

NOTES from the December 2025 and January 2026 Parish Council Meetings

Councillor Lewin-Harris recently resigned as chair of the Parish Council. She said that it had been a demanding but rewarding role and she was very grateful for the help and encouragement given to her by her fellow councillors. Councillor Roberts was voted in as the new chair and Councillor Orr was voted in as the new Vice Chair during the January 2026 Parish Council meeting.

At the December 2025 Parish Council meeting the Parish Council agreed to the request from James Dakin (Headteacher Bishops Lydeard Church School) for £100,000, which was already earmarked for fitting out, to be used to start the construction works for renovations of the old schoolhouse. This will enable the new nursery to be ready in time for the start of the September 2026 school term and was necessary because the school will not know the outcome of their grant application to the Department of Education until Spring 2026 which would not leave time for the work to be completed in time for the start of the September term without the Parish Council's help.

The 2026/27 budget was reviewed and approved during the Parish Council during the December 2025 Parish Council meeting and the precept demand was approved during the January 2026 meeting. The new precept approved was for a 0% increase, which means the Band D Council Tax will remain the same as last year at £62.99.

Replacement dog waste bins were approved for Moorland Gate. Also, a replacement litter bin was approved for the area outside the Public Conveniences.

Commercial Waste contracts will be put in place for the Library and Public Conveniences and Legionella Risk Assessments will also be arranged for both premises.

The Draft Community Resilience and Emergency Plan was reviewed. Leaflets will be circulated for a callout for volunteers to help.

The Wild Trout Trust, which is a river conservation charity focused on improving habitat for wild brown trout, recently completed survey of Back Stream in the village. The report is available on the Parish Council website. These iconic fish are excellent indicators of river health as they use every part of the habitat during their lives. This means that improving rivers for wild trout benefits an enormous range of other species and they are fantastic mascots for freshwater wildlife.

The Parish Council thanked the volunteers for their efforts with the Christmas Lights again this year. The displays are getting better every year.

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