



**Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on
Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors Cox, (Chairman), Rousell (Vice-Chair), Furse-Roberts, Greenfield and Tulk.

Members of the Public: 9

Somerset Councillors: Cllr Kerley sent apologies.

Meeting closed at 7.31pm

Public Questions and Observations

Members of the public raised concerns about an overhanging hedge at the crossroads with Shute Lane, potholes in Crouds Lane and the collection of sheds and buildings opposite the Lime Kiln Pub. The Chairman thanked them for bringing these matters to the Council's attention and the clerk noted any necessary actions.

Somerset Councillors Report

Cllr Page reported positive updates on new social housing in Charlton Adam, praise for the Strawberry Line, winner of the best walkway/cycleway bringing in tourism, an additional bus service to Castle Cary station, and new flood prevention funding available through Somerset Council. He also explained that car parking charges are being reviewed as part of unitary authority harmonisation, noting Somerset Council's severe budget pressures and the need to fund statutory services. Councillors and residents raised concerns about multiple parking apps, unclear signage, impacts on local businesses, and the need to retain coin payment machines. The first hour being free was welcomed. There were further questions about affordable housing which includes discounted market homes and more heavily subsidised social housing, with demand especially high for smaller properties. Somerset's housing target has risen to around 80,000 homes, focused mainly on larger towns, but delivery has lagged, making refusals harder. Only around half of planning applications go to committee, with minor cases usually decided under delegated authority.

Meeting re-opened 7.50pm

MINUTES

26/062: Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Wielgus, Coombes and Fell.

26/063: Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Cox declared a personal interest in 26/066 (iv) and Cllr Tulk declared a personal interest in 26/066 (ii).

26/064: Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th July 2026 (LGA 1972sch12 para 41(1)).

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July had been circulated previously.



It was **RESOLVED** to accept the [minutes of the meeting](#) held on 7th July 2026 as a true & correct record of that meeting. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

Matters Arising

Welcome letter – Cllr Wielgus had confirmed to the Clerk that he has been in touch with Hannah Marchant about the design. Cllr Furse-Roberts offered to help move the project forward.

26/065: Councillor Vacancy

Following Cllr Pritchard's resignation, the Clerk confirmed that no election was requested by electors, and co-option can now take place. Members agreed that the Clerk should request any expressions of interest before the October meeting, advertising the vacancy in the usual manner.

26/066; Planning Matters

The Chairman used Standing Order 3(e) to allow public comments on the following agenda items.

a. To consider any new planning applications in the parish:

i. 26/01518/FUL - Land OS 5560 North Of Crouds Lane Long Sutton Langport Somerset

Proposal: 7 No. dwellings with access and associated works.

Cllr Rousell gave a summary and showed the plans on screen. There are 11 objections online. The Chairman invited members of the public to comment and concerns raised included the removal of an entire hedgerow to create the proposed new access in Littlefield Lane, the increased traffic on a single lane road used by walkers, horse-riders and cyclists; the fact that the current drainage system already cannot always cope so increased surface water run-off and sewage from new dwellings will add to the problem.

Cllr Cox proposed maintaining the previous position to object to the application based on access and concerns over drainage, but also to refer to previously submitted comments for application 25/01812/FUL on over development

Members **AGREED** to object to the application and asked the clerk to submit the completed proforma to include the following statement:

Members object to this application with concerns over the new proposed access in Littlefield Lane, drainage and the sewerage system, increased traffic and the way the whole site has been developed in stages to avoid the requirement for affordable housing.

The Parish Council notes the letters of objection on the portal and agrees with those comments.

Members have long reflected the concerns of residents and would like comments made on the previous associated application (25/00812/FUL) to be taken into consideration for this application also. Should this application be supported by planning officers, we would urge our Somerset Councillors (Kerley & Page) to bring the application into the open and democratic process and not allow it to be considered behind closed doors.

ii. 26/01777/S73A – Long Sutton House, Shute Lane, Long Sutton TA10 9LZ

Proposal: S73A application to vary condition 02 (approved plans) of Planning

Application 21/03382/PAMB for Notification of prior approval for conversion of 2 no. agricultural barns into 2 no. dwellings.

