

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

**Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street  
on  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025, at 7:00 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs A Hargraves (Chair), A Ford, L Tully, P Hodge, C Jackson, O Baker

**Attending:** Debbie Widdows (Parish Clerk) Cllr M Lovell (Somerset Councillor)

**1. WELCOME**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE; ABSENCES**

Cllr B Gudzialek gave his apologies which were accepted by the Chair.

**3. 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.

**4. ACCESS CHAMBER PROJECT REVIEW**

Cllr Hodge presented the presentation going through the proposal, problem statement, plan, approach, risks and next steps. He highlighted:

- a) Problem statement
  - i. Blockage in the middle of the culvert where it splits into 2.
  - ii. Previously 19 houses were flooded and this had not happened before.
  - iii. Environment agency (EA) looked at it but they do not want to desilt it.
  - iv. After the culvert splits is in question as to who owns it.
  - v. The placement of the manhole cover has been agreed.
- b) Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) grant
  - i. The total cost of the project is approximately £20, 279.
  - ii. There is a provisional, variable sum in the tender (approximately £1,600) to cover licences from the EA and the design of culvert.
  - iii. The design is to be submitted to the EA to approve or not approve.
  - iv. EA does not have a preferred contractors list.
  - v. Due diligence was done. Various quotes were sourced. Tenders were sent out to contractors who had worked for the EA.
  - vi. The legal fees have to be agreed and signed before the contract with the contractor is signed.
  - vii. The next stage is to have a pre-contract discussion with the contractor.
- c) Next steps
  - i. Proceed to stage where points are agreed
  - ii. Legal agreement to sign, approval from land owner
  - iii. Clear plan and contract agreed with contractor who meets with conditions of access set out by the EA and which cannot be revoked.

**Resolved.** Cllr P Hodge proposed to proceed with the project and sign all relevant contracts, to accept the grant with 6 weeks design approval with EA and 3 week build. The contract between Croscombe Parish Council and

contractor to be sent to all councillors for perusal and updates on progress to be provided which was seconded by Cllr L Tully.

*Vote: For: 5, Against: 1*

**Resolved.** Cllr P Hodge proposed that Harris & Harris would be the preferred solicitors to draw up the agreement. Legal fees should be approximately £750, which was seconded by Cllr C Jackson.

*Vote: Unanimous*

- d) **Attenuation Pond** – Cllr Hodge brought the following matters to the Council’s attention in respect of the attenuation pond project:
- i. Flood group would raise money towards attenuation pond as a separate project.
  - ii. This is in progress. There are no grants for this.
  - iii. No SRA will buy land.

**Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 at 7:00pm in the Church Rooms.**

**CLOSE**