

The Planning Committee

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting

The Town Hall

Tuesday 19th May 2026 7:45 pm (started at 7.23 pm)

Present:

Councillors:

Mr Rob Lockey (Chair)
Mr Tim Carty
Mr John Price

Mrs Margaret Capon (Vice-chair)
Mr Chris Phillips
Mr Robert Tizzard

In Attendance:

The Deputy Parish Clerk & Committee Officer: Nathalie Hetherington

Public Question and Comment Time:

No members of the public were present.

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
1	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> Cllr. Ted Watts.
2	<u>Declarations of Interest:</u> Cllr. Tizzard noted that he is related to the applicant in Item 7(1).
3	<u>Election of Planning Committee Chairperson for the Municipal Year:</u> Cllr. Carty proposed that Cllr. Lockey continue in his role as Chairperson of the Planning Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027; seconded by Cllr. Phillips and resolved unanimously.
4	<u>Adoption of Minutes:</u> It was proposed by Cllr. Lockey to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21 st April 2026; seconded by Cllr. Phillips and resolved unanimously.

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5	<u>Election of Planning Committee Vice-Chairperson for the Municipal Year:</u> Cllr. Phillips proposed that Cllr. Capon continue in her role as Vice-Chairperson of the Planning Committee for the Municipal Year 2026-2027; seconded by Cllr. Price and resolved unanimously.
6	<u>Review of the Committee's Meeting: Time, Day and Frequency:</u> It was agreed to retain the current arrangements: the third Tuesday of every month at 7 pm.
7	<u>Planning, Tree & Licensing Applications made to Somerset Council – South Team:</u> Proposal: Proposed single storey extension Location: Coombe Hill Farm, Furlong Lane, Milborne Port, DT9 5HH Application Type: Householder Application Number: 26/00890/HOU Deadline: 15th May 2026, (extension agreed) Cllr. Carty proposed that the application be supported; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved by 5 votes in favour with one abstention. Action: Committee Officer to respond to Somerset Council accordingly.
8	<u>Planning Committee Budget Update:</u> This was received. It was agreed to increase the Verge Clearance line forecast to £3000.
9	<u>Feedback from Somerset Highways regarding gully clearance</u> The response from Somerset Council's Tracy Harris (Assistant Highway Service Manager – Highways) to queries made regarding gully cleaning was received and reviewed: • Meaning of "gully" <i>A gully is the roadside drain that collects surface water and channels it into the drainage system.</i> • Concerns about gullies not due for cleansing <i>If you have concerns about specific gullies—or sections of road in flood-risk areas—you can report them to Somerset Council via the usual channels. We will assess the issue and, where appropriate, arrange out-of-cycle cleansing. There is no charge to the parish for this.</i> • Verge clearance affecting gullies <i>If verge overgrowth or historic encroachment is obstructing drainage, please report the location. We can assess the site and determine whether verge clearance can be programmed.</i>

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	The Committee agreed that a survey of the village's built-up verges and blocked gullies should be carried out.
10	<u>Update on the Enhanced Maintenance Pilot Scheme – New Process:</u> This was received and reviewed. There was a query about what a Section 171 Licence is; if you intend to conduct minor works, place building materials, erect scaffolding/hoarding, or dig trial holes on or adjacent to a public road or pavement, you are legally required to obtain a Section 171 Licence from your local highway authority.
11	<u>Verbal Updates / Reports:</u> a) Update on Previous Planning Applications: - o Extension at 2 Plover Road – approved - o Separate dwelling – 2 Cross Cottages – approved - o Porch – 40 The Meads – approved - o Ven House changes to west wing – refused b) Update on Current Live Housing Development Applications: Highways have objected to the Court Lane application; there was a discussion about the impact of the lack of pavements in the village. c) Update on Construction Management of Active Sites: - o The building of the Community Hub continues; the roof has been added today. d) Update on Highway/Traffic Management Issues: ‘Smiley’ SID battery only lasts for a week; can it be converted into a solar-powered system? Committee Officer to research. e) Committee Officer’s Report: - nothing further. Cllr. Lockey reported that he and Cllr. Capon wrote to Mike Rigby of Somerset Council (Lead Member for Economic Development Planning and Assets) regarding the lack of action regarding enforcement orders at the site on Brook Street that has been of concern. A member of his staff has now responded, referring only to one of the issues, which has been resolved. It was agreed that this response is unsatisfactory and fails to address the other issues associated with this site, and the main point, which is that if Somerset Council is not going to enforce planning regulations/law, what is the point of having planning processes? It is not fair on those who comply with the law that no action is taken against those that break it. Cllrs. Lockey and Capon will request support again from Somerset Cllrs. Clark and Hayward; they will circulate the letter from Mike Rigby’s office and compile a response. Cllr. Capon will be attending the next LCN Highways meeting on 2nd June; it was agreed to make enquiries about the Crackmore crossing plans and the future proofing of multi-use pathways/Pinford Lane issue.
	Meeting ended at 8.10 pm.