Cllr Rousell provided a summary as the application to vary the condition is related to window placement and other materials. There have been no comments online.

Cllr Cox proposed no objection to the application, and all members agreed.

- iii. 26/01885/S73 – 4, Hodgehay, Langport Road, Long Sutton TA10 9NQ
Proposal: S73 Application to vary Conditions 02 (approved plans), 03 (materials) and 05 (lighting for bats) to allow for amendments to scale, design and roofing and for the removal of Condition 07 (allocation certificate) relating to 22/03261/FUL; Erection of a detached self-build dwelling and 2 carports for the proposed and existing dwelling.
 Cllr Roussell summarised the details and the applicants who were present confirmed the description was accurate. Cllr Tulk proposed supporting the application and all members **AGREED**.
- iv. 26/01748/PAMB - Land At Manor Farm Knightlands Lane Long Sutton Langport Somerset TA10 9HR
Proposal: Prior Approval for the change of use of No. 3 agricultural buildings to No. 9 dwellinghouses (Class C3), and associated building operations.
 This is for **notification** only.
 Members noted that the application was for prior approval only and that no online comments had been submitted. While members were minded supporting the change of use, further information and clarification was required around Highways concerns including highway safety, access and visibility, parking, pedestrian access and drainage of both water run-off and sewerage. Members agreed to support the change of use subject to these concerns being highlighted.
 Members **NOTED** the details of the following tree works applications which are for **notification** only:
- v. 26/01884/TCA – Girton House Cross Lane Long Sutton Langport Somerset TA10 9LR
Proposal: Notification of intent to remove No.01 Yew tree (T1) to ground level included within Conservation Area.
- vi. 26/01696/TCA - Ciderpress Farm Knole Long Sutton Langport Somerset TA10 9HY
Proposal: Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 3 Trees within a Conservation Area.
T1- Cotoneaster - Remove the lowest branch on the western side of tree and the lowest branch on the southern side of tree and remove any large sections of deadwood.
T2- Holly- Reduce the height of the Holly by approximately 1.5 meters and re shape.
T3- Bay- Reduce the height of the Bay by approximately 1.5 metres and re shape.
- vii. 26/02011/TCA – Orchard Farm, Knole, Long Sutton TA10 9HY
Proposal: Notification of intent to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 5 Trees within a Conservation Area.
T1 Apple tree - Unknown species - Dead - Remove all extra limbs leaving core Y shaped trunk for wildlife
T2 and T3 Crab apple and pear tree - Remove crossing branches and restore good productive shape. Remove top 3m off pear tree to allow light to reach lower branches and neighbouring trees
T4 - Cooking apple tree - Prune shoots and whips to remove crossing branches in triple goblet shape
T5 - Cherry tree - Remove dead and diseased branches within crown but leave rest of structure intact
- b. Members **NOTED** the two decision notices circulated since the last meeting.



26/067: Finance

- a. Members **APPROVED** [accounts for payment](#) in August (retrospectively) and September 2026.
- b. Members **APPROVED** the bank reconciliations to 31st July and 31st August 2026 and supporting bank statements.
- c. Members **NOTED** the conclusion of audit and the external auditor's report and thanked the clerk for another clean bill of health! There were no forward actions of note.
- d. Members **NOTED** the publication of the conclusion of audit notice as 9th September 2026. Cllrs Greenfield and Tulk will display the necessary items on the noticeboards, and the clerk will publish the same on the website.
- e. Members **NOTED** the details of the recently agreed 2026/'27 Local Government Pay Award. They **AGREED** to increasing the Clerk's hourly rate from £17.47/hr to £18.04/hr and to backdate the pay accordingly to 1st April 2026.

26/068: Connectivity and Integrated Transport Strategy

The clerk confirmed that Cllr Wielgus had sent some suggested comments for the above consultation which had been circulated to all members. They **AGREED** to delegate authority to respond on behalf of the Parish Council before the deadline of 20th September reflecting these comments.

