

BISHOPS LYDEARD & COTHELSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held in the Village Hall, Bishops Lydeard on Wednesday 9th September 2026.

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

Absent: Cllr Bainbridge.

There were two members of the public present.

Agenda Item 1 – 197/26 Apologies: To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence.

Cllr Bainbridge sent her apologies as she was on holiday. The apology was accepted.

Agenda Item 2 – 198/26 Declarations of Interest.

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

Agenda Item 3 – 199/26 To consider the approval of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2026.

Cllr Pattemore said that there was an error in Agenda Item 7 on page 2 (MUG to be changed to MUGA). The minutes were proposed as an accurate record of the meeting by Cllr Warmington with this correction. This was seconded by Cllr Allen and received unanimous support.

Agenda Item 4 – 200/26 Comments from members of the public.

There were no comments from the public present.

Agenda Item 5 – 201/26 Review and approve the estimates for cleaning the library and public conveniences.

The clerk outlined the quotations received as documented in the paper provided. Cllr Lewin-Harris proposed that we continue with Fairy Dust Cleaning and Care Services and consider an alternative for the library in future. This was seconded by Cllr Orr and received unanimous support.

Agenda Item 6 – 202/26 Review and approval of the scope of work for the parish maintenance services.

Cllr Lewin-Harris suggested that the proposed scope of work may need to include some areas that have not been adopted by Somerset Council such as the grass area between Webbers and Mill Lane and Taunton Road and the area round the new trees outside Gore Farm which are currently maintained by the lengthsman. There may be other areas also.

Cllr Rigby suggested that the landowner is responsible for the maintenance of hedges alongside footpaths. It was noted that the footpaths on the list to be maintained by the lengthsman are due to be cut in October.

It was suggested that regular check of drains and gullies should be done more frequently than twice a year (March and October).

It was proposed that the bus shelters could be cleaned by a window cleaner subject to their insurance to work on these which are alongside roadsides and removed from scope.

It was proposed that a contract is agreed for a lengthsman based on the scope of work with amendments as needed rather than getting estimates for each element of work which would be time consuming for the clerk.

It was agreed that the clerk should contact contractors to discuss the scope of work with a view to getting feedback and estimates.

Action: The clerk is to contact contractors to discuss the lengthsman scope of work and obtain feedback and estimates

Agenda Item 7 – 203/26 Review and approval of Vexatious Procedure.

Following comments on the procedure presented the clerk proposed that a revised policy is presented for approval at a future meeting.

Action: The clerk to update the procedure/ policy and present it at a future meeting for approval.

Agenda Item 8 – 204/26 Planning Applications.

The following planning application was noted:

Case Ref: 06/26/0020/T Proposal: Notification to carry out management works (thinning and crown-reduction) to one magnolia tree and one 'contorted' hazel tree within Bishops Lydeard Conservation Area at Church House, 6 West Street, Bishops Lydeard. Application Type: Works to Tree(s) in Conservation Area

Agenda Item 9 – 205/26 Authorisation of Clerk's and RFO's expenses for September 2026.

Cllr Allen proposed that the clerk's pay of £1,570.80 plus £173.07 Employer NI and expenses of £10.00 for September 2026 was approved. This was seconded by Cllr Orr and approved by all.

Agenda Item 10 – 206/26 Finance.

10a – August 2026 Bank Reconciliation and Cashbook reports.

The bank reconciliation and cashbook reports were reviewed and noted.

10b – Scribe Summary Report (actual Vs budget)

The summary report was reviewed and noted.

PAYMENTS:

The approval of the payments in List 1 was proposed by Cllr Lewin-Harris. This was seconded by Cllr Pattemore 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
Water 2 Business	7071112088	07/08/2026	Library Water - 03/03/26 to	£122.66	£122.66
Water 2 Business	7071186536	20/08/2026	Public Toilets Water - 03/0	£528.13	£528.13
Fairy Dust Cleaning	0826	02/09/2026	Cleaning the Library	£162.96	£162.96
Fairy Dust Cleaning	0826	02/09/2026	Cleaning the toilets	£631.44	£631.44
JK Grounds Maintenance Ltd	1181	29/08/2026	Lengthsman - Aug 2026	£459.25	£551.10
NALC	02170	03/09/2026	Training for Cllr Roberts	£45.00	£45.00

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

List 2					
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT
The Paper Shop	1047-260815	15/08/2026	Newspapers for the Library	£4.36	£4.36

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

Direct Debits					
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT
ICO	0012b4351351	11/08/2026	ICO Data Protection Fee	£47.00	£47.00
EDF	000029214149	06/08/2026	Library Electricity	92.87	97.51
Bristish Gas	808952466	01/09/2026	Public Conveniences Electr	£48.74	£51.17
Biffa	308C118677	21/08/2026	Waste Transfer Notes	£6.90	£8.28

The **Bank Charges** below were noted:

Bank Charges					
From:	Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT
Unity Trust Bank		31/08/2026	Bank charges	£9.55	£9.55

The **Receipts** listed below were noted:

Income						
From:		Number:	Date:	For:	£ Excl. VAT	£ Inc VAT
CCLA Bank			03/08/2026	Interest Payment	£1,174.45	£1,174.45
Library Cash	ng_31.07.2026_RH		03/08/2026	Library cash	£94.80	£94.80
Library Cash	BLD_Banking_28		28/08/2026	Library cash	£68.00	£68.00

Agenda Item 11 – 207/26 Sandhill Park Wood Working Party update.

Cllrs Hunt and Warmington provided an update on the working party meetings and the report provided. It was agreed that the quotations for the initial work will be presented at the next Parish Council for approval.

