

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 17th November, 2025

Present: Cllrs Sue Sweet, Vicki Taylor (Chair), Vicki Trundle

Attending: Barry Clarke (Somerset Council); one member of the public.

1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcome everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Estelle Kirby, Iain Kirby, Philip Ham (Somerset Council), and Joe McGhee (Clerk).

3 Absent

Cllr Paula Freeland.

4 (a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

None.

(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

Cllr Vicki Taylor has an approved request for dispensation in relation to Leigh On Mendip Memorial Hall until June 2027.

Cllr Vicki Trundle has an approved request for dispensation in relation to Leigh On Mendip Recreation Field Committee until March 2029.

Cllr Paula Freeland has an approved request for dispensation in relation to St Giles Church until June 2029.

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

None.

5 Public Session

Item 14(h) was brought forward to this point. Martin Carter (MC) was in attendance to speak about the Community SpeedWatch Team. He made a number of points:

- Two SpeedWatch signs which had deteriorated were replaced free of charge. The replacements are more robust.
- National Road Safety Week is 16th to 22nd November. MC and the team will be doing an assembly in the school (for years 4 to 6) to promote road safety. Children will observe the function of the team and be invited to take part in a competition to design a road safety poster.
- MC would like a repeater sign to be erected in the vicinity of the Recreation Field. Discussions continue on that.
- MC provided an analysis of speeding vehicles covering the 38 SpeedWatch sessions in the year to date. MC will provide an electronic copy to the Clerk.
- A request was made for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be procured. Cost estimated at £3,100. Funding may be sought from the Halecombe Quarry Fund. MC will research other suppliers and draft an application.

6 County Councillor Reports

Cllr Clarke gave a brief overview of Somerset Council matters to supplement a written update already circulated to councillors.

7 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

TK not present at the meeting so no update.

8 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th October, 2025, previously circulated (Attachment 1).

Resolved. Confirmed.

9 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda.

None.

10 Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered.

None.

11 Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted from Somerset Council

None.

12 Finance and Annual Reporting

(a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation at 12 Nov 2025 (Attachment 2)

Resolved. Approved.

(b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 14 Oct 2025 to 12 Nov 2025 (Attachment 3).

Resolved. Approved.

13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

(a) Information was published on Somerset Council's Household Support Fund, which aims to help people over the difficult winter months. Links were included to further information and the application process.

(b) Follow up emails have been sent to Somerset Council on the definition of road cleaning/maintenance responsibilities and the transfer of a parcel of land on Park Hayes to the Parish Council. The next clerk's report will include details of any responses.

(c) A notification from Somerset Council of a road closure for five days in early December on Quarry Lane was published on the usual channels.

(d) The stream near Great House Farm was monitored after recent rains, with the water levels seen to be at normal levels. There will be no further liaison with the Environment Agency for the time being.

Council resolved to continue monitoring the stream.

(e) A notice was published requesting parishioners to remember that the footpaths in the parish are solely for pedestrian use and to request that they avoid the use of any wheeled vehicles.

(f) Information on the specification for churchyard/cemetery grounds maintenance was sent on to the Tree Officer to inform the development of the biodiversity plan.

(g) Contact has been made with the new Operations Manager at Halecombe Quarry to see if the procedure of the Clerk being informed of blasts in advance and then alerting parishioners can be continued.

14 To Be Discussed / Resolved

(a) Councillor resignation/co-option

The resignation of Cllr Estelle Kirby has been received with immediate effect.

Clerk will liaise with Somerset Council Democratic Services re the appropriate notice.

Suggestions were made for advertising vacancies and securing councillor candidates, including the use of posters/flyers and Facebook; these will be discussed at the next meeting.

(b) Proposal from Somerset Council to transfer land to the Parish Council.

No reaction to the public notice; now with Somerset Council's legal team and communication is expected around the end of the month.

(c) Development of biodiversity plan for churchyard/cemetery.

Continues.

- (d) New cemetery
 - Memorial tree branch removal.
 - Will be completed before Christmas.
 - Procurement of chain link fence.
 - Drawings and quote for gates.
 - Handover meeting to be scheduled between E Kirby, Cllr Sweet and the Clerk.
- (e) Easement letter – Recreation Field car park.
Completed.
- (f) Repair shop questionnaire.
Questionnaire replies received – 19 for, 1 against. Estelle Kirby has kindly agreed to take on responsibility for the development of the Repair Shop.
- (g) Youth services survey.
Continues. Update from Cllr Kirby at the next meeting.
- (h) Speed Watch signs; National Road Safety Week.
See Public Session above.
- (i) EV charging points
Continues; Cllr Taylor liaising with the Memorial Hall Committee and Cllr Trundle with the Recreation Field Committee.
- (j) Rec Field ground maintenance
Continues; Cllr Trundle to liaise with Clerk and Recreation Field Committee.
- (k) Somerset Council – Charitable Collection Licensing Policy
Council resolved not to respond.

15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.

Draft budget.

Assertion 10 of AGAR.

16 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 15th December, 2025, at 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions; Equal opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.