

Minutes for Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2025

at the Hellyar Arms

Meeting began at 7pm

Cllr Cowen, Cllr Walker, Cllr Costello, Cllr Mead, Cllr Carter-Uren, Cllr Sugg and Cllr Chauveau were present. Apologies and reasons for non-attendance were received from Cllr Hodge, Cllr Wintersgill and Cllr Hall

There was 1 member of the public present.

25/131 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting which was held on the 13th August 2025

Proposal: To accept the minutes with no amendments **Proposed by:** Cllr Walker **Seconded by:** Cllr Chauveau **Votes For:** 5, **Abstentions:** 2 (due non-attendance) **Action:** Chair and Clerk to sign and publish the minutes

25/132 There were no declaration of interest.

25/133 Public Question Time

Members of the Public. 1 Member of the public spoke on item 25/138.a

Unitary Councillors. Cllr Hewitson delivered his monthly report

25/134 Chairs Report. Cllr Cowen advised that the Halves Lane development planning application had been refused. He also advised that he would be away for much of September and the first half of October and would therefore miss the 8th October meeting. Cllr Hodge will therefore chair this meeting.

25/135 100 Club numbers were drawn. 1st 17 2nd 9 3rd 23 **Action:** Clerk to advise winners and make prize payments.

25/136 To discuss and make observations on SC - Planning Applications

a. **15/01000/OUT Location:** Keyford Cllr Walker advised that his meeting with Cllr Patrick was postponed but he had been advised the planning pack was going to be available shortly, so they will meet once this document is available. It has been confirmed that S106 and CIL monies from this development would not come to the PC but be used for community facilities in the new development. Cllr Sugg suggested that we investigate moving the parish boundary so that the designated area for this development would fall inside the Yeovil Town Council area to create a green buffer between the Village and Yeovil. Cllr Walker will discuss this at his meeting with UC Patrick.

b. **25/01966/HOU Location:** South Down Barn, Pen Cross Lane, Closworth **Application:** Erection of an Oak porch and 2 storey gable end extension and carry out internal alterations. This item was discussed and all comments were positive. **Proposal:** Cllrs said they had no objections to this application as it would not unduly impact the exterior form of the house and it would enhance the look of the property. **Proposed:** Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Walker **Vote:** All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to update the planning department.

c. **24/02237/OUT Location** Halves Lane. Cllr Walker advised that the application had been turned down. He said he felt that some of the reason for this was the ECNP and it showed the value and importance of this document.

25/137 Memorial Requests and correspondence. None

25/138 Matters for discussion and resolution:

a. Possible Co-option of new Cllrs. Steve Haigh's letter of intent had been circulated before the meeting and he had spoken about what he could bring to the PC prior to this item. **Proposal:** To co-opt Mr Haigh to the parish Council **Proposed:** Cllr Sugg **Seconded:** Cllr Mead **Vote:** All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to provide necessary forms for co-option and advise on training.

7.47pm Cllr Haigh left the meeting.

b. Enquiry received from a dog training group wishing to hold a week-long event which would include camping at the Recreation ground. It was felt that camping at the recreation ground for almost a week would not be possible as it would likely impact villagers walking their dogs, and possible noise may disturb local residents. **Proposal:** To turn down the request **Proposed:** Cllr Costello **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** 6 against 1 abstention **Action:** Clerk to update Dog Club

c. Cemetery Fee Increase. It was decided that the cemetery fee should increase by the current rate of inflation (3.8%) from October. **Action:** Clerk to update list and website.

25/139 Correspondence received from Somerset Council.

