

The Parish Council thanks the parishioner for their questions dated 14 October 2025. The Council welcomes public engagement and aims to provide clear and transparent information regarding its operations and decisions. The following responses are provided to each point raised:

1. a) Why have minutes pre March 2024 been removed from the website? They were a valuable resource, they did not cost the council financially, but provided an excellent research facility. [Older minutes were removed from the website during updates to ensure compliance with current accessibility and data protection standards. This step was taken as part of website maintenance, not as a result of a Council decision to limit public access. A Parish Council is legally required to publish the last 12 months of minutes on the website but all approved minutes remain part of the public record and are available from the Clerk on request..](#)
  - b) Members of the public are now warned that they could be charged for copies of older minutes - however the advice to clerks is that a charge is only made for bulk copies. [There is \*\*no charge\*\* for electronic copies – a charge would only apply where bulk printed copies are requested, in line with NALC and ICO.](#)
  - c) Why has council decided to reduce transparency for the parishioners? [I can assure you that the Council have no intention of reducing transparency for our parishioners. As the Clerk, I will be ensuring that the website is compliant with the requirements under The Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and the new Assertion 10 regulation over the coming months and improving communications, via the Roundabout Magazine, Facebook, our notice boards, etc.](#)
  - d) And when, in full council, was this decision made? [The Council recognises the value of access to historic records and will consider at a future meeting whether a longer archive of past minutes can be reinstated on the website.](#)
2. Will the Parish Council join me in welcoming the siting of the new memorial bench in the Play Area section of the School Field? Please can they advise what the council process and policy is on such benches, particularly where responsibility for maintenance falls. [This is on the Agenda for discussion at the PC Meeting on 21-Oct-2025.](#)
3. a) What progress has been made since the last parish council meeting regarding the calling of an Annual Parish Meeting? Will the Parish Council be calling one? And if, so will they ensure it is advertised in Roundabout, village Facebook Groups etc. to ensure as good an attendance as possible? [The Chair's report for 2024-2025, which is usually presented at the APM is available from the Clerk and will be published on the Council's website in due course. We will confirm a date once venue availability is established. The meeting will be advertised through the Council's website, noticeboards, Roundabout magazine, and local social media groups to ensure maximum community awareness and attendance.](#)
  - b) The latest Internal Auditors Report was, until recently published on the PC website, as it should be. However this has recently been removed. Why was it removed? At which full Council meeting was this agreed? [The Internal Auditor's Report for 2024/2025 was temporarily removed from the Council's website during maintenance. The Council has not resolved to withdraw this document and remains committed to transparency in publishing its governance and financial documents. The report will be reinstated on the website in line with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and remains available on request from the Clerk.](#)

- c) Given that the internal auditors report was appalling, including several unaddressed issues from previous years internal audit reports, when will the Parish Council publish an agreed action plan to address the issues identified. The Council acknowledges that the Internal Auditor's Report identified several issues requiring attention, including some carried over from previous years. The Clerk is preparing an action plan to address all recommendations and this will be considered and adopted at a full Council meeting. Once agreed, the action plan will be published alongside the Auditor's Report on the Council's website.

- 4. Regarding the recent letter from Dinder Estates re the Orchard and permission for events, please will the Parish Council publish a timeline for this correspondence. This needs to include, but is not limited to, the following:

The following responses have been compiled by Cllr Anthony Hargraves, Chair of the Parish Council:

