

BISHOPS LYDEARD & COTHELSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: David Richards, 37 Stawell Road, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton TA4 3FA

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Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held in the Village Hall, Bishops Lydeard on Wednesday 8th July 2026.

Present: Cllrs Roberts (Chair), Orr, Hunt, Allen, Lewin-Harris, Warmington and supported by David Richards (Clerk)

Absent: Cllrs Pattemore, Bletcher, Bainbridge and Rigby.

5 members of the public were present.

Agenda Item 1 – 155/26 Apologies: To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence.

Cllr Bletcher sent an apology due to being on holiday. Cllr Pattemore sent an apology due to the need to convalesce following a medical procedure. Cllr Bainbridge sent an apology due to a prior work commitment. The reasons for absence were approved.

No apology was received from Cllr Rigby. As no reason for absence was received it could not be approved.

Agenda Item 2 – 156/26 Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Roberts declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in The Paper Shop.

Agenda Item 3 – 157/26 To consider the approval of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2026.

The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by Cllr Lewin-Harris. This was seconded by Cllr Warmington and received unanimous support.

Agenda Item 4 – 158/26 Comments from members of the public.

A member of the public wanted to ask some questions about Greenway Wood (Sandhill Park Woodland). These were:

1. What is the reserve?
The clerk explained that the reserve is a fund for future maintenance of the woodland. It does not mean a nature reserve.
2. Public access can be a problem including dogs leaving a mess everywhere.
Cllr Roberts explained that public access is work in progress. See also agenda item 8.

3. Can members of the public join the working group?

It was confirmed that members of the public may join the group. Please email the clerk to request to join.

A member of the public wanted to thank the Parish Council for providing the full funds requested by the school so that the nursery can be completed. Examples were provided that indicate how important early years schooling is for children.

The member of the public asked if the Roads and Traffic reports with costs had been received from Somerset Council. The clerk confirmed that these have not yet been provided.

Agenda Item 5 – 159/26 Review and approval of a fan for the Library.

The clerk presented the paper with several options and costs for fans (desktop fan, floor fan, ceiling fan) to keep the library cool in the summer months. However, the librarian has now said that new curtains or blinds for the window by the children's reading area would be preferable. The clerk will present these costs for approval at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: The clerk to prepare the costs for curtains, poles and fitting for the library window.

Agenda Item 6 – 160/26 Decision to extend the warranty on the Speed Indicator Devices at £199 (excluding taxes) per year and per radar.

After some discussion it was decided not to extend the warranty of the SID devices.

Agenda Item 7 – 161/26 Review Assets of Community Value (ACVs) that should be requested to be added to the register.

The clerk presented the current lists of ACVs held by Somerset Council. The two local public houses (The Lethbridge Arms and Bird in Hand) are no longer listed. It was agreed that the clerk should ask for these plus the library to be added.

Action: The clerk to request that the two local public houses (The Lethbridge Arms and Bird in Hand) and the library are added to the ACV list.

Agenda Item 8 – 162/26 Review and Approval of Sandhill Park Woodland working group recommendations.

Cllr Warmington read through the notes from the last Sandhill Park Woodland Working Group meeting. The meeting was attended by two councillors and two members of the public. There was some discussion about the points and actions raised, however, as this paper had not been provided ahead of the meeting it will need to be added to the August Parish Council meeting agenda for any actions to be agreed. The clerk did, however, agree to send the Woodland Management Plan that the previous owners had provided.

Action: The clerk is to send the Woodland Management Plan to the councillors.

Cllr Lewin-Harris noted that a search of Somerset Historic Environment Record (at <https://www.somersetheritage.org.uk/#>) shows several items for Sandhill Park including the following:

43894: Fishponds, S of Sandhill Park, Greenway, Bishop's Lydeard

48990: Bridge or culvert, Sandhill Park woods, Bishops Lydeard

Cllr Allen said that he had an old map that shows what the woodland was like and pathways.

