

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 7.00 pm
Held in the Lord St Audries Room at the Victory Hall, Stogursey.

PRESENT:

Cllr Michael Brooks (Chair), Cllr Sue Goss (Vice-Chair), Cllr Chris Morgan, Cllr Chris Ford, Cllr Richard Ayres, Cllr Jen Ody, Cllr Ian Corrigan.

In attendance: Ann Corrigan (Clerk), Somerset County Councillor Hugh Davies and three members of the public.

MINUTES**7.00pm Public Forum****1. To Approve apologies for absence**

Cllr Allan Searle, Cllr Stuart Lake, Cllr Sue Jones. **Resolved** : apologies were accepted.

2. To Approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 14th July 2026

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July 2026, were proposed for approval by Cllr Ford and seconded by Cllr Morgan. The Council unanimously resolved that the Chair sign them as a true and accurate record.

3. To Receive any Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Corrigan declared an interest in matters concerning the Gravel. No other declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.

4. To receive updates from Somerset Councillors: Cllr Hugh Davies

Cllr Davies reported that Somerset Council is involved in discussions regarding the establishment of a Mayoral Strategic Authority covering Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole, Dorset, Somerset, and Wiltshire as part of future devolution arrangements. Members discussed Somerset Councillor representation at meetings concerning a period of absence due to ill health.

Cllr Goss thanked Cllr Davies for his continued support and expressed concern that he was undertaking the work of two councillors without additional payment. It was resolved that the Council will write to the Ombudsman regarding the concerns raised. Proposed by Cllr Ford, seconded by Cllr Morgan and carried unanimously.

5. To Review the Long-Term Action List Paddons Farm

The Clerk reported that several emails had been sent to the solicitors and Strongvox regarding the exchange of contracts for Paddons Farm and that confirmation of a completion date is awaited.

6. Planning Applications and Decisions – Cllr Ody

Planning amendments to application 3/32/24/025, Tanyard's Farm, Stogursey

Cllr J O invited comments on the amendments to planning application 3/32/24/025.

Members discussed concerns regarding the possible impact on Castle Street and High Street.

Cllr Ody reported that Highways are undertaking a flood-risk assessment.

Members noted concerns regarding future development potential and the possible implications of future changes to planning legislation. Cllr Ody was not currently concerned because she understood that Historic England might oppose such a development. However, changes to planning law might allow that position to be overridden.

Cllr Ody expressed disappointment that, because the proposal was an amendment to an existing application rather than a new application, there had been no opportunity for discussion. Consequently, the Council was unable to agree a response within the 14-day consultation period.

Planning (continued)

Enforcement changes – Cllr Goss

Cllr Goss reported that notifications of suspected planning breaches now require photographic evidence, with dates and times. She stressed that evidence must not be obtained by trespassing on private land.

7. Finance and administration Clerk/RFO

Members raised no questions on the financial statement and invoices circulated before the meeting. It was resolved to approve the financial statement and invoices for payment. Proposed by Cllr Ody, seconded by Cllr Ford, and carried unanimously. Payments will be made online or by debit card.

8. To receive meeting reports: Cllr C M

None given as no meetings held been held.

9. Notification of Forthcoming Meetings: Cllr C M, Cllr S G

Transport Forum - 12 November 2026, Cannington.

10. Allotments update Cllr Corrigan

Cllr Corrigan reported that the allotment tap had been decommissioned to prevent hosepipe use during drought conditions. Water remains available from the trough, with watering cans provided.

Cllr A S agreed to meet the plumber to arrange replacement of the rusty, seized tap.

It was reported that there had been instances of theft at the allotments and that the keycode has now been changed.

11. Village Maintenance – Lengthsman, BRPA, and closed churchyard Cllrs AS, IC

- a) Due to drought conditions, the Churchyard was not cut during July and August. The Council agreed an extension to both the Lengthsman and Churchyard contracts which are due to end of September. It was agreed that the grass could be cut in October and November if required.
- b) The Council discussed Ad Hoc work required in the Churchyard, to clear vegetation near the High Wall and resolved that work should proceed.