- a) Date of receipt from Dinder Estates – the letter signed by Dinder Estates was emailed to the Chair on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025. In its original form, unsigned and before being referred to Dinder Estates' solicitor for approval and before being shared with the Dinder Estates' trustees for their approval, was sent to the CPC Chair as a matter of courtesy but not for action (as it had not been signed), on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
- b) Date of review by Full Council - the letter was deposited with the Parish Clerk on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. There is no reason why it would be the subject of a full council review, given it was previously agreed by the CPC as a precondition for CPC approval of orchard expansion.
- c) Date of approval by council in a Full Council Meeting - the letter was deposited with the Parish Clerk on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. There is no requirement for the CPC to approve a letter sent to it.
- d) Date of signature by Chair – given Dinder Estates's delay in responding to the email sent by the Chair on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, providing the requested orchard details and seeking retrospective permission (for an orchard and fund-raising events) and to expand the orchard, and to hold further fund-raising events, the Chair subsequently signed Dinder Estates' letter on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025, ahead of Dinder Estates signature in an effort to push for progress which eventually materialised in September 2025.
- e) Date of return to Dinder Estates – the letter signed by the Chair on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2025 was despatched to Savill's premises on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- f) Date of signing by Dinder Estates – the letter signed by Savill's on behalf of Dinder Estates was dated the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025.
- g) Date received back by Crocombe Parish Council- the emailed copy of the letter signed by both parties was received on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, a hard copy was received some days later.
- h) In particular we would like to know why the 15th July minutes say no response has been received from Dinder Estates? The reason that the 15<sup>th</sup> July minutes say no response has been received, was because no further response had been received from Dinder Estates or its managing agent - since their email sent in May 2025. Despite several follow-ups chasing a response, as reported above and to the CPC, and in the written response on the CPC website, no response was received from Dinder Estates until September 2025.

## Crocombe Parish Council

 [clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk) |  [www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk) |  07734 742977


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Crocombe Parish Council reaffirms its commitment to openness, accountability, and public engagement. Questions and comments from parishioners are always welcome and help the Council to ensure that decisions and information are managed transparently and in the public interest.

Linda Roslyn

Parish Clerk to Crocombe Parish Council

 [clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)

 07734 742977

## Accounts Statement & New Invoices

Prepared by L Roslyn, Parish Clerk/RFO

Approved by Minute Ref 111<sup>(25)</sup> c at Parish Council Meeting held on **16 September 2025**

Unity Trust CURRENT A/C	
Opening Balance as at 1 April 2025	19,145.14
Less Payments	14,976.88
Plus Receipts	17,985.43
<b>Cash in Bank Balance</b>	<b>23,009.25</b>

Ref 25-	Payment Type	Payments to be Ratified <i>(made between meetings - examined, verified and certified by the RFO)</i>	Budget Section <sup>(25-26)</sup>
37	Fee	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Chrgs
38	D/D	Ionos (Sep-2025)	Website
39	D/D	Ionos (Oct-2025)	Website
<b>Payments for Ratification Total</b>			<b>26.40</b>
Ref 25-	Payment Type		
40	FPD	ICCM - Corp Subs 2025/26	Subs
41	FPD	Cllr T Hargraves - Land Registry Search - Highgate	Orchard b/f
42	FPD	L Roslyn - Travel	Office/Mtgs
43	FPD	L Roslyn - Month 07 - October	Salary
44	FPD	HMRC - PAYE-NICs Month 07 - October	Salary
<b>Total New Invoices</b>			<b>855.56</b>

<b>Reconciled Bank Balance</b>	<b>22,153.69</b>
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Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Somerset Council Report to Croscombe Parish Council meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025

### Council Transformation

Somerset Council's full draft Transformation Plan can be found [here](#).

Somerset Council has appointed Newton Consulting as a strategic partner to help deliver the Inspiring Innovation transformation programme, aimed at improving services and achieving savings. This partnership approach ensures control, value for money, and staff development, supporting the council's focus on modernising and strengthening public services in challenging financial times. Further details are available on the [Somerset Council website](#)

Many have pointed out an apparent anomaly of a Council "on its knees financially" nonetheless finding large sums (amounts "banded about" but not necessarily backed up by anything the Council has announced). Please read the details in the Plan. I am happy to follow up on any questions that you may have.

### Housing

Somerset Council will use an underspend of £3.3m in its Housing Revenue Account to buy additional council housing. This aims to provide short-term emergency accommodation and help reduce long waiting lists for social housing. Around 15 properties are expected to be purchased, with locations chosen based on demand. The move supports both immediate needs and longer-term housing sustainability, ensuring better quality and control compared to temporary placements like B&Bs.

The Council faces a reality of declining social housing, and the need for practical measures to accelerate the development of greener, affordable homes for families. Despite over 2,600 new homes built in the past year in Somerset, councillors warn that demand far exceeds supply and call on the government for urgent action to prevent more families from facing homelessness.