26/069: Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Cllr Cox updated members following the most recent Management Committee meeting held on 24th August (minutes had been circulated). The finances are still healthy netting about £1k per month and a balance of approximately £26k. They are looking into an auto-invoicing and online payment system for bookings.

Members noted that the Village Hall safeguarding policy is being reviewed and updated, with further training and designated safeguarding arrangements to be confirmed. It was reported that the organiser of a regular activity had been asked to provide appropriate safeguarding documentation, including evidence of relevant checks and affiliation to a recognised governing body, in line with the Hall's safeguarding requirements. A two-week period had been allowed for the information to be supplied; however, the requested information had not been provided, and subsequent communications had not resolved the Council's concerns. Members therefore agreed that the booking should be cancelled. The Clerk was asked to respond on behalf of the Parish Council, confirming the decision and stating that there would be no further discussion on the matter.

26/070: Bins

- a. Members **NOTED** the invoice from Somerset Council for the first quarter of 2026/'27 for bin emptying of £253.04 + VAT, part of the Devolved Services budget allowance.
- b. Members considered removal of a litter bin on the Recreation Field and the addition or moving of a dog waste bin on the Langport Road following a request from a member of the public. However, members unanimously agreed to keep 2 bins on the Recreation Field and not move the dog bin. An additional dog waste bin would incur not just the purchase and installation cost, but also regular collection costs now devolved to parish councils. The Clerk will confirm these decisions to both Somerset Council and the resident.

26/071: Environment Group

Cllr Furse-Roberts reported on the recent picnic event which approximately 20 people had



attended. This was slightly disappointing, but other events were going on that day, and it was extremely hot. Moving on, they hope to do some tree planting towards the end of October, mainly replacing the ones that haven't survived the extreme heat. There was a request for mulch from any tree works (see next item) and Cllr Tulk said that he would arrange for this. Planned hedge cutting is taking place in the next week or two. They had been looking at applying to the Rural Payments Agency for funding but there is a minimum requirement for 3ha of land, and the Nature Reserve is only 2.5ha. They are still investigating an additional piece of land that could be included as it doesn't have to be in the same location. Cllr Cox asked about the planned Autumn event? There was no update in Cllr Wielgus' absence.

26/072: Representative Reports from Councillors

- a. Community Safety (including the monthly crime statistics from [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk) and the Speed Indicator Device).
The SID was on Martock Road for the whole of August. The average 50th percentile speed on entering the village is below 30mph and the 85th at 33mph (this is within the 10 percent that the law allows on your speedometer allowing for calibration)
Although there may be a perception of speed overall, the data does not reflect this.
There was no reported crime in July in the village.
- b. Parish Warden – Cllr Tulk reported that no grass cutting had taken place due to the heat. The Warden had instead inspected every tree and made a recommendation in a report previously circulated. Members **AGREED** to the works as detailed in the associated quote at a total cost of £3,425. Cllr Tulk will liaise with the contractor and arrange the works.
Cllr Tulk and the clerk will arrange for the drain clearing contractors to return for a couple of days at the end of October to ensure clear running drains over the autumn and winter. The clerk will investigate road closure requirements for Knightlands Lane drain clearance.
- c. Highways and Footpaths. The Footpath Volunteers had recently repaired stiles in Littlefield Lane.

26/073: Communication: website and e-newsletter

The following items to be included in the next issue of the newsletter: report from cricket event on 31st August – correct the WI information – vacancy advert – Friends open house report.

26/074: Correspondence including any not previously distributed

Cllr Tulk reported a very recent break-in at the church where one of two new hoovers recently purchased had been stolen.

26/075: Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting taking place on **Tuesday 6th October 2026** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Village Hall.

26/076: Suggested agenda items for the next meeting

Co-option – appointment of new internal auditor – welcome letter

Meeting closed at 8.56pm

END OF AGENDA