

WITHYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Withycombe Parish Council meeting held at the Memorial Hall on
Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

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

In attendance: S Rawle (Clerk)

Public Forum

There were 3 members of the public present.

The Chairman opened the public forum. He said that he had been approached by residents concerning large mainly agricultural vehicles travelling through the parish and damaging banks and verges. He invited the members of the public present to speak.

Concerns were raised around recent damage to verges and banks and mud on the roads. It was reported that it was mainly wide agricultural vehicles causing damage. It had been observed that despite the height limit for loads being 4m, this at times was being breached. There was a discussion about width of vehicles/trailers. Cllr Crossman confirmed that although there was no standard width, anything in excess of 3m needed a police escort. Cllr Hall reported that the wall at St Bartholomews chapel had been damaged.

Cllr Crossman suggested as a first step that the parish council write to contractors/land owners to request mitigation of the damage done.

The public forum closed at 7.20pm.

The Chairman opened the meeting. He said that further to the concerns raised in the public forum he proposed that item 14 on the agenda be moved and discussed as the first main item. This was agreed by all.

2464 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wintermantle.

2465 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

None

2466 DAMAGE TO PROPERTY/ROADS

Following the discussion in the public forum it was **RESOLVED** to write to Hodgetts and MHPF to bring to their notice the damage being caused by local contractors. Cllrs Crossman and Barnham to come up with appropriate wording. Proposed by Cllr Crossman, seconded by Cllr Barnham, unanimously agreed.

2467 TO APPROVE THE NOTES OF THE PUBLIC FORUM MEETING & MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14th January 2026.

RESOLVED: The notes of the public forum meeting and minutes of Full Council meeting held on the 14th January 2026, were agreed as a correct record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

2468 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING IF NOT COVERED BY THE AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Barnham reported that the Memorial Hall accounts were shortly to be presented at the Memorial Hall AGM. They would then circulate to the Parish Council as previously agreed as a requirement of the decision to award a grant to the Memorial Hall.

2469 REPORT FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL

2470 HIGHWAY UPDATES

20MPH consultation – The draft format and wording of a resident consultation was considered. Cllr Tydeman suggested a format that was clearer in terms of the cost implications and gave respondents more options on whether they would be prepared to pay extra through the precept for the funding of a 20mph zone through both Withycombe and Rodhuish. Councillors agreed with this approach. Cllr Tydeman will liaise with Clerk.

2465 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The period for advertising the casual vacancy had concluded. The Parish Council were able to fill the vacancy through co-option.

2465 IT POLICY

Councillors considered the draft IT policy.

RESOLVED: The IT policy was adopted. Proposed by Cllr Barnham, seconded by Cllr Thomas, unanimously agreed.

2457 FINANCES

2457.1 Bank Reconciliation Statement

The bank reconciliation agreed with bank balances up to 28th February 2026 and was signed by the Chairman, as an accurate record. Bank balances were:-

• Account 95304622	£1,646.52
• Account 44356501	£19,485.65
Total	£21,132.17

2458.2 Budget Monitoring

The Clerk presented the budget monitoring report up to 28th February 2026. The movement in the reserves was noted.

2458 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts for payment were approved:-

1. Somerset Association of Local Councils (AGAR Training) £25.00

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Thomas to pay the accounts as listed and note the urgent payment already made. All agreed.

The following urgent payment that had been authorised by the Chairman and Vice Chairman was noted.

1. Safelincs (replacement pads for defibrillator) £74.20

2459 AGREE APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 25/26

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint A Giles if available as the internal auditor for the 25/26 end of year accounts.

2460 PLAY AREA/COMMUNITY AREA

No updates.

2461 CAR PARK

Installation of Lighting – There was a discussion about the need for lighting in the car park. Solar panel lighting was suggested. The Clerk was asked to contact MHPF concerning permissions.

Logs – a request had been made to remove the logs to provide extra room for parking. Cllr Crossman said that the logs had been put in place to provide a safe passage way for pushchairs and disabled access to the play area. There was no further discussion.

2460 WASTE BIN (COMBE LANE)

Options discussed. It was felt that a regular ground waste bin would be preferred as opposed to a post mounted option.

Clerk to progress purchase of bin.

2460 PARISH ASSEMBLY

It was agreed to hold an extended open public forum on the same day as the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday 20th May 2026. Besides an open forum the main report would be the 20mph public consultation.

2463 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20th May 2026

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

CHAIRMAN