### Local Community Networks (LCN)

The Shepton Local Community Networks (LCN) has acquired a range of tasks and issues to address. Recent meetings have considered health networking and establishing community transport. The next meeting of the Highways Working Group will be on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

### Planning

Somerset Council is coming towards the end of a 12-week plan to address delays in processing planning applications. The measures include limiting applicant updates, reducing non-essential meetings, and prioritising site visits to streamline decision-making. The aim is to clear the backlog, improve response times, and create a sustainable service for residents and developers. Whether the plan period needs to be extended or not has not yet been announced.

The Council recognises the challenges caused by staff recruitment, system issues, and application complexity, and is committed to long-term improvements over 2025-2026 to deliver a better, more

efficient planning service.

## Economy

The Somerset Economic Prosperity Strategy 2025-2045 aims to make Somerset a leader in energy, aerospace, manufacturing, and digital sectors. Key goals include increasing skills and productivity, lifting 10,000 people out of economic inactivity, transforming deprived communities, and achieving net-zero emissions. The strategy builds on £4 billion investment in the Gravity Enterprise Zone and the £5.3 billion spending from Hinkley Point C, with plans to develop tidal energy and enhance innovation.

Somerset has an economy of around £14.1 billion and can already count strengths such as:

- £4 billion of investment in Gravity Enterprise Zone;
- £5.3 billion of local spending from construction of Hinkley Point C nuclear power station that will provide clean energy to 6 million homes;
- 80% of working age residents economically active; and
- Good connectivity with the M5 and A303, rail links and proximity to Exeter and Bristol airports.

The Strategy seeks to build on this foundation and to go much further, with goals, by 2045, to:

- Significantly increase higher-level skills, earnings and productivity
- Lift 10,000 people out of economic inactivity
- Transform deprived communities
- Support achievement of carbon neutrality and net zero targets.

Read our [Somerset Economic Prosperity Strategy 2025-2045](#)Read our [Somerset Economic Prosperity Strategy 2025-2045](#).

## Innovation

Somerset Council has received £191,370 from Innovate UK to develop Project RESCUE, which aims to use drones for environmental monitoring and disaster response. The project will explore how drones can access hard-to-reach areas, provide real-time data, and support emergency services during crises like flooding. Working with local experts Land & Minerals Consulting and Limosaero, the council will develop a business case for drone deployment in emergencies. This initiative positions Somerset as a leader in innovative aviation technology, supporting community safety, environmental resilience, and regional economic growth.

Somerset Council is expanding the use of 'Magic Notes', an AI tool that converts meeting recordings into detailed reports, following a successful pilot. The pilot with social workers showed significant time savings—up to 11 hours weekly—and faster assessment and report writing, reducing admin time by nearly half. Staff praised the tool for improving accessibility and allowing them to focus more on client contact

## Highways

A public consultation on introducing Sunday charges in Somerset Council car parks has begun and runs until 20 October. Currently, charging varies across the county's 200+ car parks, with some charging on Sundays and others not. The proposal aims to create consistency across Somerset and ensure the parking service remains fully self-funded. Public and business input is invited. Final decisions will be made after further consultation and are expected in December, with any changes implemented in 2026. [To get involved click here.](#)

## Volunteering

Charities and volunteer groups in Somerset are encouraged to apply for the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS), the highest national recognition for voluntary groups. The application period is open until December 1st. The award celebrates outstanding volunteer efforts benefiting local communities across a wide range of causes, from health and social care to arts and the environment. In the last round, 11 groups from Somerset were nominated, highlighting the county's vibrant and often unseen volunteer sector. Applications can be made through a simple process detailed on the [KAV website](#). The award helps raise awareness and provides valuable recognition for groups making a difference in Somerset

## Waste

Somerset Council reports a rise in recycling processed within the county, with 99% of plastics recycled in the UK and a 57% reduction in landfill waste. These results reflect a commitment to local sustainability and transparency. The figures coincide with Recycling Week 2025, emphasising the importance of recycling everyday items like shampoo bottles, foil, and toothpaste tubes, which are now being diverted from waste to proper reprocessing. Explore the full report via the Council's [Recycling tracker page](#).

