

TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th January 2026 at Timberscombe Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors - K. Attwater (KA), - Chair, C. Gibbard (CG), H. Moore (HM), J. Daniel (JD), I. Ware (IW), County Councillor S. Pugsley (SP), L. Webb (LW)- Clerk.

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p>Questions/Comments from the public.</p> <p>a) Syed Shah, Public Liaison Officer for the Dunster Steep Traffic Lights Project, attended to update the Parish Council. His e-mail and telephone number is available online for any queries or complaints by members of the public. A paper newsletter would be delivered. Systems failure caused chaos after the last storm. This had never happened before in the 1 ½ years of using the system. In the future two way traffic lights will continue on Mondays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays to allow for the Butlins and holiday traffic. One way traffic will occur on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please allow extra time as there may be delays on these days. The expected finish time is the beginning of April. The final layout will have the same traffic light sequence as the present system.</p> <p>b) Mr Witt reported that there was a blockage under the bridge next to the Pub. LW to report.</p>	LW
26/01	Apologies for Absence S. Campbell (SC), L. Davis (LD), County Cllr F. Nicholson (FN)	
26/02	Declarations of Notifiable Interests. None	
26/03	Approval of the Minutes of the last ordinary meeting held 24 th November. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by IW and seconded by CG. Accepted as a true record and signed by KA.	
26/04	Matters Arising All matters arising are on the agenda.	
26/05	<p>Report by the County Councillors</p> <p>a) SP reported that the Somerset Council budget is at its final stages. There is still a significant funding gap but it is not expected that any further services will be passed on to the parishes. Adult Social Care remains a major problem as Somerset have a very high proportion of older residents. Somerset Council have applied to increase their budget above the 4.99% limit. This needs approval by the government.</p> <p>b) SP reported that the work in Great House Street will be completed in the next financial year 2026/27. An update will be sent out by LW to the villagers and placed on the Facebook page by JD.</p> <p>c) SP reported that the Exmoor Housing Needs Survey goes live on the 1st February. He urged everyone who required housing to complete the survey. There will be paper copies placed in the post office and online copies available.</p> <p>d) LW reported problems with obtaining Dog Exclusion Order signage. SP asked That relevant emails are sent to him, so that he could pursue this problem.</p>	<p>LW/JD</p> <p>LW/JD</p> <p>LW/SP</p>
26/06	<p>Highways</p> <p>a) IW reported that the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was now in position near the Old Dairy. It appeared to be working well and has a clear visual impact on the speed of the traffic. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund a solar panel, so that the batteries did not need to be charged so frequently. The Council also agreed to look to purchase a second SID, to be placed at Duddings, as the present system is extremely heavy and difficult to move between the two sites. A grant would be sought by LW. IW presented the recent data to the Council. Most cars are now travelling between 30 and 40mph, which is a big reduction on previous speeds. There</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>

	<p>were still a few cars driving through at irresponsible speeds. It was agreed that it is a great reminder to people of the 30 mph limit. Thanks to IW and CG for their efforts with the SID.</p> <p>b) The owners of Garden Cottage will be applying for a drop curb outside their house.</p> <p>c) A “20 is plenty sign” to be placed by the Chapel. Permission has been given by the owners.</p> <p>d) Potholes reported by CG in Great House Street and Bemerry Bank. LW to report.</p> <p>e) “Bends in Road” sign requested by LW for Totterdown area approaching Timberscombe.</p>	<p>IW</p> <p>LW</p>
26/07	Footpaths and Bridleways No new issues.	
26/08	<p>Finance Report.</p> <p>a) Bank Reconciliation. The Parish Council accounts stand at a healthy total of £14,857.63</p> <p>b) Invoices. The clerk reported that two pre-approved invoices had been paid since the last meeting. One to Mr. Evans to the value of £120 for his adjustment to the bus stop. The second for replacement batteries for the Defibrillator costing £253.20. The following invoices were unanimously approved for payment: £25 to IW to cover the cost of charging the SID batteries. £23.86 to IW to cover the cost of an amber light, required when working near the roadside. £49 to Timberscombe Village Hall for Council meetings, the Emergency Planning Meeting and £1 coins for heating the Village Hall during meetings. £250 to Somerset Council for the installation of the SID post at Duddings .</p> <p>c) Precept. LW reported that an application had been made to increase the Precept by 3.2% , which was the inflation rate in December. This would raise a further £336.40. Because of changes to the housing stock this would actually mean a reduction of 1.63% for a band C property.</p>	LW
26/09	<p>Planning Applications and Decisions.</p> <p>a) The incorrectly labelled plan on the Exmoor National Park website for the Methodist Chapel has now been removed. The owners, in fact, want brown wooden windows and the Council support this.</p> <p>b) The Pero Cottage application has been approved by ENPA.</p> <p>c) Planning has now been granted for the refurbishment of all the Orchard properties.</p>	
26/10	<p>Village Maintenance and Village Environmental Items</p> <p>a) Mr. Cooper has agreed to complete the gate on the football pitch shortly, however, it's currently too wet to do this work.</p> <p>b) The clerk is to apply for a Dog Exclusion Order for the football pitch . New “no dog signs” to be ordered .</p> <p>c) The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund the installation of new goal posts on the football pitch. Mr. Evans has agreed to do the work at a cost of £445. The purchase of the new posts would be funded by the daughters of the late Owen Rush, in his memory.</p> <p>d) It was unanimously agreed to get quotes for repainting and repairing the telephone box.</p> <p>e) There has been just one response for the grass cutting tender for the Play Area. LW to re advertise. Decision to be made at next meeting.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>
26/11	<p>Correspondence.</p> <p>a) The Orchard Way car park light is due to be replaced on the 28th January, weather permitting .</p>	

	<p>b) The Orchard Way resident, with no heating system for three weeks in December, now has a new heating system. A further Magna resident in the Glebe, who has had no heating system for two months, has been informed that work will start immediately to replace his heating. The cost of all additional temporary heating will be funded by Magna.</p> <p>c) Rachel Gilmore MP will be holding a surgery in the village hall on the 30th January at 2:00 pm. Residents who wish to speak to her should make an appointment.</p>	
26/12	<p>Report from other Representatives.</p> <p>a) The next Information Hub will be held on the 26th February in the Village Hall.</p> <p>b) Solar Panel grants now available. JD to publicise.</p>	JD
26/13	Chair's Notices. None	
26/14	Items for next agenda. SID data, Grass cutting tender.	

Meeting finished at 9.25pm. Date of next meeting Monday 23rd January 2026.