

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on
Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Richard Barnham (Chairman), Paul Wintermantle, Claire Tydeman, Rob Hall, Paul Thomas

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)

2423 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Huish

2425 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

None

2426 TO APPROVE THE NOTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM MEETING & MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7th July 2025

The notes of the public forum meeting and minutes of Full Council meeting previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

2427 MATTERS ARISING

Re-letting of 8 Meadow Cottage – Property has become vacant again. Clerk asked to write to Magna raising concerns of the letting process and greater emphasis being given to families local to Withycombe being prioritised.

2428 REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCILLORS

None received.

2429 PLANNING MATTERS

Exmoor National Park planning event – As previously circulated by the Clerk, ENP had organised a planning event for 16th September 2025 specifically for parish councils. The Clerk said that it appeared to be a training/information event. Cllrs felt that there was little detail of what the event would cover to enable a decision to be made in sending a representative.

Buckhill bungalows landscaping – A resident had requested on the Withycombe FB page for the parish council to look into a possible planning application relating to landscaping of the Magna properties at Buckhill. Cllr Barnham said that the parish council had agreed sometime ago to not use FB as a channel for communication with the parish. Cllr Wintermantle said that he had seen the request on FB and had brought it to the Clerks attention. The Clerk said that the parish council had not been informed of any planning application for this matter. Councillors agreed that they were not in a position to respond to the request as the query had been raised through FB. Enquiries needed to be raised formally through the Clerk or a Councillor.

2430 **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Culvert repairs, Lower Street - Repairs to the culverts in Lower Street have progressed. RB reported that the section known as Christophers culvert will be included in the work. Enquiries by Somerset Council to establish ownership had been unsuccessful. However, it was recognised that if the culvert continued to deteriorate it could affect the integrity of the highway therefore, Somerset Council would include this section in the work. The Council had been clear that this was a gesture of goodwill and that this would not imply any future responsibility for the maintenance of this particular section of culvert.

H bar application, Lower Street – The Clerk reported that the application appeared to be closed down on the Somerset Council online portal, with no explanation as to why. She had contacted officers at Somerset Council to query this.

20 mph speed signs – Need to ascertain the latest position if the parish council put in place its own signs. It was suggested to contact Dunster Parish Council as they had their own 20mph signs.

LCN & Highways sub-group – The next highways sub-group is on the 12th September. Cllr Barnham had attended the last meeting and had raised the parish councils dissatisfaction on the lack of communication from Somerset Council in relation to the Higher Rodhuish road repair. He also reported that Dunster Parish Council had raised concerns about damage to buildings due to larger HGVs and PSVs travelling through the village

Cllr Wintermantle reported that water at the ford was backing up again at the bridge. Cllr Barnham said that the base of the ford was breaking up again.

2431 **TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts for payment were approved:-

1. Sloane & Co – Memorial Bench	£269.10
2. MHPF Lease	£1.00

Proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Wintermantle to pay the accounts as listed. All agreed.

2432 **FINANCES**

The bank reconciliation up to the end of August was signed by the Chairman.
The budget report and reserves position was noted.

2433 **PROVISION OF BINS/DOG BINS**

Cllr Tydeman reported that she had received complaints about the amount of dog poo around the parish. She said that it was permissible to deposit dog poo in normal waste bins so it would be better to provide a general waste bin as opposed to a dog bin. She also said that litter was being left in the play area. The Clerk reminded Councillors that any additional bin provision/collection would need to be funded by the parish council. Clerk asked to bring costings to next meeting for 2 additional waste bins, possible locations Combe Lane & Higher Rodhuish.

2434 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS**

Budget and setting up of a budget sub group
Litter Bins
Meeting dates for 2026/27

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed _____
CHAIRMAN

Date _____