## Environment

Somerset Council has launched a public consultation for its draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The plan aims to protect and restore wildlife and habitats across the county, guiding long-term environmental action. Residents, landowners, and businesses are encouraged to share ideas on priorities and actions to support nature recovery. The consultation runs until October 31st. Feedback will help shape the final strategy, which aims to reverse habitat decline and enhance ecosystems. Details and how to participate are available on [the Council's consultation page](#).

Somerset Council is offering £170,000 in grants to help small and medium businesses reduce energy use and carbon emissions. Grants range from £2,000 to £15,000, with match-funding required. The scheme, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Local Growth Fund, includes practical advice such as energy audits and sustainability plans through the Go Green scheme. For details on the scheme and how to apply please contact: [greenbusinesssupport@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:greenbusinesssupport@somerset.gov.uk).

## Health

At Somerset Council we are dedicated to preventing suicide and supporting mental health through open conversations and community action. Here's a closer look at one of our key initiatives: The

Orange Button Scheme and how it is working from the perspective of those volunteers involved. Recently, Somerset Council conducted a survey among Orange Button Holders to evaluate the impact of this scheme.

*What is the Orange Button Scheme?*

The Orange Button is a visible symbol—a badge—that signifies the wearer has received training and is a safe person to approach about suicide. Its purpose is to create a supportive environment by making conversations about mental health and suicide more natural in everyday settings—be it at work, in schools, or within the wider community.

*Why do we need this?*

The urgency of mental health support has never been greater. Suicide rates in England and Wales are at their highest since 1999, with reports of self-harm quadrupling since 2000. Somerset, unfortunately, has higher-than-average suicide rates, highlighting the necessity for proactive community-based initiatives like the Orange Button Scheme.

*How is it working so far?*

Many Orange Button holders reported that wearing the orange badge encouraged small but powerful actions. They influenced friends and colleagues to undertake training, initiated awareness chats without any crisis happening at the time, and created a culture of openness.

From colleges and schools to NHS services, community teams, and charities, stories from badge holders showcase the scheme's reach across everyday settings—not just paid specialists. These stories include:

- Creating safety plans with students and apprentices
- Arranging same-day support through Crisis Safe Space or Mindline
- Talking someone down from a bridge, an action that potentially saved a life
- Training builds confidence

Building on the success so far, our focus now is on expanding awareness, addressing practical barriers, and reaching more diverse groups. We believe that by working together and continuing these conversations, we can make Somerset a safer, more supportive place for everyone.

[Links](#)

**Visit - Report a Problem on the Road:** - A list of all reporting pages to do with roads, pavements, lighting:

[Report a problem on the road](#)

**Potholes and road damage** - Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users:

[Potholes, road damage and edge loss](#)



**Report a problem with a street light** - We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users:

[Report a problem with a street light](#)

**Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting** - Includes information about non-illuminated bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate or a new road sign:

[Road signs, bollards and road markings](#)

**Speed limits** - Request information about new or existing traffic calming measures:

[Speed limits](#)

**Traffic lights** - We maintain over 200 traffic light locations throughout the County:

[Traffic lights](#)

**Street and roadworks** - We maintain the roads and pavements that are managed at public expense in Somerset:

[Street and roadworks problems](#)

**Traffic - updates and roadworks follow:**

[Travel Somerset on X](#) and [Travel Somerset on Facebook](#).

**All ongoing roadworks** - available on the Somerset Council website interactive map

[Roadworks and travel information](#)

**Somerset Waste** - collection days, replacement bins or recycling bags and missed collection reporting:

[Bins, recycling and waste](#)

**Travel and Tourist Information**

[Travel Somerset - Art, Culture, Events, History & More](#)

**Sign-up for the latest climate news from across Somerset:**

[Climate newsletter sign-up](#)

**Open Somerset Council Consultations** - which anyone can complete and take part in shaping the future of Somerset

[Somerset Council - Citizen Space - Consultations](#)

**SOMERSET COUNCIL TELEPHONE NO - 0300 123 2224**

Martin Lovell

15/10/2025

## **Flood Group Report September 2025**

### **1. Culvert Access Chamber**

The project has been suspended due to the Environment Agency and the issue of eels Access is denied from the 1st of October to the 1st of June. An application has been made to the SRA to extend the grant into 2026. No news yet the legal agreement for access has been suspended.

