey delivered his report on roads and footpaths as follows:

Roads.

During the past 12 months various repairs and patching has been carried out by Somerset Council together with some residents of the parish in particular Henry Cole and James and John Down. Hopefully the main problem of flooding in Stocks Lane may have now been resolved. James and John have also carried out work to the ditches alongside Broadmead in particular. Also, work has been carried out on the road side verges by John Down which are not covered by the Somerset Council Highways Department repair teams.

Footpaths.

During the past 2 months work has been carried out on footpath L5/13 which runs alongside Mushroom Farm. John Down's digger driver has made a superb job of re-instating the footpath which had been badly damaged as a result of the ditch alongside the footpath flooding. The soil from the ditch which has been cleared and made deeper has been used to raise the level of the footpath. This work was carried out with the agreement of Will Vigus who allowed access to the footpath for the digger. Grass seed has been put down on the footpath and is growing well. Hopefully this work will prevent further flooding as water will be able to move freely through the ditch and under the road culvert. The Frog Street by-way L5/20 remains an issue in parts where it goes through the middle of the stream and is the responsibility of the Somerset Council footpaths officer to resolve and not the Parish Council. I can remember a meeting with the footpaths officer some 15 years ago when an officer could not see any way to resolve the issue.

Village Hall Report

Mr. Plumby gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee

1. As part of our five-year plan, the installation of infra-red heating, 24 PV panels and a 10kW battery was completed in November. All work was competitively tendered. The financial benefits will take a year or so to be fully understood as it's only in sunnier months that the export tariff is effective but initial findings show we are using stored power and exporting to the grid. The export rate is not as good as initially offered but we have greener energy and cost-effective heating.

Donations for this work came from National Lottery, ACRE, Somerset Community Fund, Beercrocombe Village Trust and Beercrocombe Parish Council plus donations from user groups and an anonymous donation. Chris Dale applied to numerous bodies which generated £24,900 to undertake this work – an incredible result from his hard work. He has also raised money to provide the SMBC with motorized mat equipment and, this month, another £7k to undertake insulation of the roof of the main hall.

2. General running costs are now about £8,000-£10,000 a year with the four main items being:

- Utilities £2099
- Cleaning £1912
- Duchy rent £1169
- Insurance £1086

3. Financial status.

Bank balance at the end of March was £17,553 (March '24 was £17,806) of which £12,000 are currently free reserves for use for maintenance and investments.

The hall is used on average 10 hours a week and does not cover its running costs meaning a notional annual deficit of £2,000-£3,000.

The committee has run fund raising events gaining approximately £2,300 meaning our deficit for the year was an operational loss of £253.67 (last year's loss was £1,834.41)

Conclusion

While our reserves are sufficient to allow us to run the hall, the longer-term prospects are challenging as we need to find more user groups to increase the rental income. Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe parishes provide annual grants to the hall and these are most welcome.

Village Trust

Mr. Harvey reported:

The AGM of the Trust took place on the 12th March 2025 and Graham Harvey was appointed Chairman, Maureen Longstaff Treasurer and Stephen Parsons was appointed Secretary. The other member re-appointed was Claire Mitchem. A grant was made to the Beercrocombe PCC of £75.00. The next meeting will be held in September 2025. A resume of the last meeting was posted in the Bus Shelter and there is information on how young persons can apply for the grant of £200.00.

Website

Mr Burrough reported that the domain name of the website changed during the year to www.beercrocombe.org.uk which gives better security protection. Usage of the website has increased with in excess of 500 visits to the site.

The Beer & Curry Takeaway is published on the website.

QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

Questions were put to the Somerset Councillor regarding Rights Of Way, Broadband and the planned roadworks and closure affecting J26 of the M5.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

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2322 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. P Dibble, Mr. J Down Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. J Mann, Mr. M Rastrick

Public: None

Apologies: Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2323 Election of Chairman.

Mr Plumby was nominated by Mr Burrough and seconded by Mr Harvey. Mr Plumby had previously indicated that he would be prepared to stand again as Chairman if nominated, and the nomination was unanimously approved. Mr Plumby signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2324 Election of Vice-Chairman

Mrs J Mann was nominated as Vice-Chairman by Mr Dibble and seconded by Mr Down. Mrs Mann accepted the nomination which was unanimously approved.

2325 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

2326 Allocation of Members' Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities were agreed and allocated as follows: -

Neighbourhood Watch – Mr. M. Rastrick
Village Hall Representative – Mr. A. Plumby
Highways and Footpaths – Mr. G Harvey
Planning – Mr. R. Burrough.
Communication Representative – Mr R Burrough
Village Trust – Mr. G Harvey.
Website – Mr. R. Burrough

Both Mr. Burrough and Mr. Harvey indicated that they would be stepping down from the Council next year.

2327 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 10th March 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2328 Matters arising from the minutes.

