



## Minutes 2025

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thurs 9th Jan 2025	<b>Time:</b>	19:30
<b>Location of Meeting:</b>	Hembry Room, Westfield Church Hall		
<b>Present:</b>	Cllr. John Vassalli, Cllr. R. Leighton, Cllr. J. Johnstone, Cllr. G. Mansfield, Cllr. F. Smith		
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Tammy Roper (Clerk),		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr. G. Slocombe, Cllr. B. Bolt		

Ref:	Topic of Discussion
1-09/01/25	<b>Chairman's Comments</b>
	Thank you for everyone attending in the icy weather.
2-09/01/25	<b>Public Question Time</b>
	No members of the public present.
3-09/01/25	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
	No Declarations of Interest were declared.
4-09/01/25	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>
	<p><b>Full Council Meeting 14Nov2024</b></p> <p>Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Proposed by Cllr. R. Leighton, seconded by Cllr. J. Vassalli</b></p> <p><b>All agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Finance Sub Group Meeting Minutes 11Dec2024</b></p> <p>Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Proposed by Cllr. R. Leighton, seconded by Cllr. G. Mansfield</b></p> <p><b>All agreed.</b></p>
5-09/01/25	<b>Update on Actions from Previous meeting</b>
	<p><b>Survey Young People</b> – Cllr. Smith reported that no further responses have been received to the survey. Cllr. Smith attends the Burnham-on-Sea LCN as part of her role at Young Somerset. Councils in Burnham-on-Sea area are also trying to get involved with young persons, but also with little success. Potentially, there may be an opportunity, to engage more with Haygrove School as they will be relocating to the Durleigh Parish.</p> <p>Cllr. Smith said she will keep feeding back from the working group and utilise any ideas.</p> <p><b>Vacancy</b> – There has still been no interest, from persons eligible to become a councillor in the parish. Continue to push on website, social media and by word of mouth.</p>
6-09/01/25	<b>Matters Arising (Including Consultation Responses)</b>
	Haygrove School – We are aware that it has been reported in the news that Queenswood Farm has been confirmed as the new school site. No further details are known at this present time, but we will organise a public meeting as and when there are any further developments / planning applications.

7-09/01/25	Financial Matters
<p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p>	<p>The Clerk reported that the Bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was £15,380.73. There has been no expenditure since the last bank statement.</p> <p>The Clerk referred to the Finance Reports up to 31st December 2024 (Appendix 1), sent to all councillors prior to the meeting, which includes the cashbook showing expenditure, the actual expenditure against budget and the bank rec @31Dec. There were no questions or queries in regards to the finance reports and they were approved as accurate and complete. <b>Proposed by Cllr. J. Vassalli, Seconded by Cllr. R. Leighton. All Agreed.</b></p> <p>There are currently no payments waiting to be made.</p> <p>It was explained that all payments that have been made are either all preapproved on the 'Schedule of Payments 2024-25' authorised at the March meeting, or are within the levels for delegated authority as detailed in the Financial Regulations. Therefore, these do not need further approval, but are just to note.</p>
8-09/01/25	Budget & Precept 2025/26
	<p>The Clerk referred to the copy of the Draft Budget, Budget Notes and the minutes of the FSG sent to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Minutes of the FSG meeting on 11 December detail changes we made to the first draft of the budget and the budget notes explain all the increases.</p> <p>Due to increases that cannot be avoided, for example the lower Employers National Insurance threshold, the budget presented means requesting a precept of £15,500. This includes enough to take on the grass cutting and bin emptying contract (to be discussed in next agenda item). This is an overall precept rise of 12.65%, and using the Somerset Council 'Precept Request Calculator', equates to a 9.94% (£5.95) per band D property.</p> <p>No queries or concerns were raised. Budget and precept of £15,500 was approved.</p> <p><b>Approved by Cllr. G. Mansfield, Seconded by Cllr. J. Vassalli.</b> <b>All in agreement</b></p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to proceed with requesting precept.</b></p>
9-09/01/25	Grass Cutting & Bin Emptying
	<p>Bridgwater Town Council (BTC) have been cutting the grass and emptying two bins within Durleigh parish, without any recharge to us for 2024/25. BTC took this on from Somerset Council at the start of the 2024/25 financial year and initially agreed to this (with Somerset Council) as a 'gentleman's agreement'.</p> <p>All in agreement that we should take on the responsibility for grass cutting, as this charge should not be paid for by Bridgwater residents. We have already requested and received a price from BTC, but due to the value, we have to seek further quotes.</p> <p>As we would like this sorted as soon as possible, to ensure it is in place for the start of the 2025/26 financial year, it was agreed that we will request quotes back by the end of January and these will be reviewed and a decision made by the Finance Sub Group (FSG), hopefully within the first week of February (FSG meeting to be arranged).</p>