### **2. Barriers**

The barriers were made ready in advance of a storm forecast. It's quite apparent that we need to progress the provision of a storm rain gauge. We do have a rain gauge but not the electronics to connect to alarms. Possibly consider the purchase of a ready made unit of up to £100. We would also consider a level alarm on Old St. lane,

### **3. River Survey**

A complete survey has been carried out and a report is in progress. It is planned that all riparian owners are advised of their responsibilities and any issues will be notified to them e.g. fallen wall unstable wall.

### **4. Culvert Survey**

A second survey is to be undertaken by the Environment Agency which will identify riparian owners. The owners would be advised of their responsibilities to maintain and repair the culvert as necessary. This and the results of the river survey have significant implications for liability and potential costs for owners.

### **5. Attenuation Pond**

The attenuation pond this is the subject of a request to the Council to undertake the project. There are a number of facts that are worth repeating in considering the project.

- the capacity of the culvert is estimated at 3.5 cumecs and the storm flow in 2024 are estimated at 5 cumecs. The return period is calculated at 1:5.
- No work can be justified on the culvert as the design criteria is now to meet a 1:150 year event and there are not enough houses at risk.
- Attenuation period calculation needs to be checked with trial holes and levels before proceeding.

- It is not easy to calculate the cost benefit but any help will be appreciated. Having said that the cost could be justified if we prevent one house from flooding. Given the known return period of the 2024 flood it is quite certain that there will be many homes flooded in the future. In my opinion our residents would expect the flood group to do all we can to reduce the impact of any floods. The cost of recent flooding to date is likely to exceed 1.5m pounds.
- The return of the Mill Pond will be an amazing asset as a restoration of a historical feature to help modern day issues.

Paul Hodge  
Chairman

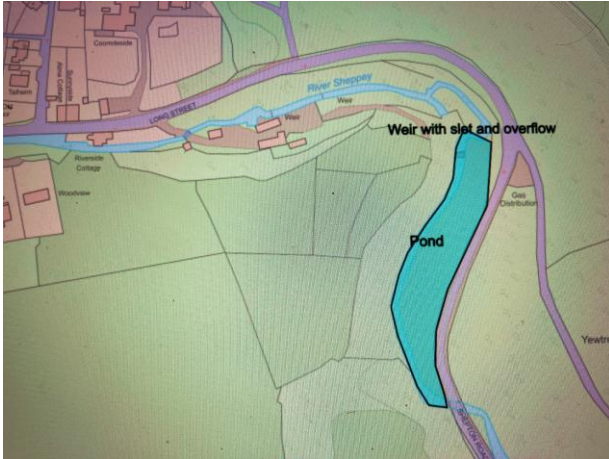
11 October 2025 .

## Crocombe Flood Group (CFG)

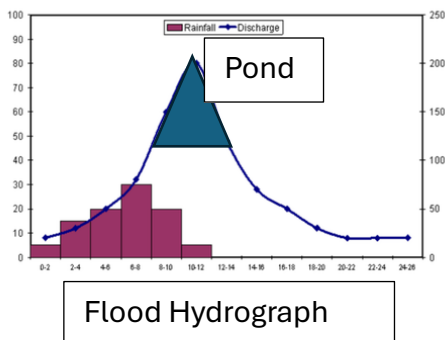
### Proposed purchase of land adjacent to the A371 bends to establish a Flood Attenuation Pond

#### The Project

The aim of the initial project is to return the area (1.1 acres) on the A371 bends to operate as a Mill Pond.



The bypass valve would be set to pass say 3.5 cumecs (a volume that can pass through the culvert) then in a flood any volume in excess of 3.5 cumecs would fill the pond. The pond may then eventually overflow. It is calculated that the pond would clip the flood hydrograph in a severe flood event (see sketch).



