

Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 11th November 2025, 7.00pm at
The Beaumont Room in the Church, Haselbury Plucknett

Present: Cllrs H Williams, W Hunt, J Farrant, L Deer, M Wroe, R Bourne, A Scott, M Rendall, C.Cllr M Hewitson and L Gibbons (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

Open Session: No items were brought for discussion.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Bryant
- 2. Record of business of last Month 13/10/2025:** Approved and were signed as a true and proper record.
- 3. Matters Arising:** None
- 4. Declaration of Interest:** None
- 5. a) County/District Councillors Report:** MH reported that Somerset Council are starting the new budget setting round. There has been a 30% increase in parents requesting special education plans for their children, meaning that the deficit is likely to be around £20million this year in education alone. Consultants will be working with Somerset Council over the next two years to deliver technological solutions and savings.
There is a new interactive highways map available which will show when gully clearance occurs. The threat of Parish Councils being asked to pay for Parish elections in 2026 was discussed. MH was advised of our view that the cost, being in the thousands, was not something that was affordable to Parishes. MH will feed this back to democratic services for us.

b) LCN: There has been a consultation on the effectiveness of LCNs which HW attended. There was an overwhelming feeling that they were not serving any useful purpose.
c) Items for escalation to our District/County Councillors: LG to send MH a list of issues we have outstanding with Somerset Council, that we would like him to follow up on. The breach of planning in Church Lane, the issue with planners ignoring the incorrect boundary in Frog lane when approving the planning for Brook Farm and the outstanding Drainline report for the inspection work at the A30 junction, Brook Farmhouse and Claycastle.
- 6. Planning:**
a) Planning Applications: 25/02586/S73, Land Os 6400 Part Claycastle - S73 application to vary condition 5(phosphate mitigation strategy) in relation to planning approval 22/02628/OUT for the erection of a detached dwelling. Councillors voted unanimously to object to this application.

The proposed mitigation measures outlined in application 22/02628/OUT already pose a risk of polluting Small Brook with contaminants, including phosphates.
The drain referenced for the sewage outflow to the south of the site does not exist. Instead, the outflow will run over Claycastle and into Small Brook.
The proposed variation to Condition 5 in application 25/02586/S73 would inevitably exacerbate the already high phosphate levels in Small Brook—a freshwater tributary of the River Parrett that supports endangered species, such as water voles. The phosphate levels are monitored by the Parish Council and October's reading was 0.85, which is classified as poor.

The applicant has failed to explore alternative sewage schemes that would avoid environmental harm.

While the Parish Council does not object to the principle of development on the site, it strongly objects to this application, which is a mere nutrient compensation exercise and would damage our local freshwater waterways.

b) Planning Applications received after publication of agenda: None

c) Planning applications considered prior to this meeting: None

d) Decisions received:

25/01762/COL – East Cross House, East Cross Hill, Yeovil Road - Application

for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of a double garage, workshop and apple loft as an annexe to the main house - Application permitted.

25/02427/HOU – Corners, North Street - Single storey rear extension with continuation of existing roofline. – Councillors resolved to support this application – Application permitted with conditions.

e) 25/02044/OUT - proposed 325 house development on Station Road, Crewkerne:

The main concerns are that the existing local infrastructure is barely coping with the current demand and that there is already a significant amount of development either in progress, approved or planned (including Wool Gardens, Old Vines Bridge Mills, Kit Hill, Old Millers site).

The proposed Crewkerne Relief Road, (CRR) will not serve this development, even if it does ever get constructed. There is no proposal to solve the traffic issues that exist currently this side of Crewkerne and the situation will be made far worse by both works vehicles during construction and then the increase in residential use. Councillors voted unanimously to support this campaign and to submit a comment objecting to this application on the basis of insufficient infrastructure and that it is unsustainable.

7. Finance:

a) Invoices for payment: All payments were agreed:

Lloyds Bank	Bank Charges	£4.25
CPRE	Donation	£5.00
J Stewart	10 x Poppies for Remembrance	£50.00
K M Dike Nurseries	Grounds Maintenance - Jul	£420.24
K M Dike Nurseries	Grounds Maintenance - Aug	£160.68
L Gibbons	Clerk Salary/Expenses	£367.57
HMRC	Payroll Tax	£1.00
Somerset Council	Bin emptying Apr - Sept	£1014.00
Parsons Tree & Garden Services	Ranger Service Oct	£550.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	£20.00

b) Reporting of Invoices paid prior to meeting: None.

c) Bank Reconciliation: Was agreed and signed.

8. The Park:

Safety checks: The four inspection reports for the preceding period have already been distributed to councillors by WH. During the reporting period, no new issues arose.

WH advised that with regard to the fence repair, our Ranger, Jacob, has provided a materials quote totalling £555 including VAT. WH proposed utilising a combination of ranger resources and volunteers to dismantle the existing fence and install the replacement.

The replacement for the missing Convex Traffic Mirror opposite the entrance park has been purchased and will be installed as soon as it arrives.

9. Road and Footpaths:

a) Roads and Highways: MH has been asked to chase the drain line reports for the A30 junction, Brook Farmhouse and Claycastle.

A Barron is meeting with JF/MW on the 2nd December. The 'unsuitable for HGV's signage for Puddle town will be discussed.

b) Footpath Working Group Update: HW reported that the new footpath is 'stunning'. WH has lots of bulbs for the wildlife group, or any other willing volunteers to plant. Two dog bins have been installed at either end. LG to contact Somerset Council to see if these can be added to the collection rota.

10. Village Matters:

a) Village Maintenance: Nothing new to report.

b) Ranger Service: The Ranger conducted two days of work on 28th and 30th.

c) SID and Speed Watch: WH advised that the SID is currently located on the NP road and is intermittently operational.

Statistics for September 2025.

Number of watches – 5, Vehicles monitored – 603, Speeders Reported – 34, Highest speeder – 34, Percentage of drivers exceeding the reportable limit – 5.6%.

No new volunteers have been forthcoming despite advertising campaigns.

The scheme will close at the end of December.

d) Wildlife and Habitat Group Report: There have not been any activities in the past month.

Sessions are planned at Rebecca's Well to repair the brickwork and reinstate the oak frame on the top.

A session will be conducted to remove inappropriate vegetation from Small Brook along Claycastle.

e) Adoption of Frog Lane: This discussion arose from the planning permission granted for Brook Farm. The plans wrongly show that the footpath is part of the property. MH was previously asked to contact the planners to find out why our comments on this were not taken note of. LG chased MH for an answer but has heard nothing since. He agreed again to look into this.

f) Flood Plan: The flood team is in place. The gullies on the main roads were cleared last week.

11. Matters to report: A very large mobile home has been installed at Lane Os6400 Part Claycastle. LG to submit a breach of planning report to Somerset Council.

12. Notices for Village News: Deadline for this month is the 20th.

13. Items for next meeting: Budget and precept 26/27

14. Next Meeting Date: 08/12/2025 at the **Beaumont Room in the Church** at 7:00pm