Agenda Item 9 – 163/26 Planning Applications.

The following planning application was reviewed:

Case Ref: 06/26/0016 Proposal: Change of use and subdivision of former care facility into 2 No. dwellings with associated private gardens and parking at 3 Greenway Road, Bishops Lydeard

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Response: No Comment.

Case Ref: 06/26/0017 Proposal: Conversion of garage outbuilding into annexe at 6A Taunton Road, Bishops Lydeard

Application Type: Full Planning Permission

Response: No Comment.

Agenda Item 10 – 164/26 Authorisation of Clerk's pay and expenses for July 2026.

Cllr Allen proposed that the clerk's pay of £1,713.60 plus £194.49 Employer NI and expenses of £53.09 for July 2026 was approved. This was seconded by Cllr Lewin-Harris and approved by all.

Agenda Item 11 – 165/26 Finance.

11a – June 2026 Bank Reconciliation and Cashbook reports.

The bank reconciliation and cashbook reports were reviewed and noted.

11b – Scribe Summary Report (actual Vs budget)

The summary report was reviewed and noted.

11c – To Approve the transfer of £50,000 from the CCLA account to the Unity Trust Bank account.

The transfer of £50,000 from the CCLA account to the Unity Trust Bank account was proposed by Cllr Hunt. This was seconded by Cllr Orr and received unanimous support.

PAYMENTS:

The approval of the payments in List 1 was proposed by Cllr Hunt. This was seconded by Cllr Orr and received unanimous support. Therefore, the invoices in **List 1** below were approved for payment.

List 1						
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT	
Bishops Lydeard School	BISI 39	29/06/2026	Grant	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	
Somerset Council	32027190	23/06/2026	Bins and Grass cutting	£1,171.59	£1,405.91	
Open Spaces Society	82203/26	23/06/2026	Annual Subscription	£45.00	£45.00	
Fairy Dust Cleaning	0626	30/06/2026	Cleaning the Library	£137.00	£137.00	
Fairy Dust Cleaning	0626	30/06/2026	Cleaning the toilets	£553.26	£553.26	
Jacks Garden Mtce	1104	29/06/2026	Lengthsman - June 2026	£1,010.90	£1,213.08	
Complete Weed Control	SD8819	02/07/2026	MUGA Weeds	£90.00	£108.00	

The invoices in **List 2** below were noted.

List 2						
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT	
The Paper Shop	1047-260620	20/06/2026	Newspapers for the Library	£25.92	£25.92	

The **Direct Debits** listed below were noted:

Direct Debits						
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT	
EDF	ce - 000028349150	03/06/2026	Library Electricity	£76.63	£80.46	
Bristish Gas	810532484	30/06/2026	Public Conveniences Electri	£44.42	£46.64	
Biffa	308C106362	26/06/2026	Waste Transfer Notes	£8.80	£10.56	

The **Bank Charges** below were noted:

Bank Charges						
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT	
Unity Trust Bank		30/06/2026	Bank charges	£9.85	£9.85	
Unity Trust Bank		17/06/2026	Bank charges	£2.80	£2.80	

The **Receipts** listed below were noted:

Income						
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT	
CCLA Bank	N/A		Interest Payment	£1,269.39	£1,269.39	
Library Cash	ng_10.06.2026_RH	10/06/2026	Library cash	£154.80	£154.80	

The clerk stated that an additional £72.70 cash from the library had been received and would be listed next month.

Agenda Item 12 – 166/26 Correspondence List.

The clerk provided updates on the correspondence listed in the paper provided. The following were discussed:

Cllr Lewin-Harris said that she would like an update from Cllr Rigby regarding the Local Plan, and particularly the outcome for the call for sites for housing development. As Bishops Lydeard is listed as a major rural centre we want to understand more.

The clerk highlighted the email from a member of the public regarding the parking situation outside the school – see paper provided. It was agreed that a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is requested for the period of no waiting so that enforcement actions can be taken.

