

**MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street on
Tuesday 8th April 2025, at 7:00 pm**

Present: Cllrs A Hargraves (Chair), A Ford, B Gudzelak, L Tully, P Hodge, C Jackson

Attending: Debbie Widdows (Parish Clerk) Cllr M Lovell (Somerset Councillor); 2 members of the public

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Nothing was raised.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Owen.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e).
(NB - this does not preclude any later declarations).

There were none.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- i. To confirm and sign minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025 (Appendix 1).

Item 10 ii (2) “...*there would be no more than 4 events per year...*” to be changed to “...*there would be no more than 4 – 6 events per year...*”

Item 10 ii (7) The action to be undertaken by TH and not LT.

Item 10 (8) was incorrect information and should be deleted.

Cllr Tony Hargraves proposed that the minutes as amended be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting which was seconded by Cllr Louise Tully.

Vote: For:4, Abstain: 2, Against: 0

Resolved. The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 25 February 2025 as amended be confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- i. **2025/0590/FUL.**

Removal of existing septic tank and replace with new sewage treatment plant and associated power supply. Thrupe Cottages, Thrupe Lane, Marbury Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

After deliberations, the Parish Council agreed that the materials being used were like for like and there was no material breaches.

Cllr Chris Jackson proposed to approve the application which was seconded by Cllr Paul Hodge.

Vote: Unanimous

Resolved. The Parish Council resolved to approve the application.

Action: Parish Clerk to notify the Planning officer.

ii. **2025/0591/HSE**

2 Storey side extension & internal alterations. Erection of new garage with annex above.
Thrupe Farm, Thrupe Lane, Masbury, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

The Parish Council discussed the application and requested the following information:

- Information on the drainage.
- Information on the energy strategy.
- Would the roof lights of the 4th bedroom windows invade other people's privacy?
- What external lighting are they thinking of using?
- What is the fire evacuation procedure of first floor annex?

Action: Parish Clerk to request the additional information from the Planning officer.

7. FINANCE

- i. To approve (or not) bank account reconciliation at 2nd Apr 25 (Appendix 2).

Resolved. Approved.

- ii. To approve (or not) receipts and payments identified in cashflow from 21 Feb 25 to 2 Apr 25 (Appendix 3).

Resolved: Approved.

- iii. To approve (or not) paid clerk hours for month of March 25.70 hours for D Widdows (Appendix 4).

Resolved: Approved.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

- i. To note Clerk's Report (Appendix 5).

The report was noted.

9. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

- i. To note report from Cllr Lovell of Somerset Council (Appendix 6).

Cllr Lovell gave his report and highlighted:

- Somerset Council has not made any changes to parking policies yet. There will be a public consultation taking each council car park into consideration.
- Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) – Somerset Council has submitted a proposal for new division boundaries, the submission places Croscome parish with Shepton Mallet West Ward. The first draft of the boundary commission will be published on 3rd

June.

- There is a mitigation procedure for the shortfall caused by children's Services at Somerset Council which they will tell the Members about at their next meeting.
- There are no updates on devolution matters

The report was noted.

10. WORKING GROUP UPDATES 40

i. Flood Group (Appendix 7)

The report had been sent to Councillors previously. He briefly went through the report and highlighted:

- a) Community Emergency Event Report (Appendix 8)
- b) Application for flood barriers

An amount of £837 needs to be raised for flood barriers. The group is fairly confident that they can raise this. Peter at the pub said he was happy to put on an event to raise money.

The awaited date for a culvert survey would be Thursday 10 April. The access chamber on the culvert is out to tender. This is likely to be approximately £20,000.

The attenuation pond is going forward.

The drains on Church street have been cleared, some by volunteers.

The provision of boulder traps was not supported by the environment agency and the group would like to follow that up with Tessa Munt.

Still awaiting a reply from Alastair Carmichael on who is responsible for improvements.

The report was noted.

Action: Clerk to follow up on tax implications of donated money.

ii. Orchard Group

a) Progress notes (Appendix 9)

The notes from the OWG meeting held on 1 April had been sent to Councillors previously and Cllr Louise Tully briefly went through what was discussed and highlighted:

1. An amount of £50 was paid into the Parish Council's bank account by a resident as sponsorship for a tree in the Orchard

Action: LT to get some more information about the payment as the Parish Clerk needs to locate this money and ensure it is itemised and ringfenced for the Orchard Group as it may have to be repaid to the resident.