	<p><b>Proposed by Cllr. R. Leighton, seconded by Cllr. F. Smith. All in agreement.</b></p> <p><b>Action: Clerk to send out Invitations to Quote and arrange FSG meeting.</b></p>
<b>10-09/01/25</b>	<b>Planning Matters</b>
<b>Items for Discussion:</b>	
None	
<b>Items for Update:</b>	
23/24/00008	<p>Land To The South Of, Quantock Road - Removal of up to 10m section of Hedgerow (H1) to facilitate water main connections from nearby housing development located southeast of layby on southern side of Quantock Road (A39). Excavations will be a minimum of 1m from trees on either side of the gap (as shown in the attached photo). The hedgerow will be replanted on completion as per Drg No. STD-836-REV E. <b>Decision: Formal Application not required.</b></p>
23/24/00007	<p>To The Rear Of, 23 Luxborough Road - Repollard 1No. Caucasian Wingnut (A1) (TPO Ref G1) back to previous pruning points (approx reduction of 4m). Crown reduce height/spread of 1No. Swedish Whitebeam (A2) (TPO Ref G1) by 2.5m. Crown thin 1No. Beech (A3) (TPO Ref G1) by 20%, remove deadwood and crown reduce height/spread by 3.5m – <b>Granted Permission</b></p>
23/19/00002	<p>Hybrid (full and outline) application. Full application for the erection of 112 dwellings, formation of signal-controlled access off Quantock Road with associated infrastructure, landscaping and open space (phase 1). Outline application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 240 residential dwellings with associated infrastructure, landscaping and open space (phase 2) – Significant amendments. <b>Under Consideration</b></p>
<b>11-09/01/25</b>	<b>Shed on Queenswood Lane</b>
	<p>A letter was sent to the property owners on 19/11/24, which stated that they had until the end of December to remove shed, which has now been done. No further action needed.</p> <p>Agreed that regular inspections of Queenswood Lane will be done. A motion was passed that if there are any further infringements within Queenswood Lane, we will send letters (and do a Land Registry search to obtain owner name if required) immediately, without the need to bring to the next meeting for approval.</p> <p><b>Proposed by Cllr. R. Leighton, seconded by Cllr. J. Johnstone. All agreed.</b></p>
<b>12-09/01/25</b>	<b>Hedge Cutting &amp; Drainage</b>
	<p>Cllr. Leighton reported, that the hedge and ditch by 12 Durleigh Hill are in need of maintenance (property is rented), as it keeps flooding. The drains by there are also blocked, as they have been neglected for years.</p> <p>Agreed that we will write to the property owner requesting that they do the required maintenance to the hedge and ditch (as it is the property owner's responsibility). Blocked drains will be reported by the residents to Somerset Council and can be chased/escalated by the parish council if necessary.</p> <p><b>Action: Cllr. Leighton to provide name of owner, along with photos of the ditch/hedge. Clerk to write to property owner.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed by Cllr. J. Vassalli, seconded by Cllr. J. Johnstone. All in Agreement.</b></p>
<b>13-09/01/25</b>	<b>Local Community Networks</b>
	<p>Cllr. Vassalli reported that the LCN meeting scheduled for December was cancelled and has been rearranged to end of January.</p> <p>Cllr. Vassalli mentioned the report from Kingston-St.-Mary Parish Council (KSM PC) in response to the electoral boundary review currently being undertaken by Somerset Council. Within this</p>



	<p>report it suggests that the new electoral boundaries are considered with a view to keeping them within the LCN boundaries. Somerset Council have stated “the report and associated information have not been endorsed nor considered by Somerset Council, we are sharing the information in the spirit of LCNs, as a forum for sharing information across Somerset”.</p> <p>Somerset Council will be considering their response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England at a Special Meeting of the Constitution and Governance Committee - Tuesday, 14th January.</p>
<b>14-09/01/25</b>	<b>Meetings Attended</b>
	<p>Cllr. Vassalli reported that he attended the Highways Sub Group on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov, which was well attended. Cllr. Vassalli asked about speed restrictions along the A39 (by new development) and whether there are any speed cameras as drivers not keeping to the 20mph. There are no speed cameras.</p> <p>It was stressed at the meeting to ‘always record potholes’.</p> <p>Topics for discussion included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a road becomes adopted, anyone can park on it, if private, they can’t.</li> <li>• Gullies &amp; ditches – responsibility of work: Somerset Council do gullies, but if ditch belongs to somewhere else (usually the adjoining land/property owner), they won’t do the work. It is a common issue that drains and gullies are full, causing flooding within the Dowsborough LCN area.</li> </ul>
<b>15-09/01/25</b>	<b>Items for Next Agenda</b>
	<p>LCN Officer Introduction Feedback from BoS LCN young Persons Working Group</p>
<b>16-09/01/25</b>	<b>Date &amp; Venue of Next Meeting</b>
<b>Date / Time:</b>	Thurs 13th March 2025
<b>Venue:</b>	Hembry Room, Westfield Church

<b>Meeting Closed at:</b>	20:30
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**Minutes Signed by:** ..... **Date:** .....

(Chairman)