This would reduce the peak flood by about 40 minutes. Whilst this might not prevent all floods, it would, in conjunction with other attenuation ponds in Shepton Mallet, reduce the incidence of serious flooding in Crocombe. There would also be benefits downstream along the whole length of the River Sheppey in reducing the peak river flows.

The project involves excavating the sediment in the pond to about 1m depth. It is possible that this can be undertaken at minimum cost as the soil has a value. More problematical is the channel to the gate valve which would have to be cleared of trees and roots. The valve may be operational as it is constructed of cast iron. If not then a simple orifice or rectangular plate could be fitted in place of the valve.

Advice on the project will be sought from a local Archaeologist and Industrial Archaeological Societies.

There are environmental benefits that could be achieved from returning the mill pond into use. We could investigate the possibility of installing trout passes and eel pathways. There area could also be planted with trees to help with CO2 reduction.

There is a risk involved in the project because until the land is owned and work commences the full extent of works will not be known. There is also a liability that would have to be accepted of the weir which must be maintained in a good condition. It should be noted that this type of scheme – attenuation ponds was fully supported by Somerset Rivers Authority and the Environment Agency and is one of the best ways of reducing the impact of flooding.

### **Scheme Costs to be Determined (TBD)**

1. Land value (1.1 acres)	E£5,000 - £10,000
2. Archaeologists costs	£TBD
3. Potential replacement of cast iron valve	E£3,000
4. Excavating soil and clearing channel	£TBD
5. Value of excavated soil	-£TBD
6. Legal costs	
i. Conveyancing	£TBD
ii. Land Registry application	£TBD
7. Landscaping costs	£TBD
8. Ongoing annual(?) costs	
i. Maintenance of weir	£TBD
ii. Maintenance of pond/land	£TBD

### **Way Ahead**

It is proposed that, to protect residents and road users, that an attenuation pond is established. Funding could be sourced from local businesses such as Framptons, Brothers Cider and Bighams Foods, and via potential grants from the National Lottery, DEFRA and Countryside Stewardship. The Parish Council could also raise funds through the Precept and/or with a Public Works Loan (these would require a consultation with our electors).

At this stage we request that Croscombe Parish Council agree in principle to the Flood Group proceeding to determine the price of the land and to secure best estimates for the work to establish the attenuation ponds.

Cllr Paul Hodge  
Croscombe Parish Council/CFG Chair  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Croscombe Orchard Working Group Meeting**  
**MEETING NOTES**  
**6.00pm Monday 13 October, 2025**  
**Bramble Cottage, Croscombe**

**Attending -**

Mick Rogers  
 Mary Rogers  
 Nic McElhatton  
 Louisa McElhatton  
 Clare Watson  
 Louise Tully

**1 Next Events** - An adapted Wassail, early-mid January (date tbc), this will be a community engagement event rather than specifically aimed as a money making event. The idea is to give thanks for the harvest and prayers and a blessing for the coming harvest. It will involve (battery operated) lights for the children and candles for adults which will then be put together in a wreath (in place of a fire). Unaccompanied carol singing. There will be food and drinks available, with a donation bucket for food but drinks will be free. It will avoid the usual noisy activity associated with wassail.

**2 Fence in the Orchard** - a discussion was had around the electric fence which makes access to the Orchard area more difficult, not least for grass cutting. Our initial thought is that as the trees are protected by wire fencing they are less likely to be damaged by the sheep and so we propose that we look into the removal of the fence. **These are just initial thoughts, we need to do a little more research before we reach a final conclusion.**

**3 Tree planting area** - the OWG discussed the area proposed for further planting and have suggested that this should be the area south of the current planting. This leaves a large area to the side of the planted area, south of the current cemetery that will remain linked to the current burial area. It was confirmed that in accordance with direction from the orchard specialist at Rocky Mountain Nursery which was sought prior to any tree planting, the current trees have all been grafted onto ¾ size stock. It is proposed that this guidance is followed for further trees as the current planting spaces can be maintained to allow for a greater number of trees. (The minimum space according to the Rocky Mountain guide is 1.5metres between trees, currently the spacing is larger than the guidance minimum).

