

Full Council

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting
held in The Council Chamber, The Town Hall, Milborne Port.

Tuesday 2nd September 2025 @ 7:00pm

Present:

Parish Councillors:	Tim Carty (Chair)	Margaret Capon
	Alison Flynn	David Grant
	Robert Tizzard	Ted Watts
	Glenn Coombs	Chris Phillips

In Attendance:

Somerset Councillor: Hayward Burt
The Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard
Deputy Parish Clerk: Nathalie Hetherington
4 members of the public

❖ Reports from Somerset Council:

Cllr. Burt had provided a written report prior to the meeting, and he highlighted the following issues:

- the cabinet teams of Dorset and Somerset Councils have been in touch with each other regarding the charges that Dorset Council will be making to non-Dorset residents to use the Sherborne recycling centre.
- there is no update from the Planning Department regarding communications and backlog, currently it is not possible to talk to the Planning Department.
- there have been 4 burglaries in our area recently.

Cllr. Carty noted that pothole reports to Somerset Council tend to be responded to fairly quickly and that the footpath clearance on London Road has been done well.

Cllr. Capon expressed concern Somerset Planning department announcing that they cannot be contacted by parishes or elected representatives; they are public servants so should be available to the public. There is a fear that the 3-month period will be extended.

Cllr. Tizzard noted that the government has promised more money to deal with backlogs in planning departments but Cllr. Burt did not know whether this had reached Somerset Council; he will look into it, as well as what happens to the income generated by payments for pre-application advice.

Cllr. Carty commented on how difficult it is for an individual resident to jump through the planning application hoops which are the same as for a housing developer, and that there is little point to the Travel Plan consultation unless Highways Planning adopts a more robust approach.

❖ Public Statements and Comments:

- A member of the public expressed concern that the Parish Council banks with Barclay's Bank, which she considers an unethical bank that is investing in technology that is being used in armed conflict, and asked councillors to consider transferring to an ethical bank. In response, a number of comments were made by councillors concerning: the Parish Council not generally taking political stances due to its focus on the local issues that fall within its remit; the negative experiences of banking with Barclays and other large banks; the considerable administrative and human resource challenges of switching bank; the degree to which there is disinformation surrounding all conflict; the degree to which we can be sure

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that any bank is completely ethical; the advice of the internal auditor to spread the financial risk over a number of financial institutions; the current policy of the parish council to retain all funds with Barclays (or indeed any other large UK retail bank), above the deposit guarantee limit, in order to minimise administration, given that the risks that such a bank might be allowed to fail by the government would be low, especially compared to smaller UK and foreign banks

The matter will need to go onto a future full council meeting agenda to see if the parish council wanted to spend time researching other options.

- A member of the public sought clarification regarding riparian responsibilities in relation to the Gascoigne River and the area around Rosemary Street bridge and in addition the growth of Himalayan Balsam. Councillors noted that the Gascoigne is classed as a water course and not a river, therefore it is not a concern of the Environment Agency (which has recently withdrawn some funding of river maintenance), also that Somerset Council will no longer be clearing any parts of the river or riverbank. The Parish Council has tried liaising with the companies responsible for the riverbanks in that area on a number of occasions but with limited success. Research on this topic has been carried out and it was noted that riparian responsibilities are vague and quite archaic, with a number of complexities and a lack of clear guidance, which is why the process of putting together an Emergency Plan will be useful in educating residents about these issues. The Parish Office will keep the member of the public appraised of any developments in this area.
- A member of the public raised concerns about a 'Scan, Tap and Go' locker having been installed at the west end of the Crackmore Petrol Station forecourt today, very close to the A30. No planning application had come to the Parish Council and there was a question over whether permission was in fact required. Given that Somerset Council Planning Department is not currently responding to queries, this will be followed up on behalf of the member of the public once it is possible to do so.

Cllr Burt and the members of the public left the meeting at 7:52 pm, during Items 45/46.

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
45	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> ○ Cllr. Rob Lockey - Away ○ Cllr John Price - Away ○ Cllr Paul Scrivener - Away ○ Apologies were also received from Somerset Councilor Nicola Clark
46	<u>Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensations to Participate:</u> A: Declarations of Interests from Members: None. B: Applications submitted to the Proper Officer for a dispensation to participate: None.
47	<u>Adoption of Minutes:</u> The two sets of minutes had been circulated ahead of the meeting. It was noted by Cllr Grant following the meeting of 22 nd July, the completion date for the Community Hub had moved from January to March 2026.