Email received from YTC asking for financial support for the Octagon Theatre Project. This item was discussed but it was felt that the Parish Council currently had many expenses and that contributing would not be possible. **Proposal:** ECPC would not contribute **Proposed:** Cllr Meads **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** 6 in favour with 1 abstention **Action:** Clerk to update Somerset Council

25/140 Discuss Parishioner Correspondence.

a. Email received from a parishioner re the Keyford Development. It was felt all avenues to stop this development had been exhausted at great expense, at the time of the initial application and nothing further could be done. The ECPC had also been informed by the Planning Department that the re-application for planning consent would be passed as a formality as it was not significantly different from the original application that had been agreed. **Action:** Cllr Cowen to email Parishioner.

b. Email received from a parishioner re speeding on the A37 and wanting a further reduction to the speed limit to 30mph on this road from the Red House roundabout to the Barwick bridge. Cllrs were sympathetic to the premise as it is clear that speeding is a problem there but pointed out that it was a matter to be decided by the Highways Department and they would not consider there to be sufficient housing along that stretch of the road to warrant a further reduction to 30mph. **Action:** Cllr Cowen to email the parishioner

25/141 Clerks Report

a. Clerk advised that the Play area annual safety audit had been done. The gate needs a new closing mechanism, and this would cost £384. This figure was agreed. The roundabout was flagged up for being quite noisy and clunky so the Clerk will ask the company that replaced the bearings recently to rectify this problem.

b. Clerk reported that there was a closure of the footpath at Patchlake due to an unsafe bridge. Cllr Sugg said the ranger could have sorted this out. Clerk advised that Somerset Council had advised works should be complete within 21 days.

c. The only planning decision made in the last month was for the Halves Lane Industrial Units which had already been discussed.

25/142 Working group updates

a. The Pavilion Modernisation. Cllr Costello reported that the build had been delayed by the steel manufacturer. He has spoken to the Contractor, and they have advised that they hope to be able to make up time. Steel arrived on the 8th September and most of the frame is now up. Cllr Cowen advised that the S106 application had gone in. Cllr Costello advised the windows from the old pavilion had sold for £250. It was agreed that the Clerk could pay the first build invoices. Cllr Cowen asked for there to be further discussion between the Pavillion Working group as to what areas the fund-raising money would be spent on. Clerk also advised that the Site manager had arranged for a time capsule to be made FOC and that the preschool is going to fill with pictures and notes.

b. Fund Raising Race Night.

1. Cllr Sugg asked if anyone had any experience in setting up a race night, which they didn't but Clerk said she would speak to Clive Wakely and see if he had any advice. Cllr Sugg said that the tickets will be £15 and that was to include a welcome drink and a curry. Tables would be sold for 8 people. Cllr Chauveau advised that Dag Design would produce tickets. The fund-raising committee would arrange another meeting over the coming weeks. Cllr Chauveau would speak to the bar license holder again to make sure we are able to use his license. If not, the Clerk will apply for one.

2. Nativity. Cllr Sugg advised that she had asked Willows Childcare to get involved with the nativity, and plans are ongoing.

c. Parish Communications. Cllr Carter-Uren asked Cllrs to send anything that they wanted to include in the Newsletter. Cllr Chauveau asked Cllrs to keep photos and any village information and photos coming in to keep the website up to date.

d. Cemetery. Cllr Mead asked when the reseedling would be taking place. **Action:** Clerk to speak to contractor. Cllr Mead also asked for permission for Key Contractors to cut the hedges at the recreation ground as he did not have time. This was agreed.

25/143 Finance

To approve the monthly items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers. There were no questions or amendments. **Proposed:** Cllr Carter-Uren **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** All Agreed

Action: Clerk to pay

25/144 To discuss and identify Highways Issues. Cllr Walker advised there was a large pothole outside the old Whitepost Turf, one on the left edge opposite Gunville Lane and many on Lodge Hill which had been marked months ago but not repaired. Also, the road marking in Halves Lane and the road past the cemetery have not been done. We are also waiting for the slow markings to be put on the blind slope close to cemetery. **Action:** Clerk to contact Highways.

25/145 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger. Ranger to tidy along road between Townsend Farm and Cemetery.

25/146 Agenda items for the next meeting which will be on the 8th October 2025 at The Helyar Arms. Race Night and Nativity.

Meeting finished at 9.40pm

Chair..... Clerk