

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 16th February, 2026

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

Attending: Barry Clarke (Somerset Council); Tom Kemp (Tree and Biodiversity Adviser).

1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

None.

3 Absent

None. All councillors present.

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.

No further requests.

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

None.

5 Public Session

No members of the public were present.

6 County Councillor Reports

Cllr Clarke added several remarks to an information sheet already submitted and circulated.

The council tax is likely to increase by 4.99%; budgeting difficulty will continue. There is a meeting to agree the budget on March 4th.

There is a fund of £2.4M per year for the next four years to improve bus services.

The Somerset Community Health and Wellbeing Fund is formally closed but some funds remain to be made available to appropriate projects.

Cllr Clarke has sent a letter to the head of Highways about plans for the coming year and awaits a response.

7 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

A meeting scheduled with the Clerk and current churchyard maintenance contractor, Hill & Hill Ground Maintenance, on 10th February to discuss the biodiversity proposal had to be scheduled to Tuesday, 17th.

TK is pursuing the opportunity to take the proposal to the Parochial Church Council.

8 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th January, 2026, 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

(a) 2026/0060/CNS

Consultation on a variation of an environmental permit. Application reference
EPR/WE9072AB/V002.

Tarmac South West Materials Division, Halecombe Quarry, Quarry Lane To Somers Hill,
Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA11 3RD.

Decision. No objection.

(b) 2026/0073/CNS

Consultation on a variation of an environmental permit.

Halecombe Quarry, Quarry Lane To Somers Hill, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet,
Somerset, BA11 3RD.

Decision. No objection.

(c) 2025/2241/HSE and 2025/2242/LBC

Reinstatement of original roof truss, removed before Listing. Replacement of concrete roof
tiles with double Roman tiles. Replacement of UPVC rainwater goods with cast iron
(description amended 02.02.2026).

Cottage Garden, Leigh Street, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA3 5QQ.

Decision. Approval (both).

All decisions noted.

12 Finance and Annual Reporting

(a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation at 11 Feb 2026 (Attachment 2)

Resolved. Approved.

(b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 14 Jan 2026 to 11
Feb 2026 (Attachment 3).

Resolved. Approved.

13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

(a) Comments were applied on planning applications 2025/2241/HSE and 2025/2242/LBC
(Cottage Garden, Leigh Street) at the Somerset Council planning portal.

(b) Various documents were published on the website – IT Policy, Bring Your Own Device Policy,
Freedom of Information Policy, Budget 2026-27.

(c) The community fund payment was received from the Mells Park Trust.

(d) Two new SpeedWatch signs were procured (free replacements for degraded signs, small
administration fee paid).

(e) A grant request for a Speed Information Device was submitted to the Halecombe Quarry
Community Fund.

(f) A grant was awarded to the Recreation Field Committee for grounds maintenance.

(g) Links from councillors' names on the Parish Council website to the appropriate Register of
Members Interests forms on the Somerset Council website were updated following changes
to the latter.

(h) A notice of blasting at Halecombe Quarry was published on the usual channels, as was an
invitation to complete a survey from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service,

(i) A notice from Somerset Council was published relating to an extended road closure at Soho
Hill.

14 To Be Discussed / Resolved

- (a) Assertion 10 - updated website Accessibility Statement (Attachment 4)

To approve (or not) the updated Accessibility Statement.

Resolved. Approved. Clerk to request that the Webmaster, Chris Cudmore, publish on the website with the inclusion at the appropriate point of the Clerk's email address. Council noted its thanks to Chris Cudmore for his work on the Accessibility Statement.

- (b) Annual Parish Meeting.

The APM was scheduled for Saturday, 16th May, from 14:00 until 16:00. Cllr Taylor to book the Memorial Hall. Cllr Taylor presented a copy of the 2025 parish newsletter; councillors to consider appropriate text for the 2026 newsletter on topics including the SpeedWatch team, cemetery, relationship with quarries, planning, finance, repair shop, advertising for new councillors, village Rangers. The suggestion was made of a database of land ownership of the parish to aid with, for example, identifying responsibility for maintenance items; this will be on the agenda of the parish meeting.

- (c) Overgrown bank opposite Island Cottage.

Clerk to contact agent for Great House Farm on plans to cut back the hedge.

- (d) EV charging points.

The Clerk is to seek more information on the practicalities of implementing EV points – funding, ownership, charging for power and so on.

- (e) Councillor recruitment.

Council resolved that the next steps for councillor recruitment will be advertising via the Village Connection and the usual channels (Facebook, website). Cllr Trundle will draft appropriate up to date text; Clerk to send her text of past adverts/posters. Flyers/posters will also be considered and the topic will be raised at the parish meeting.

- (f) Biodiversity scheme.

See item 7 above.

- (g) New cemetery

Cllr Sweet presented examples of rope and fencing, along with initial costings. The design was discussed. T Kemp to draft updated design; Cllr Sweet to seek further detailed costings based on that design and identify contractors who can quote for installation.

- (h) Repair shop

E Kirby attending repair shop at Shepton Mallet on 21st February and will report at the next parish council meeting.

15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.

Damaged signpost at the Soho junction (Clerk to raise with Somerset Highways).

Annual Parish Meeting.

Cemetery.

16 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 16th March, 2026, 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.