2. A village market donation was made toward replacing picnic benches.
3. The OWG suggestion at the previous meeting held on 25 February of soil testing was agreed as unnecessary and would not be done.
4. The PH balance soil testing suggested in the meeting held on 25 February 2025 was found to not be necessary and would therefore not be done.

5. The Noticeboard design for the Orchard was discussed.
6. The OWG asked the school if they could use the playing field for events.
7. The water trough at the cemetery was found to be leaking. The ground around it was saturated. It was confirmed that the water supply was going to be cut off this spring. Water is needed at the cemetery and on the fields which are rented by Mr Rabbitts.

Action: TH to contact Mr Rabbitts to clarify his needs and ask Mr Cowlin to try and preserve some water for the cemetery as he is bringing in his own water supply.

8. Dinder Estates have asked for a layout of the trees and a list of the types of trees. However, they have already agreed in principle that they do not mind the OWG planting ornamental trees. The PC needs to get written permission from Dinder Estates.

Action: LT to supply them with this list.

9. No Mow May

The OWG would not mow around the area where the trees are planted.

It was proposed by Cllr Louise Tully and Seconded by Cllr Paul Hodge that the orchard not be mowed in May.

Vote: Unanimous

Resolved. The orchard not to be mowed during May.

Action: LT to contact Chris Brown and inform him that he need not Mow during the month of May.

10. Noticeboard

Cllr Tully circulated some pictures of noticeboard and the Parish Council discussed the different possibilities.

Action: BG to speak to Matt Little about building wooden noticeboards.

- iii. Play Area Group

Cllr Ben Gudzelak gave a verbal report on the play area group and reported that there was £134 left over from fund raising for the football goals. Different ideas were discussed on how to spend the money such as a solar powered stop watch, table tennis table or a shelter which could be used for village fares as well. This was going to be costed and sketches made.

11. UPDATES ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- i. Flood Group

- a) Tax implications of donated money. (Clerk)

This is still outstanding but is in progress.

- b) Submit letter to Somerset Council regarding blocked drains. (PH & Clerk).

Resolved.

- c) Somerset Rivers Authority adjudicator of Grants mentioned that Croscombe would be put forward as a demonstration and this may save money on the flood barriers. CJ to follow up with Alistair Carmichael (CJ).

This was incorrectly minuted and should be deleted and there was nothing for Cllr Chris Jackson to follow up. This related to the question which Cllr Paul Hodge asked at the meeting which Tessa Munt arranged at Yeo Valley Offices with the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs and was an action for Cllr Paul Hodge to follow up with Alistair Carmichael, mentioned above.

ii. Orchard Group

- a) The OWG does not wish to fund the survey assessment which the PCP requested, they requested the PCP to fund it instead. LT to explore less expensive orchard assessments. (LT).

Carried forward to next meeting as the OWG is still waiting to hear back.

- b) Chris Brown, (of Shepton Mallet Landscapes) has offered to deliver training to the OWG and other volunteers to enable them to carry out maintenance of the orchard. Clerk to confirm insurance (Clerk).

Carried forward to next meeting as the OWG is still waiting to hear back.

- c) Alternative pedestrian access routes to the community orchard should be explored in order to seek to obviate the need to access the orchard via Thrupe Lane. LT to speak to landowner (LT).

This was an action which TH would undertake.

- d) The OWG did not find Cllr Hargraves' report satisfactory as it contained information which was not submitted in the completed questionnaires. Cllr Hargraves to respond to the OWG feedback.

A button has been created on the website for this report and once the report has been approved by all Councillors it will be put on the website.

- e) The OWG requested CPC permission to write its own report of the results of the 2024 community orchard survey. The OWG to draft a report of the results of the 2024 orchard survey and submit it to the CPC.

12. MATTERS OF REPORT – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Date of next meeting 20 May at 7:00pm in the Church Rooms, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 6:30pm.20:47.