



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7pm in the Community Pavilion

Those present:

Harriet Baggs (Merriott Parish Clerk)
Cllr Steve Ashton (SA)(Chair)
Cllr David Shillibier (DS)
Cllr Brian Rogers (BR)
Cllr David Aslett (DA)

Cllr Jeremy Graham (JG) (Vice Chair)
Cllr Caroline Reed (CR)
Cllr Rich Tucker (RT)
Cllr Debbie Mathewson (DM)
Somerset Cllr Jo Randal- Green

Apologies for Absence:

Iain Hall handed his resignation from the council after many years volunteering for the council. A message of thanks for everything and the Parish hope he can continue helping on a volunteer basis from time to time.

The Parish need Volunteers to help with the village and new councillors required.
Action DS to add a request within messenger.

26/ 214 Public Open Session

The Chair opened the meeting no members of the public had attended.

- Jo Roundell-Green stated that budgets are being talked about in the full council in meeting in February.
- Try and get Adam Dance to look at the flooding which effects Shepton Beachamp and South Petherton. Jo hasn't heard anything from Merriott to do with flooding, although she knows it's been reported.
- DM wanted to thank Lee Norman for the very critical response and had put cones out very quickly in the Area which had been reported.

26/ 215 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest

SA suggested for councillors every three years doing training courses as things changed just to keep everyone up to date. Action DM offered to do the next ones that come up.

26/ 216 Minutes of Meeting

a. To Review and resolve that the Minutes of the meeting held are a correct record

Typo changed in name

Minutes recorded as a true reflection of the meeting.

Proposed DM / seconded BR

b. To Consider any matters arising within the minutes not on the agenda

Planning from last month Goodwell Farm. The planning Response it was the s106 And wording had been Clarified but the planning officer has confirmed that no material chap change has been made to commitment to play facilities .

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26/ 217 Governance

None

26/ 218 Planning Appx

25/03058/HOU Proposed extension to dwelling and extension to detached garage at 15 Sherlands Gardens. Into the back of the garden not that visible from Main Street. No objection Action Clerk to respond.

26/ 219 Clerk Update

- Michelle had been over and spent a few hours with the Clerk and SA. The PAYE system is now up to date. The Clerk and SA need to ring up and get all new address on System but now up to date with payslips. Clerk has now got up to date PAYE.
- Went through scribe with the Clerk and SA to see where suggest changes and how it to be laid out to meet requirements. Action for Clerk to update scribe with Jane.

26/ 220 Finance

Finance Report

- a. Payments - All agreed
- b. Receipts - All agreed and to add a VAT sheet as well.
- c. Bank reconciliation – sits at -2P
For all 3 points above. Proposed AS / Seconded DS all agreed
- d. Monthly budget - Clerk and SA - have met with Michelle and have an idea of how it needs to be sorted and how to get lines allocated. Action clerk and SA meet with Jane to help clerk do this.
- e. Budget 2026/2027 Council would like to see how much on the budget presented what 106 money is being used for projects. Open spaces team explained how much 106 money they intend to use on Projects. Council was happy with the figures that have presented once it was explained. Councillors are happy with the budget presented Proposed DS / seconded RT. Action Clerk and DS put Information on scribe. Action JG to look up time frames before you loss the amount allocated from the 106 money.

26/ 221 Open Spaces Appx Report

- RT went through the report and detailed the list of tasks ongoing.
- Car park fence has been completed, trees at Clapperhay by Contractor Fern is scheduled. The Contractor was contacted to see if they could help make the hedge back a little bit more for the trees to be planted as the hedgerows and cuts back quite as much as they had intended to before. If the price is reasonable i.e. lower than £500 then the cutting back work can go ahead.
- A draft lease for the Bike track has been drawn up, that needs to be looked into properly (perhaps by a Solicitor) to ensure there are no legalities that will cause the Council issues at a later date. New Officer dealing with the bike track, Penny has been on touch. Action for RT to send information to SA.
- It was noted that the council have been very lucky with Volunteer help, but it is likely that future jobs / tasks will require Contractor's due to lack of availability of volunteers / Council members.
- Defibrillators still on the waiting list for the batteries not sure how far we are on the list. Before ambulance service used to help look after the defibrillators but we moved over to a circuit, since had an e-mail from the ambulance service saying they still do this service,

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but we are not using them. We have volunteers helping to check and maintain them.
Action Clerk to reply with who we use.

- It is noted that we do not get many requests to use the burial ground, however there are only around 5 spaces left, therefore we need to maintain the logs. However, this does not stop ashes being interned.

26/ 222 Highways & Footpaths appx 13

- SID data has come through which has shown a lot of speeding through the night at double the speed limit.
- Still trying to sort dog bin and the land of where it can go so it can be collected.

26/ 222 Items for Next Meeting

None discussed.

Meeting Closed at 20.01 time

26/ 223 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 9th February at 19:00 in the Pavilion