**4 List of sponsors wishing to plant a tree the Orchard -**

**REDACTED**

(aid)

(ed two trees)

(requested two trees)

Three others (names to be confirmed)

Because of the limited space, it is proposed that sponsors are only permitted one tree to allow more people to sponsor a tree.

**5 Maintenance needed imminently, request for expenditure approval.** The OWG would like to surround the base of each tree with bark chippings to slow down weed growth and help prevent water loss. We also need to spray the trees to prevent a re-occurrence of damaging beetle that appeared this summer. Approximate cost a maximum of £150. Specific figure to be confirmed.



Crocombe Parish Clerk &lt;crocombe2@gmail.com&gt;

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**Re: A memorial bench**

1 message

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**Tony Hargraves** <cllr.hargraves@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk> 5 October 2025 at 19:11

To: Crocombe Parish Clerk &lt;clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;

Cc: Ben Gudzelak &lt;cllr.gudzelak@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, Chris Jackson

&lt;cllr.jackson@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, "cllr.baker@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk"

&lt;cllr.baker@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, "cllr.hodge@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk"

&lt;cllr.hodge@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, "Ford, Annette" &lt;cllr.ford@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, Louise Tully

&lt;cllr.tully@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;

Hi Linda, do we have a map that shows where the Play Area ends and where the playing fields begin?

If the bench is on SC land, is there any requirement on us to advise SC that it is there?

My earlier question regarding the risk of liabilities still stands even if it is SC liability.

rgds

Tony

On 02/10/2025 13:05 BST Crocombe Parish Clerk <clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk> wrote:

Hi All

Looking at the photo that Paul took on Tuesday it would appear that the bench is just outside the area we leased - so it's on Somerset Council owned land!

Kind regards

Linda Roslyn (Her/She)

Parish Clerk

Crocombe Parish Council

Telephone: 07734 742977

*(Please note - I am only in the Office Tuesday and Thursday mornings and will respond as soon as I can)*

[www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)

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On Thu, 2 Oct 2025 at 10:56, Crocombe Parish Clerk <clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Tony and All

**Tony** - can you ask the parishioner to email me with their request please.

I saw this bench on my walkabout with Paul on Tuesday and I'm not sure if it is situated in the area referred to as "the playing field" on the attached Lease we had with Somerset Council for the playing field - **BEN** - can you take a look please. Paul also took some photos when we were there.

Section 6 (4) of the Lease states that the Tenant shall: *Only to permit the play equipment listed in the Schedule to be erected upon the land....*" This does not include benches.

**However - BEN** - I need to have a chat with you about the Lease for the Playing Field as it appears to have **expired on 20 October 2014!**

Kind regards



Linda Roslyn (Her/She)  
Parish Clerk  
Crocombe Parish Council  
Telephone: 07734 742977

*(Please note - I am only in the Office Tuesday and Thursday mornings and will respond as soon as I can)*

[www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)

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On Wed, 1 Oct 2025 at 11:13, Tony Hargraves <[cllr.hargraves@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.hargraves@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)> wrote:

Hi Linda, further to my email of the 29th ult, I note from Facebook that the bench has since been installed in the Play Area.

So I ask again - is there a set process for this action?

The bench is a really neat memorial as the lady was well respected and very popular, and her husband happens to be a good friend.

I have no wish to rain on this parade, but does the CPC have to do anything?

Can anyone site a bench on Council land?

Should the bench be sited on concrete to avoid it sinking in the grass?

Is the bench now the maintenance responsibility of the CPC, does it become a CPC asset, do we have to register its existence etc?

If a child climbs onto the bench and falls, are we now liable? Do we need a risk assessment?

Are there insurance issues?

Please advise.

thanks

Tony

----- Original Message -----

From: Tony Hargraves <[cllr.hargraves@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.hargraves@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>

To: Crocombe Parish Clerk <[clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>, Ben Gudzelak <[cllr.gudzelak@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.gudzelak@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>

CC: Chris Jackson <[cllr.jackson@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.jackson@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>, "cllr.baker@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk" <[cllr.baker@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.baker@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>, "cllr.hodge@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk" <[cllr.hodge@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.hodge@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>, "Ford, Annette" <[cllr.ford@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.ford@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>, Louise Tully <[cllr.tully@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.tully@crocombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>

Date: 29/09/2025 12:20 BST

Subject: A memorial bench

Greetings.