- Repair of Footpath L5/13**

The Council wished to place on record its thanks to Mr Down for the repair to Footpath L5/13. The ditch was cleared and the footpath raised up to alleviate flooding. The new surface has been planted with grass seed. The Council agreed that a contribution of £200 should be paid to Mr Down. Mr Down was not present at this discussion.

- Donation to Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Community Pub Ltd**

A bank account in the name of Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Community Pub Ltd has been opened which will enable the Community Benefit Society to apply for grants etc. In accordance with Minute 2318, it was agreed to make a contribution of £400 towards the set up costs of the company.

2328 Parishioners' Forum

A parishioner has raised concerns that Right of Way (ROW) L5/20 is impassable in places although the location of the obstruction is not known. The path in question is a Restricted Byway, rather than a footpath, and therefore walkers, horse riders, cyclists and horse drawn vehicles are permitted to use it. The course of the ROW goes along the river bed at some point.

There have been several issues reported in the past, the latest being in 2023 when the ROW was reported as being inaccessible. The defect was resolved as the vegetation was trimmed back and the byway added to the Somerset Council annual vegetation cut schedule.

Parishioners are encouraged to report any obstructions to Somerset Council using the online reporting facility.

The clerk will contact the ROW team to ascertain whether the annual clearance cuts are still continuing in view of the financial situation of Somerset Council.

2329 Matters of Report

- Footpaths**

There are no new issues to report.

- Highway matters**

There is a sunken drain on the highway near to Orchard View which could cause damage if not rectified. This will be reported to Highways.

The subsidence of the road on Capland Lane near to the plant nursery has also been reported, although this does fall outside the Parish.

- **Planning**

No new planning applications have been received since the last meeting.

- **LCN Update**

Nothing to report

2330 To receive the annual accounts and internal auditors report.

The annual accounts were presented to the meeting. The precept for the year 2024/25 was £1860, and expenditure was £2505. The excess expenditure was due to the cost of renovations to the telephone box of £513 and a grant of £250 to the Village Hall as a contribution to the new heating system. The Council's reserves are sufficient to cover the deficit.

The Council received the internal audit report, which confirmed that there were no issues that needed addressing. The Council thanked Mr Roberts, who carried out the internal audit on this occasion.

2331 To approve Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and confirmed that it had considered and agreed items 1-9 of the statement. The statement was signed by the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

2332 To approve Section 2 Accounting statements 2024/25

The Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2024/25. The statements were signed by the Chairman and RFO.

2333 To confirm that the Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review.

The Council confirmed that met the criteria for exemption and was eligible to certify itself as exempt from the limited assurance review. The Chairman signed the exemption certificate.

2334 To review and confirm the insurance arrangements for 2025.

Renewal documents have been received from Zurich Insurance. The Council had previously entered into a 3 Year Long Term Agreement which expires in 2026. The Council confirmed that the insurance cover was still suitable for its needs and agreed to renew the insurance for a premium of £182.36.

2335 To review and confirm the risk assessment for 2025.

The Council received the risk assessment for 2025 and considers that it has adequate measures in place to mitigate any risks the Council may face. It was **resolved** to approve the risk assessment.

2336 To review the Council's financial regulations and internal audit controls.

The Clerk has reviewed the financial regulations which were adopted in September 2014 and considers that these are still appropriate.

The Clerk has also reviewed the internal control procedures and considers them to be adequate.

It was **resolved** to approve the financial regulations and statement of internal control.

2337 To confirm the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit regulations.

The Council confirmed that the period for the exercise of public rights in respect of the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025 would commence on **Tuesday 3rd June** and end on **Monday 14th July**.

2338 Formal Expenditure Approval

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 116.66
b) Community First	£ 182.36
c) SALC	£ 70.53
d) J Mann – Village Green plants	£ 10.00
e) R Burrough – Footpath repair materials	£ 38.91
f) J Down – Footpath Repair	£ 200.00
g) CM&BC Community Pub Ltd	£ 400.00

2339 To confirm receipt of precept for 2025/26.

The Clerk confirmed that the precept of £1860 has been received from Somerset Council.

2340 Correspondence for information and items of report

No issues to report

2340 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th July 2025 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of Beercrocombe Parish Council held at Beercrocombe & Curry Mallet Village Hall on Monday 11th August 2025.

2341 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. A. Plumbly (Chair), Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. P Dibble, Mr. J Down, Mrs. J Mann

Public: None

Apologies: Mr. Harvey, Mr. Rastrick, Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2342 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2343 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12th May 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2344 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

2345 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised.

2346 Matters of Report

• Footpaths

The Clerk has received confirmation from Somerset Council that the annual vegetation cutting schedule will continue as previously and the annual cut has now taken place along L5/20.

• Highways

A parishioner has made an online report regarding the condition of Church Lane which is subsiding and cracked in places.

The sunken drain near to Orchard View has been reported but is not due for immediate repair.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting. Somerset Council has had to implement emergency procedures with regards to planning in an effort to improve the process and reduce the substantial backlog of applications.