Action: The clerk to request a TRO from Somerset Council Highways department.

In addition, the email from the member of public highlighted that there is a continuing problem with the footpath from Hamber Lea to Quantock View (QV) as this routinely floods in the winter/spring which makes this key route impassable for parents and children. The repair of the soakaway drain has been logged as an MP Enquiry (on behalf of a QV resident) with Somerset Council with no date for repair agreed.

The clerk noted that an email regarding the Road and Traffic project has been added to the Parish Council website at:

<https://bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Bishops-Lydeard-Roads-and-Traffic-Project-email-24-June-2026.pdf>

The complaint from a member of the public regarding the removal of a wasp nest with the use of pesticides at Moorland Gate was discussed. A response to the member of the public from the Parish Council was agreed which the clerk will send to the complainant.

The request from a member of the public for the lengthman to mow the Streamside path again was discussed. It was agreed to leave that side of the stream to rewild.

The clerk noted that Highways will decide the location of a SID post to be located on High Street/ Cothelstone Road near Delta Rise. An onside meeting has been requested.

A complaint was received regarding Mill Leat which has dried up again. Cllr Roberts said she would investigate.

Agenda Item 13 – 167/026 Somerset Council Matters.

The report was noted. Unfortunately, Cllr Rigby was not in attendance to provide further information.

Agenda Item 14 – 168/026 Lengthman's monthly report.

Lengthman's monthly report was not available in time for the meeting. This is now available on the website.

The clerk noted that an online meeting had taken place with the Clerk, Cllr Roberts and the Lengthsman in attendance to discuss the new scope of works and questions raised.

Agenda Item 15 – 169/26 Clerks Report and action tracker.

The report and action tracker were noted.

The clerk noted that the new cisterns have been installed at the public conveniences. Some issues were noted after the installation, and the contractors had been back today to remedy these.

The clerk noted that we have received complaints about a car that is parked on Sation Road and looks abandoned. This has been reported to Somerset Council who are unable to do anything.

Agenda Item 16 – 170/26 To note planning permissions granted or refused.

The following planning permissions were noted:

Application number: 06/26/0004 Appeal reference number: 6008841

Address: Land at Knapp Lane, East Combe, Bishops Lydeard, Somerset, TA4 3HT, United Kingdom.

Decision of Appeal Refusal was made on 29/06/2026 (paper).

Application number : 06/26/0011/CQ Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Broom Farm, Dene Road, Norton Fitzwarren

Decision of Prior Approval Refusal was made on 17/06/2026.

Agenda Item 17 – 171/26 To note planning applications withdrawn – None.

Agenda Item 18 – 172/26 Any Other Business for report only.

Cllr Hunt asked if we had an update on applications for the councillor vacancy. The clerk said some people had expressed an interest; however, we must wait until after the deadline (Friday 10th July 2026) and then Somerset Council will let us know if there have been requests for an election or not. They will contact the clerk at the end of the notice period to let us know the next steps.

Cllr Hunt asked if there has been an update on when the Darby Way telephone box will be repainted. Cllr Roberts said she will follow up.

Cllr Hunt asked about the 5 posts to be installed for the Whisky Trail. The clerks said he would follow up with the lengthsman.

Cllr Allen said that the Village Fete and Flower Show will take place on Saturday 11th July 2026.

Cllr Orr said that we are liaising with the PCSO regarding speeding on High Street/ Cothelstone Road near Delta Rise. He has offered to meet him to express his concerns.

Cllr Roberts said she has received a complaint about weeds growing out of a drain on Hamber Lea. The concern is that there will be a flood during heavy rain as the drain is blocked. It is believed that weeds in drains causing blockages would be the responsibility of Somerset Council. However, we do have to decide what we are going to do about the weeds – leave them, manual removal, spraying or whatever.

Date of the next meetings:

Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall (new small hall).

The meeting closed at 20:32

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