LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 21st September, 2026

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

Attending: Barry Clarke (Somerset Council); Tom Kemp (Tree and Biodiversity Adviser); Martin Carter (SpeedWatch Team Lead); Sue Dunford (candidate for cooption)

1 Welcome by the Chair
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Sweet (Parish Council) and Cllr Philip Ham (Somerset Council).

3 Absent
None.

4 Cooption of Councillor
Cllr Taylor proposed the cooption of Sue Dunford to the council; Cllr Trundle seconded. Council voted unanimously to coopt Ms Dunford. She signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting as a councillor.

5 (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.

6 Public Session
Several points were raised during the public session:
- Concern was expressed about the danger to children playing in Park Hayes and Bellfield. Council resolved to put appropriate signage to alert drivers to the presence of children playing. M Carter will investigate signage from the supplier previously used for Speed Watch signs and send a recommendation to the Clerk for procurement.
- A serious pothole on Pitten Street near Stocks Lane was mentioned. Somerset Council erroneously reported this as fixed, apparently confusing it with another nearby. M Carter will send details to the Clerk who will raise as an issue on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Somerset Council are replacing wig-wags at schools; see also 14(f) below.
- The Road Safety Unit has been recording traffic in the village. The maximum speed detected was 46mph.

7 County Councillor Reports
Cllr Clarke had previously provided a news sheet, circulated to councillors. Several additional points were made:
- The financial situation at Somerset Council remains perilous.
- Cllr Clarke recommended that councillors familiarise themselves with the new planning rules coming into place.
- Cllr Clarke should be informed if there are any issues with planning enforcement

- Money is available from Somerset Council under its warm spaces initiative to help householders in need with heating costs.

M Carter left the meeting at 19:30.

8 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

A draft note to residents of Park Hayes about the devolution of land there to the Parish Council was briefly discussed. Council approved the distribution of the note, with minor adjustments, along with a diagram of a proposed biodiversity scheme, once transfer of the land has taken effect.

T Kemp left the meeting at 19:41.

9 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 20th July, 2026, previously circulated (Attachment 1).

Resolved. Confirmed.

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

None.

11 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.

Cllr Clarke left the meeting at 19:44.

12 Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted from Somerset Council

(a) 2026/1195/FUL

Erection of a dwelling on land previously permitted for stables – Land Coordinates 368037 146941

Hornbeam Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

Decision. Application refused.

13 Finance and Annual Reporting

(a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation at 16 Sep 2026 (Attachment 2)
Resolved. Approved.

(b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 15 Jul 2026 to 16 Sep 2026 (Attachment 3)
Resolved. Approved.

(c) To approve (or not) revised annual budget (Attachment 4)
Resolved. Approved.

(d) To approve (or not) increase in Clerk's salary of 3.9% as defined in the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2026/27, backdated to April 2026.
Resolved. Approved.

14 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

(a) The second half of the precept for 2026/27 has been received from Somerset Council.

(b) The council's registration with the Information Commissioner's Office has been renewed.

(c) Funds from the Halecombe Quarry Community Fund for the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device have been received. Chapter 8 training has been completed and the installations of two posts to hold the devices have been ordered from Somerset Council. The second SID will

be procured when the date of post installation is known. A Memorandum of Understanding is also with Somerset Council for signature.

(d) Somerset Council have advised that the transfer of land at Park Hayes to the Parish Council should be completed in the week ending 25th September.
(e) The council's details with the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments have been updated prior to the introduction of online submission of the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return).
(f) Somerset Council are conducting a review/upgrade of wig-wags (flashing warning lights at schools) following a necessary move to a new support contractor. They have confirmed to the Clerk that two devices at Leigh On Mendip School will be included in the upgrade.
(g) Signage for the new cemetery was ordered and has been put in place.
(h) The Parish Council Facebook page has been deleted. Publishing on Facebook will now be done exclusively on the Leigh On Mendip group.
(i) The secretary of Leigh On Mendip School has been informed that the point of contact for liaison with the Parish Council is now Cllr Parry.
It was pointed out that the school is looking for new governors.
(j) Following a request from Somerset Council, a report on grit bins in the parish has been completed by Cllr Kirby and the Clerk and submitted to the Highways Department. It highlighted several errors in Somerset Council's records.
(k) The Clerk has confirmed with the appointed internal auditor, Eleanor Greene of Do the Numbers Ltd., that the audit for 2026/27 will be carried out on 12th April, 2027.
(l) There will be an interment of ashes in the burial ground in October.
(m) Several road closure notices from Somerset Council were published on the website.

15 Be Discussed / Resolved

(a) Replacement of fingerpost at Soho junction.
Council resolved that this will not be progressed for the foreseeable future.
(b) Raised memorial on ashes plot in the burial ground.
Council resolved to grant a dispensation to the owner of plot 25 to have a slightly raised memorial. Clerk to inform the owner. The same dispensation will be granted, if desired, to owners of subsequent plots in that small, discrete part of the burial ground.
(c) Cemetery fees, rules and forms (Attachments 5 to 9).
Council resolved to approve the updated burial ground documents; Clerk to publish on the website.
(d) Work on hedge opposite Island Cottage.
Council resolved to make a gesture of thanks to those involved in resolving this specific, significant issue. Cllr Kirby will discuss with those involved.
(e) Community Plan.
Actions remaining against the plan were reviewed by Cllr Parry. Council resolved that all actions have been completed so far as possible and that the Community Plan can be considered closed. A new plan will be considered in the future.
(f) New cemetery.
New signage in place. Continued to next meeting on Cllr Sweet's return.
(g) Repair of Drang wall.
Continued. Cllr Kirby to discuss with the owner.
(h) Repair shop.
Council thanked E Kirby for her efforts in developing a repair shop, but resolved that there

does not seem to be the appetite for one specific to Leigh On Mendip and so the initiative will not be continued.

21/26-27

(i) Aircraft noise.
Councillors had not noticed noise of aircraft circulating above the village and had not received general complaints from multiple residents. The situation on aircraft noise will be monitored.

(j) Note to residents of Park Hayes (Attachment 10).
Covered under item 8 above.

(k) Somerset Heritage at Risk Register.
Councillors noted a number of listed buildings in the village but did not feel that any at risk. The existing, single entry of a Leigh On Mendip property (Rookery Farmhouse) seems to have been renovated. Clerk to recommend to Somerset Council that they verify. Clerk to forward email on register to Parochial Church Council.

(l) Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.
Council noted areas in Leigh On Mendip parish involved in the initial availability assessment and will monitor any planning implications.

16 Matters to report / items for next agenda.
Budget including precept for 2027-28.

17 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 19th October, 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.