# LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs Sue Dunford, Allison Parry, Sue Sweet, Vicki Taylor, Vicki Trundle

Attending: Cllr Barry Clarke (Somerset Council)

1 **Welcome by the Chair**
With Cllr Kirby's absent, council had to appoint a Chair for the meeting. Cllr Taylor volunteered to chair and council resolved unanimously that she should do so.
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 **Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Iain Kirby (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.
Cllr Sue Dunford has an approved request for dispensation in relation to Leigh On Mendip Allotments until October 2030.
**(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**
None.

5 **Public Session**
There were no members of the public present.

6 **County Councillor Reports**
Cllr Clarke has submitted a news sheet for November and followed it up with several comments:
- The financial pressures on Somerset Council remain severe
- It is recommended that parish councillors make sure they are aware of the new planning rules
- As announced elsewhere, council tax payers with properties in band A to D will receive a £100 refund from Somerset Council, funded by central government
- Grants of up to £10k are available for local nature recovery projects; details on the Somerset Council website
- Somerset Council recently lost a court case brought by a man who lost a council tax exemption when his benefits type, but not circumstances, changed

7 **Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer**
TK not present.

8 **To confirm the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 19th October, 2026, previously circulated (Attachment 1).**
**Resolved.** Confirmed.

9 **Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda.**
None.

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**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) 2026/1706/CLE**

Use of land as part of the domestic garden of Acorn House for purposes incidental to the residential enjoyment of the dwellinghouse.

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

**Decision.** Development is not lawful.

**(b) 2026/1195/FUL**

Erection of a dwelling on land previously permitted for stables.

1 Grove Shute Farm, Towns End Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

**Decision.** Appeal allowed.

Decisions noted.

**12 Finance and Annual Reporting**

**(a)** To approve (or not) the 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.

**13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report**

(a) Register of Members Interests forms for all councillors were updated to reflect changes to the Localism Act 2011 around the publishing of councillors' home addresses. Home addresses were redacted and replaced with an explanatory reference to the act. Copies of the updated forms were sent to Democratic Services at Somerset Council.

(b) A meeting has been organised with a solicitor to progress the registration of the recent transfer of land at the south of Park Hayes (from Somerset Council to the Parish Council) with the Land Registry.

(c) A poster for the latest round of applications to the Halecombe Quarry Community Fund (deadline 31st January 2027) was published. The fund arrangements document was made available along with the application form in Word and PDF formats.

(d) The annual easement letter for neighbours of the Recreation Field car park was produced and delivered.

(e) The Parish Council information for Village Connection was updated and will appear from the November edition.

(f) The Police Community Support officer was put in touch with residents concerned about speeding and accidents involving horses and riders between Soho and Coleford.

(g) A number of notices were published on the website and the village Facebook page including:
- several road closure notices from Somerset Council
- summary notes of the last council meeting
- a notice of blasting at Halecombe Quarry

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**14 To Be Discussed / Resolved**

**(a)** Ground maintenance – burial ground and Park Hayes
Councillors approved quotations for cutting back hedges around the burial ground and an end of season cut of the grass areas south of Park Hayes and now owned by the Parish Council. Clerk to investigate 'no parking' signs for the Park Hayes land, and to incorporate that request in a note going out to neighbours.

**(b)** New cemetery.
Continued to next meeting for an update from T Kemp on planting and a compost bin.

**(c)** Repair of Drang wall.
Continued to next meeting for update from Cllr Kirby.

**(d)** Budget and precept for 2027-28.
The Clerk asked councillors to consider inputs to the draft budget which he will produce for the next meeting. Precept will have to be agreed then.

**15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.**
New cemetery.
Budget and precept for 2027-28.
The meeting ended at 19:42.

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

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