I have been approached by a parishioner who has purchased a bench to donate it in memory of his wife who died in 2023.



10/16/25, 12:11 PM

Gmail - Re: A memorial bench

He wishes to site the bench alongside the Play Area.

I propose to add it to the agenda for the next mtg.

Is there a set process for this form of installation to happen?

rgds

Tony



Crocombe Parish Clerk &lt;croscombe2@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Anti-Social Behaviour**

1 message

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**Crocombe Parish Clerk** <clerk@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk>

14 October 2025 at 10:07

To: Ben Gudzelak &lt;cllr.gudzelak@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;

Cc: Chris Jackson &lt;cllr.jackson@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, Louise Tully &lt;cllr.tully@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, Paul Hodge &lt;cllr.hodge@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, Anthony Hargraves &lt;cllr.hargraves@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, Annette Ford &lt;cllr.ford@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;, Ollie Baker &lt;cllr.baker@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk&gt;

Hi Ben

I can put this on the Agenda for our PC Meeting on 21-Oct-2025 for the Councillors:

*To consider carrying out a security review to safeguard the play area from anti-social behaviour.*

If you have any further background information on this can you please circulate it to me and all the Councillors ahead of the PCM please?

Kind regards

Linda Roslyn (Her/She)

Parish Clerk

Crocombe Parish Council

Telephone: 07734 742977

*(Please note - I am only in the Office Tuesday and Thursday mornings and will respond as soon as I can)*[www.croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk)**\*\*\*\* Please consider the environment before printing this email or any attachments \*\*\*\***

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joe McGhee** <[joemcg2@hotmail.com](mailto:joemcg2@hotmail.com)>

Date: Mon, 13 Oct 2025 at 12:35

Subject: Anti-Social Behaviour

To: Anthony Hargraves <[cllr.hargraves@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:cllr.hargraves@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>Cc: Crocombe Parish Clerk <[clerk@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@croscombeparishcouncil.co.uk)>

Hi Tony,

(...and welcome to Crocombe PC, Linda).

I'm following up the chat we had the other week. I would like Crocombe PC at its meeting next Tuesday to consider an issue with several instances of anti-social behaviour on Fayreway. I would have attended the meeting as a member of the public, but I will be in Germany for a family wedding.

I didn't get a close look at those involved but typically there were a handful of what seemed to be early teenagers - no idea whether they're from the village or further afield.

All the instances were pretty late, say 10:30 or 11:00, usually on a Friday/Saturday.

Instances include:

- Last Guy Fawkes Night, some fireworks being let off in the vicinity of the play area, including one in the grit bin at the east end of Fayreway resulting in a scorch mark which can still be seen on the underside of the lid.
- Shouting/swearing going on for a while in the play area or possibly the adjacent field.
- On one occasion, presumably as a prank, a bluetooth speaker was left outside our front door. When I responded to the doorbell, the speaker was on the ground with a racial slur (the "N" word) being repeated by someone. I managed to switch it off and went to the gate
- I could see a handful of youngsters in the field. One shouted over (relatively politely), "Can I have my speaker back". I invited him to come over and get it but he didn't take me up on it.
- The other week, shouting and loud music being played.

We, and we know other neighbours, have called the police several times. The advice has been to call 999 if this happens since it represents an ongoing incident, and not to challenge those involved.

I was told by someone at the police incident room that details have been passed on to the police station in Shepton Mallet so that they could take this into account when it comes to patrolling, which these days I presume is done in cars. If such patrolling is done I would hope that the PC could add its voice to request the police to ensure a patrol swings by the east end of Fayreway late on Friday/Saturday. The PC might also like to consider whether any security review is appropriate to safeguard the play area.

I ask that any reference to this in the minutes is kept anonymous (which should be routinely the case for members of the public, anyway, as I understand it).

Regards,

Joe

Sent from [Outlook](#)