12. Village Enhancements

- a) **Review of status of installation of Electrics** on the Gravel **Cllr IC and Cllr C F**
An updated electricity supply is to be installed at the Gravel in September, replacing the existing older unit and bringing it into line with current regulations.
- b) **Update concerning Parish notice boards** installation and costings **Cllr I C**
Cllr Corrigan presented costings for four new notice boards and advised that delivery could be expected by mid-October if the order were placed promptly.
Cllr S G proposed proposing with the purchase, Cllr C F seconded. All approved it
- c) **Defibrillators** The defibrillator at Stogursey Motors has received a replacement battery, which is expected to last at least three years and a new pad for Knighton Lane has been purchased.

12. Village Enhancements continued

d) **A permanent replacement flagpole on the gravel Cllr C M**

Cllr Morgan stated that Planning permission would be required for a permanent flagpole to be erected and agreed to circulate specifications to members. It was agreed to discuss at next month's meeting.

e) **Update concerning St Andrews Wells Cllr I C**

The wells have been cleared of weeds and overhanging branches. Vegetation remains on the upper arch structure and will require removal using a cherry picker. Cllr A S agreed to arrange the work.

f) **The Pound. Cllr C F**

Cllr C F reported that:

1. The lock has been repaired and the site is secure. He has cleared some rubbish out of the Pound, although there is still some to be removed.
2. A greenhouse has been donated to the Pound and will be used to grow plants for the gravel.
3. The perimeter lights on the Gravel need replacing with new energy efficient LED lights and estimated it would require 75 metres, and cost circa £250.00.
Cllr CF proposed Cllr J Ody seconded the motion. All agreed.
4. Cllr Ford requested that the Parish Council provide a permanent shed to be erected at the Pound and water butts to be provided. Cllr Ford agreed to obtain quotes for the next meeting. He also requested a grant for £50 towards the cost of plants for the Gravel. It was resolved that the grant would be awarded.

13. **Speed Indicators and Proposed Speed Watch update Cllr M Brooks**

The Parish Council has agreed to replace the battery unit at Priory Hill with a solar panel, reducing charging time and staff hours. This will be installed as soon as possible.

During August, the following data was recorded:

Location	Inbound	Outbound	Highest recorded
Stog Tower Hill	10,642	11,659	86 mph
Stog Priory Hill	11,108	12,359	74 mph
Shurton	2,163	2,697	83 mph

Cllr Brooks reported that most vehicles were recorded travelling between 20 and 40 mph. While many drivers remain within the speed limit, a small number of excessive speeds were recorded across the parish. Cllr Brooks reported that he is exploring a Community Speed watch initiative monitor speeding through the Parish.

14. **Hinkley Point A, B.C updates, Cllr S G**

None given as no meeting held

15. **To discuss any Highways issues Cllr S G**

Another road closure on the C182 heading towards Shurton reported for the 21st of September, for a period of up to 5 days. They will be looking at ditches particularly at Myrtle Farm.

Cllr Goss also commented that work had been completed at Faringdon Hill and that the road was cleared of signs.

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16 Monthly Feedback reports and actions from Parish Road Tour Cllr CM

It was noted that:

1. Junction of Stogursey Lane and Shurton road needs white lines repainted. "Slow" has not been repainted.
2. Junction at Lime Street & High Street needs attention repainting and repair of crumbling kerbside.

17 To receive reports and discuss Public Rights of Way – Cllr R A
Cllr R Ayre agreed that he would clear the overgrowth at Steyning

18 Environment & Biodiversity Cllr Brooks

Cllr Brooks reported that he is investigating biodiversity projects that may attract grant funding. Members were advised that biodiversity schemes may also provide opportunities for businesses to support local environmental improvements through environmental credit schemes. The Community Flood Action Fund was highlighted as a potential source of support for culvert and drainage clearance projects.

18. Date of next Parish Council meeting:

Tuesday October 13th at 7pm, Victory Hall, Stogursey

There being no further business to transact the meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed by Chair Michael Brookes
Date