

## Parish Council Report – February 2026

The Parish Council approved the appointment of a new clerk to the council. Martin Elford was the successful applicant and will take up the post on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. The current clerk will be staying on in his role as Responsible Finance Officer.

The Parish Council discussed the areas of land that they would like to adopt from Somerset Council under the devolution of assets initiative. It was agreed that they will express an interest in the Westbridge Way Play Area near the train station and the woodland walk next to the A358.

A new Social Media Policy was adopted by the council, however, it will be sometime before new social media accounts are set up for the council as the new clerk will need time to do this. It is hoped that the use of social media will improve the communication and engagement of the Parish Council with the public in the future.

It was noted that it is Somerset Council intention to:

- 1) consolidate all existing Somerset dog control Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) across the county.
- 2) introduce a new dog control PSPO in the Taunton Deane area.
- 3) request Members and parishes review details of existing dog control PSPOs in their areas, prior to the official consultation launch.

The Parish Council agreed that the clerk request that the Westbridge Way Play Area is added to the list of sites with a Public Space Protection Order.

Litter and dog waste bins were reviewed again, and it was agreed that some new litter bins will be requested.

Cllr Roberts noted that the Wild Trout Trust Advisory Visit report was shared with a representative of the Environment Agency. They indicated that they may be able to help address some of the recommendations in the report.

The report can be found at: <https://bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/BACK-STREAM-BISHOPS-LYDEARD-AV-FINAL.pdf>

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