LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 19th October, 2026

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

Attending: Barry Clarke (Somerset Council); Tom Kemp (Tree and Biodiversity Adviser); 3 members of the public

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

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
(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 Sue Dunford has requested a dispensation in relation to Leigh On Mendip Allotments until October 2030.
(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.
Council resolved to grant the request from Cllr Dunford for a dispensation in relation to Leigh On Mendip Allotments until October 2030.

5 Public Session
Three members of the public wished to speak to **Item 14(d)**, therefore it was brought forward to this point. They cited: incidents of serious accidents involving cars, horses and riders; the need for control of car speeds between Soho and Coleford (and other locations); inadequate responses and lack of action from official channels. Actions arising were:
- Cllr Kirby to speak to the SpeedWatch team lead about the possibility of monitoring speeds including the trial of a Speed Indicator Device,
- Clerk to put the PCSO for the village in contact with the lead member of the public,
- Clerk to speak to Traffic Management at Somerset Council to see if anything can be done.
The members of the public left the meeting at 19:15.
One other issue of speeding resulting in a serious accident at the west end of the village was raised. Cllr Kirby to write to the concerned parishioner on behalf of the Parish Council.

6 County Councillor Reports
Cllr Clarke had submitted a news sheet for October and followed it up with several comments:
- Changes to parking charges have been deferred to 2027,
- Somerset Council is struggling to keep up with a high planning enforcement workload; an additional enforcement officer has been appointed to help,
- The number of working days lost to illness at Somerset Council is running at twice the national average.

7 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

Item **14(a)** was brought forward to this point and discussed along with the meadow areas under the biodiversity scheme in the churchyard. Salient points/actions were:

- a parcel of work has been quoted for by the contractor to catch up with the trimming of the meadow areas in the churchyard; council resolved to approve this, Clerk to liaise with the contractor,
- the note to residents of Park Hayes adjoining the area now owned by the Parish Council (see Item 13(a) below) will be revised by TK and the Clerk for issue to residents,
- TK will also update the biodiversity plan sheet to exclude minor areas not owned by the Parish Council; this will be distributed with the note to residents,
- a new tender document will be drafted for the 2027 season defining the maintenance scheme incorporating current areas as well as those at Park Hayes, and specifying the maintenance of the biodiversity plans withing the scheme; Clerk to liaise with TK on this, and to contact Somerset Council, other clerks and SALC to source a model ground maintenance contract and develop the same for the purposes of Leigh On Mendip,
- a quote will be sought for basic ground maintenance of the Park Hayes areas for the remainder of this season.

8 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 21st September, 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) 2026/1733/CLE

Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Development to confirm that works granted consent on 2023/1477/HSE have commenced within the time limit set and can be lawfully completed.
15 Apple Meadow View, Park Hayes, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA3 5GP
Decision. Development is lawful.

12 Finance and Annual Reporting

(a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation at 14 Oct 2026 (Attachment 2)
Resolved. Approved.

(b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 16 Sep 2026 to 14 Oct 2026 (Attachment 3)
Resolved. Approved.

(c) To approve (or not) the budget review at 30 Sep 2026 (Attachment 4)
Resolved. Approved.

13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

(a) The signed and sealed TR1 form relating to the transfer of land south of Park Hayes to the Parish Council from Somerset Council has been received. The land now belongs to the Parish Council. The next step will be to register the transfer with the Land Registry.
- Given the complexity of the appropriate form, AP1, to be completed and submitted to the Land Registry along with TR1, Cllr Taylor and the Clerk are to approach contacts to clarify the cost of formal legal assistance with this part of the process.

(b) The updated documentation for the burial ground has been published on the website: Price List; Rules and Regulations; application forms for Exclusive Rights of Burial, Interment and to Introduce a Memorial.

(c) The revised budget for 2026-27 has also been published.

a. Several road closure notices from Somerset Council are now on the website and the village Facebook page.

(d) A number of road safety signs alerting drivers to children playing have been procured, and installed at Park Hayes and Bellfield by Martin Carter.
- The Parish Council wishes to record its thanks to Martin Carter for his efforts in the procurement and installation of the road safety signs.

(e) A full submission has been made to Unity Trust Bank to reinstate Cllr Kirby as an approved signatory with view/approve rights.

(f) Following a complaint about recent blasting at Halecombe Quarry, an offer has been repeated to the quarry manager to post alerts on the village website and Facebook.

14 Be Discussed / Resolved

(a) Land at Park Hayes
Covered under Item 7 above.

(b) New cemetery.
TK will commence preparation for planting and installation of a compost bin.

(c) Repair of Drang wall.
Ownership of the wall is unclear; Cllr Kirby to approach C Cudmore, Foot Path Liaison Officer, to see if clarity on this can be obtained from Somerset Council since the wall is the boundary of a public footpath.

(d) Speeding – Leigh On Mendip and Soho/Coleford.
Covered under Item 5 above.

(e) Rec Field neighbours – letters of easement
Clerk to produce letters of easement for distribution by Cllr Taylor; Cllr Taylor to clarify the number of letters required.

(f) Budget and precept for 2027-28.
Councillors were encouraged to consider budget items and the level of precept for the financial year 2027-28, and to liaise with other parish organisations for that purpose, with a view to finalising a budget by the December meeting (bearing in mind the precept request will be required by Somerset Council before the end of January, 2027).

15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.
Budget/precept.
Cllr Kirby offered apologies – he will be unavailable for the November meeting.
The meeting ended at 20:18.

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