



BRUSHFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRUSHFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH 2025

25/134 PRESENT

The following took part in the meeting

Parish Councillors: Councillor N. Prouse, Councillor F. Takel, Councillor H. Albery, Councillor D. Moorhouse Banks

Attendance : Councillor S. Pugsley

Clerk : J Aldridge

Public :

25/135 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor S. Cookson, Councillor J. Sandiford, Councillor F. Nicholson

25/136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made

25/137 DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS

None

25/138 APPROVAL OF JANUARY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Approved by Councillor Takel and Seconded by Councillor Albery

25/139 FINANCIAL REPORT

25/139/01 Payment Authorisation

The following February payments were approved, the Clerk will now make the BACS payments

PAYMENT AUTHORISATION : FEBRUARY 10TH, 2026

PAYEE	INVOICE NO.	EXPENSE	NET	VAT	GROSS
Amherst & Shapland		Staff Wages	£664.30		£664.30
		Amherst & Shapland monthly fee	£12.50	£2.50	£15.00
		Total Staff Wages and Administration	£676.80	£2.50	£679.30
Brushford Parish Hall CIO	BPH2025- 0651	Hire of Hall for January meeting	£13.75		£13.75
Mrs J Aldridge		Travelling to and from Exmoor LCN on 15/01/26 16 miles each way	£14.40		£14.40
SouthWest Play	SI-9248	2nd and Final payment for Clatter Bridge in Jubilee Gardens	£887.00	£177.40	£1,064.40
TOTAL			£1,591.95	£179.90	£1,771.85

25/140 PATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

Councillor Albery researched the byway that goes along by the cemetery and ascertained that it is a byway open to all traffic, which means that Somerset Council should be responsible for the maintenance of this roadway. The Clerk will investigate this by contacting the highways department to see if this byway that has been adopted by the Council and therefore would be their responsibility for repair and maintenance.

25/141 PARISH MAINTENANCE

25/141/01 *Basketball Court - Hoop Netting/Backboard renewal*

Councillor Takel will arrange for the rim to be removed in the Spring when the daylight is better and the rain has stopped.

25/141/02 Jubilee Gardens Play Area Acquisition

The Clerk received a draft transfer of asset document, this needed some additional information that the Clerk has sent. Also there is to be an addition to the transfer regarding the lease. As soon as these matters are completed the transfer should go ahead.

25/141/03 Village Centre Project

The Clerk sent the application for the S106 grant for this project, copied all of the Councillors into that request and has received an acknowledgement of the request. The application has been turned down, the Clerk will now appeal.

25/141/04 Phone Box

The Chair will arrange for the large pallet to be available as and when the weather improves.

25/141/05 SID Solar Panel

The Clerk received a photo of the battery compartment from Councillor Albery and has forwarded this onto FTS, she received their reply which contained a picture and the cost of the piece of equipment the Parish Council would have to purchase in order to use the Solar Panel to charge batteries other than the one in the Speed Indicator Device.

The Councillors discussed this matter and decided the Solar Panel will not be used for that purpose.

25/141/06 Hedge at Brushford New Road

It has been noted the conifer hedge between Market Close and Pounds Close has been cut back but not really sufficiently enough to clearly show the give way sign, the Clerk contacted the highways department to ask if the far edge of the hedge, closest to Market Close, where the sign is situated, could perhaps be cut with a slope or a curve on it to facilitate a better view for drivers.

The Councillors asked if the sign could be moved onto the pathway in order to be more visible.

25/141/07 Community SpeedWatch

The Clerk has received, from the Police, an acknowledgement regarding her Community SpeedWatch volunteer application form.

She sent out an email to the Councillors as well as to the Community List to ask any other volunteers to get in touch with her in order for the scheme to go ahead as a minimum of 3 volunteers are required before any training etc. can be given by the Police.

Three of the Councillors are going to sign up in the near future.

There may be a reluctance to join this scheme due to any repercussions that may arise from members of the Community knowing the individuals carrying out the speed check.

It was suggested by Councillor Pugsley that the Clerk should contact the Police to ascertain if it is possible to swap places with other Parishes who have also signed up for the CSW and if this is permissible to then contact those Parishes.

25/141/08 Sight Mirror

One of the Councillors asked if a sight mirror could be placed at the end of Brushford New Road but after discussion it was thought that sight mirrors already in place are privately provided and are not recognised in law when appertaining to matters occurring on the highway.

25/141/09 Replacement Noticeboard

A replacement exterior, lockable noticeboard is required at the Exebridge side of the village.

The Clerk emailed a selection of exterior, lockable noticeboards to the Councillors for their decision. The matter was discussed and all the Councillors agreed on the same one, the Clerk will now place the purchase order.

25/141/10 Damaged Village Sign on B3222

It has been reported to the Clerk that the Village sign on the B3222 has been damaged and it is assumed that this was caused by the contractors employed to work on the drainage repairs along that road.

The Clerk has taken a picture of the damaged sign and on the 3rd February emailed this to the Highways Department of Somerset Council as well as the Assistant Highway Service Manager to enquire if either the Highways Department or the contractor will pay for a replacement. She is awaiting a reply in the meantime a copy of that email has been sent to Councillor Pugsley in order for this issue to be brought up at the Highways Meeting this week.

25/142 MOORLAND FOODBANK ADVERTISING

In response to Councillor Nicholson's emailed request and after gaining the approval of all the Councillors the Clerk has printed the Moorland Foodbank Poster and has displayed it on the Village Hall noticeboard as well as arranging for the poster to be added to the Brushford Parish Councils Website's Home and News pages.

25/143 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None received

25/144 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Pugsley reported the Government will not allow Somerset Council to increase the rate of Council tax by more than 4.99%.

The Government also stated they will contribute 90% towards Somerset Councils SEND expenditure but Somerset Council will have to finance the remaining amount.

Somerset Council has not heard, so far, if they can sell assets or borrow money to pay for their current expenditure, the Government has not given any answers to this matter and time is getting short.

Once the results from the Housing Needs Survey are collated the results will affect the National Park's housing plan.

Highways will continue to send out a monthly list of works that are being carried out. The Clerk passes this information onto the Councillors, who find it very useful.

25/145 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is to be March 10th 2026 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.

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N. Prouse Chair