

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 20th July, 2026

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

Attending: Barry Clarke (Somerset Council); Tom Kemp (Tree and Biodiversity Adviser); Martin Carter (SpeedWatch Team Lead); 2 members of the public

1 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcome everyone to the meeting, then led the meeting in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for David Mattick, former Chair of the Parish Council, who had recently passed away.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Vicki Trundle (Parish Council) and 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

No general comments from members of the public at this point.

Item 10(a) was brought forward to this point in the meeting.

There was a brief discussion with the applicants, who were present. The application was considered with respect to amenity, impact on neighbours and traffic. Council could find no issue. Cllr Taylor proposed recommending approval; Cllr Parry seconded. Council voted unanimously to do so. Clerk to apply appropriate comments at Somerset Council planning portal.

6 County Councillor Reports

Cllr Barry Clarke made several remarks supplementary to a newsletter he had already provided.

- Somerset Council's financial situation remains precarious, with debt now running at over £1 billion.
- It is estimated that each council tax payer is paying around £250 annually to service interest.
- A Best Value Notice has been served on Somerset Council by the government.
- The Somerset Local Plan consultation closes at the end of July.
- The Council's budget consultation ends on 27th July.

7 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

TK has cut the grass in the spring meadow areas at the church.

TK has submitted a biodiversity management plan for the land at Park Hayes which is expected to be devolved from Somerset Council to the Parish Council. Clerk to arrange a meeting with the existing ground maintenance contractor to discuss this. TK to draft a message to neighbours to inform them of the scheme, to be discussed at the September council meeting.

TK left the meeting at 19:28.

8 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 15th June, 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) 2026/1195/FUL**

Erection of a dwelling on land previously permitted for stables.

Land at 368037 146941 Towns End Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

See remarks immediately after Item 5 above.

Item **14(c)** was brought forward to this point in the meeting.

The Clerk and M Carter (MC) provided an update on progress. Somerset Council have approved two locations for posts to hold a SID; supply and installation of the posts to be ordered from Somerset Council by the Clerk. Council approved expenditure of £700 on these posts. Funds from Halecombe Quarry Community Fund for the second SID have been approved and should be transferred within the next few weeks. The Clerk will submit a Memorandum of Understanding and a SID locations application, updated by MC with the agreed locations, for approval by Somerset Council.

MC also provided brief updates on 20mph limit signs for the school area (action with Somerset Council Highways) and the latest SpeedWatch activity.

MC left the meeting at 19:48

11 Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted from Somerset Council**(a) 2026/0581/CLE**

Application for an existing lawful development certificate for use of extension of garden.

Acorn House, Stocks Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA3 5QF

Decision. Development is not lawful

(b) 2026/0588/FUL

Conversion of existing garage to bungalow.

Land at 368906 147131 Park Hayes, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset.

Decision. Approval.

(c) 2026/0829/REM

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

Corner Cottage, Quarry Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5QG

Decision. Approval.

(d) 2025/2072/FUL

Erection of a detached bungalow & attached garage.

Land at 369293 147420 Quarry Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Decision. Approval.

All decisions noted.

Cllr Clarke left the meeting at 19:52.

12 Finance and Annual Reporting

- (a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation at 15 Jul 2026 (Attachment 2)

Resolved. Approved.

- (b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 10 Jun 2026 to 15 Jul 2026 (Attachment 3).

Resolved. Approved.

- (c) To approve (or not) budget review at 30 Jun 2026 (Attachment 4)

Resolved. Approved. Clerk recommended that the annual budget be updated. Council resolved to do so; Clerk to submit updated budget for review and approval at the September council meeting.

13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

- (a) Discussions were held to garner the experiences of other clerks in replacing fingerposts and a quote has been received from their recommended contractor. See item 14(a) below.
- (b) There is a new contact at Somerset Council for the devolution of land at Park Hayes to the Parish Council. She has confirmed she is awaiting final internal approval to sign off the title of register and send a copy to the Parish Council. No timescales were available. Once that is done, equitable interest and responsibility pass to the Parish Council. Legal interest passes when the title is registered with the Land Registry.
- (c) Cllr Trundle now has access to the Unity Trust account as a signatory but is not visible to the Clerk as Admin. Discussions are being pursued with Unity Trust to resolve this and to reinstate Cllr Kirby's access.
- (d) Constructive discussions were held by Martin Carter and the Clerk with Sara Davis of Somerset Council and Vickie Watts, Administrator of the Halecombe Quarry Community Fund. Agreement has been reached on locations to site Speed Indicator Devices and funds should be released to help progress this soon.
- (e) Somerset Council have requested an update on the locations and status of grit bins in the parish. The Clerk and Cllr Kirby are producing a report to go to the council.
- (f) A message has been posted on the Parish Council Facebook page indicating it will shortly be deleted and directing people to the Leigh On Mendip group.
- (g) A follow-up email was sent to those who had indicated an interest in the councillor vacancies. There will be at least one application for cooption on the agenda of the September meeting.

14 Be Discussed / Resolved

- (a) Replacement of fingerpost at Soho junction

The Clerk advised that replacement of the fingerpost will cost around £2,500. Council resolved to defer consideration on replacement until the September meeting.

(b) Responsibilities for 2026-27

- Community Plan

Cllr Parry has reviewed. Cllr Taylor to forward action list to Cllr Parry, and copy to Clerk and Cllr Kirby. Progress to be reviewed at the next meeting with a view to signing off the Community Plan actions as complete.

- Allotments

Cllr Taylor will assume responsibility.

- School liaison

Cllr Parry will act as liaison with the school; Clerk to inform appropriate contact at the school.

(c) SIDs – Costs and Funding

Covered above.

(d) Grassland management – Park Hayes (Attachment 5)

Covered above.

(e) New cemetery

- Chrysalis Landscaping proposal

Council resolved to incorporate costs for planting and compost bin in the revised budget to be discussed at the September meeting.

- Signage

Cllr Sweet spoke on the quote for cemetery signage. Costs will be included in the revised budget. Council resolved to proceed with the signage as quoted; Clerk to issue formal instruction to the contractor.

(f) Repair of Drang wall

Cllr Kirby to discuss with the owner of the wall and consider any reference in the title of ownership of the land used for the new cemetery. Continued.

(g) Repair shop

E Kirby scheduled to speak to the organiser of the Shepton Mallet repair shop on the second Saturday in August. Continues.

(h) Confirm internal auditor for 2026-27

Council resolved to reappoint Eleanor Greene of Do the Numbers Ltd. as internal auditor for 2026-27. Clerk to confirm with Ms Greene.

(i) Publication of councillors' home addresses – Register of Members Interests forms

Council resolved that councillors' home addresses should not be published as part of the Register of Members Interests forms on the Somerset Council website. Clerk to inform Somerset Council.

15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.

Cemetery rules and charges.

16 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 21st September, 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.