- **Village Hall**

The PV panels and battery installed in October 2024 have started to generate power and should provide an income of approx. £600pa. Further grant monies of £7400 have been received which will be used towards installing insulation to the hall ceiling which will improve the thermal comfort of the hall.

The Duchy of Cornwall has announced that it will suspend the rent on the hall which will save £1100p.a. This arrangement will remain in place during the tenure of the current Duke of Cornwall.

Fund raising continues and the latest Pimms and Prosecco event raised over £500.

Unfortunately, there have been several incidents of vandalism and the Committee is considering the use of CCTV to deter this.

2347 To consider how the Parish Council will comply with new requirements relating to digital and data compliance.

The Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel has issued new guidance as a new assertion concerning digital and data compliance will be included in the Annual Government and Accountability Return (AGAR) with effect from this financial year.

Parish Councils should have an authority owned email account such as org.uk or gov.uk and an IT policy that mandates the use of authority owned email accounts for official business.

All Parish Council websites should include an accessibility statement which is kept under regular review.

It was agreed that the Clerk could use the email address attached to the existing website (www.beercroocmbe.org.uk) which would satisfy the requirements of using an org.uk email address.

The Council will look to adopt an IT Policy at a future meeting and Mr Burrough will improve the accessibility of the website and publish an accessibility in due course.

The Council will reconsider the issue when the actual wording of the new assertion is published next March.

2348 To note and discuss removal of dead tree on Village Green

One of the trees on the Village Green has died and has now been removed. In view of the limited space on the Green, it will not be replaced.

2349 To consider change of bank account following notification of introduction of bank charges.

Santander will be introducing a monthly fee of £4.99 with effect from October. The Council discussed changing bank accounts but most other banks also levy a monthly fee and it was decided to remain with Santander for the time being.

2350 Formal Expenditure Approval

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

a) Clerk's Salary	£ 175.00
b) A Plumbly – BBQ Expenses	£ 234.00

2351 Correspondence for information and items of report

• **Notification of New Assistant Highway Services Manager**

Following the retirement of Derek Davies, John Nicolson has been appointed as the Assistant Highways Services manager for the area.

2352 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 13th October 2025 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

BEERCROCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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2353 Attendance and Apologies

Councillors: Mr. A. Plumby (Chair), Mr. R. Burrough, Mr. P Dibble, Mr. J Down, Mr. G Harvey, Mrs. J Mann, Mr. M Rastrick

Public: Cllr R. Wilkins (Somerset Council)

Apologies: Cllr M Stanton (Somerset Council)

2354 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

2355 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 11th August 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

2356 Matters arising from the minutes.

There were no matters arising.

2357 Parishioners' Forum

There were no issues raised.

2358 Matters of Report

- Footpaths**

No new issues reported and there are no outstanding issues.

- Highways**

A parishioner has made an online report regarding the condition of Church Lane which is subsiding and cracked in places. It is unclear if and when this will be repaired and Cllr Wilkins suggested that the Chair contact the Assistant Highways Supervisor for an update.

Cllr Wilkins advised the meeting that if the Parish Council is unhappy with the quality of works undertaken by contractors working on behalf of Somerset Council, the

Highways Superintendent should be informed, and he will inspect the work and withhold payment if necessary.

- **Planning**

No new applications have been received since the previous meeting. Following the implementation by Somerset Council of emergency procedures, the backlog is being reduced but recruitment of planning officers remains an issue.

- **Village Hall**

Insulation has been fitted above the suspended ceiling, which should improve the temperature of the hall and reduce energy costs.

The entrance doors have been replaced by new PVC doors.

The Village Hall Committee has not yet discussed installing CCTV cameras.

2358 To agree and adopt an IT Policy and Privacy Policy for the Council.

In order to comply with the new digital and data compliance regulations being included in the Annual Government and Accountability Return (AGAR) with effect from this financial year, the Council has approved and adopted an IT Policy. The existing Privacy Policy remains in effect and the Council confirmed that this policy is still suitable for its needs.

2359 Formal Expenditure Approval

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

• Clerk's Salary	£ 116.66
• HBPC – Remembrance Wreath	£ 20.00

2360 Correspondence for information and items of report

- **Somerset Resilience Day – 15th October 2025**

Jayne Mann will be attending the annual Somerset Resilience Day being held at Taunton Racecourse. Some parishioners have expressed concern re the Digital Landline Switchover and she will endeavour to obtain further information relating to this.

- **Visit from Sarah Dyke, MP**

It was suggested that the local MP, Sarah Dyke should be invited to a future Parish Council meeting, but it was thought that unless there is a specific issue that requires her input, she may be unwilling to attend. It would be more appropriate for the campaigners trying to reopen the Bell Inn to contact her and gain her support. The Chairman will suggest that the committee members may wish to consider this.

2361 To confirm date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm**

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.