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	Cllr. Carty proposed that the minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 1st July 2025 and the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 be adopted; seconded by Cllr. Watts and resolved unanimously.
48	<u>Delivery of the Community Hub by Redcliffe Homes:</u> It was reported that the Projects Officer had spoken to a representative of Redcliffe Homes who reported that the groundworks will be started in September 2025, but the Hub would be completed by March 2026 at the very earliest, rather than the previous messages that it would definitely be completed by March 2025, so the prospect of having the Community Hub next year is looking less likely. This is as a result of slow house sales onsite. Cllr. Tizzard noted that a company that he is involved with is selling land in Wiltshire to Redcliffe Homes, so he is no longer involved in direct communication with Redcliffe. However, he is keeping abreast of developments. It was agreed that the dialogue with Redcliffe Homes should be kept open.
49	<u>Somerset's New Local Transport Plan – Consultation Response:</u> Cllr. Carty had drafted a detailed response on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr. Tizzard offered some feedback for consideration concerning parking areas, satellite navigation, signage, and pre-applications (PPAs). Cllr. Carty will discuss some of these issues with the LCN. It was agreed that Cllr. Tizzard will send his suggestions to Cllr. Carty in time for any changes to be made ahead of the deadline of 7th September.
50	PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES: <u>A. Safeguarding Policy:</u> Cllr. Carty proposed that the new Safeguarding Policy be adopted; seconded by Cllr. Flynn and resolved by 7 votes with 1 abstention. <u>B. Social Media Policy & Electronic Communication:</u> It was agreed to defer this item until a future Full Council meeting. A word document copy of the policy will be sent out to allow members to offer input.
51	<u>PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:</u> <u>A. Monthly Payments:</u> Payments numbers: 104 to 133 totaling £17,503.45 for August & Payments numbers: 134 to 152 totaling £15,485.14 for September 2025 had been circulated Cllr. Carty proposed that the payments list for August & September be approved, seconded by Cllr. Phillips and resolved unanimously. <u>B. Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit 2024/25/Appointment of 2025/26 Auditor:</u> The effectiveness of the internal audit was reviewed and was considered to be good. Do The Numbers Ltd, the internal auditor, is available for reappointment for the 2025/26 audit at the same price as last year.

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	Cllr. Carty proposed that ‘Do the Numbers’ be reappointed for the 2026 internal audit; seconded by Cllr. Flynn and resolved unanimously. C. Full Council Accounts & Bank Reconciliation: The budget Vs spend and forecasting information had been circulated. • Reserve Account £382,800.57 – 31/07/2025 • Current Account £5,000.00 – 31/07/2025 The Full Council accounts and bank reconciliation were received. There was some discussion about Somerset Council’s decision to withhold the payment S106 project expenses from s106 monies until projects are completed, leaving the Parish Council out of pocket for potentially years. It was agreed that Somerset Council should be challenged on this by the Parish Office.
52	<u>Awarding of Health & Wellbeing Grant – Increase to Project Officer’s Hours:</u> The news was received that the Parish Council has been successful in its bid for £10,000 in grant funding from the SALC Health & Wellbeing fund, to increase the Project Officer hours to work on Health & Wellbeing Projects. Cllr. Carty proposed that the Parish Council increase the Project Officer hours from 12 to 24 per week for a maximum period of 44 weeks; seconded by Cllr. Grant and resolved unanimously.
53	<u>Village Hall Insurance Policy:</u> The Village Hall’s insurance documents for 2025/26 were received, in relation to the Parish Council’s risk assessment.
54	<u>Activities Planner:</u> This was received. It was noted that government funding of Neighbourhood Plans has been withdrawn.
55	<u>Verbal Reports:</u> a) Council Chairman’s report: Cllr. Carty has been involved in the Somerset Council Travel Plan consultation webcast and has been liaising with the LCN. The future of the bus route 58 is looking positive. b) Parish Clerk’s report: The external audit has not yet been signed off this would normally happen by September 30th, currently still responding to questions from the auditors. c) Neighbourhood Plan Update – Cllr. Grant Cllr. Grant will report at the October meeting and will be liaising with the Projects Officer. A Steering Group is to be formed; Cllr. Tizzard is prepared to be consulted as early on as possible in the process. d) Members’ Reports from outside organisations: Cllrs. Carty and Capon will be attending the SALC conference.

End of formal meeting at 8:55 pm

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