

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 18th May, 2026

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

Attending: Barry Clarke (Somerset Council); four members of the public

1 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Trundle ; Cllr Philip Ham (Somerset Council)

3 Absent

None.

4 (a) To receive declarations 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.

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

None.

5 Public Session

Several members of the public raised the issue of the implementation of a planning application failing to comply with the terms of the original application. This is addressed under item 10(a).

6 County Councillor Reports

Cllr Clarke had nothing to add to a regular written update he had already supplied and which had been circulated to councillors.

7 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

TK not present so no update.

8 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th April, 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.

(a) 2026/0829/REM

Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2022/0053/OTS for the erection of 3 dwellings and associated access. Matters of access/appearance/landscaping/layout/scale to be determined.

Corner Cottage, Quarry Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset.

Council had no clear view on this application but noted the serious concerns of several parishioners present about the way the development described in the original outline planning application is being implemented. This has been formally raised with planning enforcement at Somerset Council. Council resolved to recommend a deferral of any decision on the current application for approval of reserved matters until the issues have been

addressed, and if deferral is not possible then to recommend refusal of the application. Clerk to apply appropriate comments at the Somerset Council planning portal.

08/26-27

11 Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted from Somerset Council

None.

Cllr Clarke left the meeting at 19:51.

12 Finance and Annual Reporting

(a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation at 13 May 2026 (Attachment 2)

Resolved. Approved.

(b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 15 Apr 2026 to 13 May 2026 (Attachment 3)

Resolved. Approved.

13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

(a) The completed Certificate of Exemption from external audit was completed and forwarded to PKF Littlejohn, the appointed external auditor, who have confirmed receipt.

(b) Chapter 8 training has been booked for the Speedwatch Team lead to allow operation of a Speed Indicator Device in the village. One SID has been received from the police and an application is with Somerset Council for approval for three sites at which to deploy it. That approval will also allow the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding with Somerset Council, which in turn will allow the council to meet the prerequisite for funding for another SID from Halecombe Quarry Community Fund.

The Speedwatch team lead, Martin Carter, is to be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss revised costs in the light of the apparent need for specific poles to hold the SIDs.

(c) Democratic Services at Somerset Council have been sent the Register of Members Interests form for the new councillor, Cllr Parry, and the Parish Council website has been updated.

(d) The council has been insured with the existing insurer, Zurich Municipal, for 2026-27.

(e) The council's subscriptions with ICCM (the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management) and SALC/NALC (Somerset and National Associations of Local Councils) have been renewed

(f) An enquiry regarding interment of ashes was received and the burial ground information was passed on.

(g) The annual newsletter was printed/folded at St Andrews Press and distributed; the annual parish meeting agenda and minutes were published on the website.

(h) Information on the councillor vacancies was supplied to several interested parties. Clerk to follow up with interested parties.

(i) The issue with the overgrown hedge at the east end of Leigh Street near the school has been reported to Somerset Council Highways Department.

Clerk to pursue with Highways and investigate possibility of engaging an independent contractor to deal with the hedge.

14 Be Discussed / Resolved

(a) Devolution of land at Park Hayes

Cllrs Kirby and Taylor signed the title transfer document on behalf of the Parish Council; Clerk signed as witness in his capacity as Proper Officer. Clerk to send to the locum solicitor at Somerset Council so that the council seal can be applied, and to confirm with him when the Parish Council formally becomes the owner – at the application of the seal or when registered with the Land Registry.

(b) Recreation Field grant application

Council resolved to approve the grant application from the Recreation Field Management Committee. Clerk to inform the Management Committee and raise the transfer of £2,000.

(c) St Giles PCC – grant application and letter of support

The Clerk read a draft letter to the secretary of the PCC in support of the efforts to raise funds for the repair/maintenance of St Giles. Council resolved to approve; the letter was signed by the Chair on behalf of the PC. Clerk to send it to the PCC secretary.

Council resolved to approve the grant application from the PCC and to award the sum of £2,000 to assist in the repairs to St Giles. Clerk to inform the PCC and raise the appropriate payment.

(d) New cemetery

Cllr Sweet provided an update. The upgraded gates are complete. Council approved expenditure of up to £100 to have the gates painted. Cllr Sweet progressing signage which will read “Leigh On Mendip Parish Cemetery”. Work on the new fence is imminent.

(e) Unity Trust Bank signatories

The appropriate paperwork and proof of identity for Cllr Trundle have been supplied to Unity Trust Bank. Clerk to pursue the requested changes with the bank.

(f) Repair of Drang wall

Cllr Sweet to seek a professional opinion on the necessary wall repairs, and a conversation will be held with the wall owner to discuss the way forward.

(g) Fingerpost sign at Soho junction

Clerk to clarify process for reinstating the sign and develop recommendations.

15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.

- Review of Parish Meeting

16 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 15th June, 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.