The working group recommend that the water causeways are identified with a survey. They are anticipating this can be done for free.

The working group are planning to review a document (project paper) produced by Ian Myers (aims and objectives) before presenting it to the council.

It was agreed that the working group will follow up about the correspondence received from a member of the public at Greenway.

Agenda Item 12 – 208/26 Speeding on High Street/ Cothelstone Road update.

Cllr Orr said that we should be able to monitor vehicle speeds through the village particularly on High Street and Cothelstone Road. The issue of cars speeding through the village was raised in June 2026 with the PCSO. He responded via email as follows:

“Thank you for highlighting the speeding issue in the village.

My plan is to liaise with the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator to clarify the locations where they can set up and I will feed that back to yourselves. I am also going to survey the roads you have identified and will look at the possibility of setting up with a speed camera if it is safe to do so.

I will look to do this as soon as possible.”

It was noted that a further response was provided by the PCSO in July as follows:

“So Far:

- 1. Community Speed Watch and Speed Enforcement Team are going to carry out a site assessment of a potential location.*
- 2. The Road Safety/Speed Enforcement Teams are looking to install a Data Capture Module to capture speed data on the road. I do not have a time line for this currently but will update you as soon as I know anything.*

I hope this clarifies where we are at this time.”

Cllr Orr had responded that he wishes to be fully involved in all assessments that take place.

Cllr Orr followed up again in August and September as nothing had happened. He is awaiting a further response from the PCSO and will chase as necessary due to the urgency of this matter.

Agenda Item 13 – 209/26 Correspondence List.

The clerk provided updates on the correspondence listed in the paper provided.

The correspondence regarding the issue raised about the Greenway Dog waste bin which was damaged was highlighted. The clerk presented photographs which shows the bin leaning over, however, it is not at risk of falling. It was agreed that the bin can be removed when no longer serviceable as there is a regular bin next to it.

The clerk explained that a direct debit had been set up for the ICO annual payment as this will save £5 per year.

The correspondence received about 'Bikes by the bridge and Streamside footpath' was discussed. The previous PCSO agreed to patrol this area, and it is hoped the new PCSO will also do that. It was also noted that the Parish Council is hoping to obtain the play area at Westridge Way from Somerset Council via the Devolution scheme which could be used as a skate/ wheels park.

Agenda Item 14 – 210/026 Somerset Council Matters.

Cllr Rigby provided updates on the following:

1. A358/ Conquest Farm drainage – Somerset Council completed their investigation and drainage arrangement were confirmed. The next step is to clear the pipes.
2. Parking fees – the proposed increases were made public prior to Somerset Council's final review and agreement.
3. Local Plan process – circa 1,600 bids have been received. It will take another year to decide which will constitute the backbone of the plan to meet the 75,000 homes required in the next 20 years.
4. Nexus Site at M5 - J25 – a new planning application is needed for the proposed development as it is significantly different to the original plan. The public engagement process will be started next.

Cllr Pattemore asked when the Co-op planning application will be approved. Cllr Rigby said that this has been delayed due to an issue with the David Wilson Homes agreement. There appears to be a land issue with them and the Co-op's developers.

Cllr Pattemore asked if there has been any progress regarding the double yellow lines requested next to the Lethbridge Arms. Cllr Rigby said there has not been a response yet to his email and he will follow up again.

Cllr Hunt asked about the request for land from Somerset Council including the park by the train station and woodland walk (devolution of assets). Cllr Rigby said that there is a massive backlog so it may take some time.

Cllr Roberts said that the drains along Pound Lane are blocked. Cllr Rigby agreed to investigate that.

Agenda Item 15 – 211/026 Lengthman’s monthly report.

There was no monthly report this month.

Agenda Item 16 – 212/26 Clerks Report and action tracker.

The report and action tracker were noted.

The clerk highlighted the following:

The website ‘Services’ pages has been amended so this now includes information about the public conveniences, library and village hall etc.

The Local Government pay increase has been agreed at 3.3%.

CCTV system to be installed by Coomers Security on 25th September 2026.

EDF completed the meter upgrade in the library on 1st September 2026.

Roads and Traffic meeting between the working group and Somerset Council scheduled for 18th September 2026.

The MUGA play area inspection has been completed by SPFA. The report also included the playground managed by the village hall. The council approved payment of the £140.00 invoice. The invoice will be listed under finance for the council to note at the next Parish Council meeting.

Agenda Item 17 – 213/26 To note planning permissions granted or refused.

The following planning permission was noted:

Application number: 06/26/0016: 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. Decision of Approval was made on 14/08/2026.

Agenda Item 18 – 214/26 To note planning applications withdrawn – None.

Agenda Item 19 – 215/26 Any Other Business for report only.

Cllr Hunt suggested that we should invite Mr Dakin (school head teacher) to a future Parish Council meeting to present the work done at the school which it is understood has been completed.

Action: The clerk is to contact James Dakin and invite him to a Parish Council meeting so he can provide an update on the school nursery works completed.

Cllr Hunt asked what actions the Streamside Resident Group had undertaken following the advisory report/ environment study produced by the Wild Trout Trust in October 2025. The clerk said that he was not aware of any. Cllr Roberts proposed that the council should take up any actions and the clerk said he would follow up with the Streamside Resident group.

Action: The clerk to contact the Streamside Resident Groups and agree follow up actions from the Advisory Report produced by the Wild Trout Trust.

Date of the next meetings:

Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 14th October 2026 at 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall (new small hall).

The meeting closed at 20:21

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