

CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7.00pm in the Church Rooms

Those present were noted as Cllrs A Hargraves (Chair), O Baker, A Ford, P Hodge, B Gudzelak and L Tully. Also present were L Roslyn (Parish Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

157⁽²⁵⁾ Public Forum Session

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- a) The high turnover of Clerk's and Councillors during the current Chair's tenure and whether he felt it was time for him to resign. Cllr A Hargraves stated that he would reply to this at a later date. He was asked when and how he would respond and he said within the week but did not ask for their contact details to do.
- b) Request to the Clerk for a copy of the statement she read out before the meeting giving details of her resignation. The Clerk agreed to send them a copy.
- c) How are the Council showcasing the Flood Group's incredible efforts in the village? Cllr P Hodge responded and a suggestion was made by the Clerk that perhaps they could give a presentation on their work at the Annual Village (Parish) Meeting.
- d) Many of the residents gave thanks to the Clerk and expressed their disappointment that she had resigned.
- e) Why had the Council not responded to a question raised 3 months ago? The Council is supposed to be a democratic body acting in the interests of the whole community?

158⁽²⁵⁾ Apologies and Reasons for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr C Jackson (standing).

159⁽²⁵⁾ Declarations of any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests from members regarding matters on the agenda.

No declarations of interest were received from members regarding matters on the agenda.

160⁽²⁵⁾ Minutes for Approval

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (PCM) held on 20 January 2026 and they were duly signed by the Chair.

161⁽²⁵⁾ Finance

- a) It was resolved to approve expenditure up to £120.00 for timber and postcrete for the installation of the noticeboard at the Orchard (budget section Orchard B/F).
- b) It was resolved to approve the February Monthly Accounts and Budget Statement and new invoices totalling £213.44 were authorised for online payment.

162⁽²⁵⁾ Personnel Group

It was resolved to approve the appointment of Cllrs A Hargraves, P Hodge and O Baker to work alongside the Clerk's Line Manager, Cllr L Tully, to handle personnel matters relating to the Clerk.

163⁽²⁵⁾ Planning/Enforcement

No planning matters were raised and the Clerk advised on the Enforcement Notice for Land at Thrupe Lane.

164⁽²⁵⁾ Working Group Updates

a) Crosccombe Flood Group (CFG)

Cllr P Hodge's update report was noted and he gave details on the proposed installation of the Council's rain gauge, river survey and culvert route and he has delivered 25 letters and leaflets to riparian owners living along the River Sheppey. He had submitted the Council's comments to Somerset Council's Section 19 Investigation of the January 2024 flood event. He also advised that his update reports are submitted to the Roundabout Magazine whenever the CFG have something new to report.

b) Orchard Working Group (OWG)

- i) Cllr L Tully's update report was noted and it was **resolved to agree in principle** to the suggested activities proposed for 2026.
- ii) It was **resolved to approve** the donation of a bench and table purchased from Tincknells with funds raised at the Ceilidh in Dec-2025, to be installed at the Orchard and to place them on the Council's Asset Register to clarify responsibility for them.

c) Play Area Group (PAWG) – no update report was received from Cllr B Gudzelak.

165⁽²⁵⁾ Crosccombe Burial Ground Field Rental

Cllr L Tully reported that she would continue trying to make contact with the current licensee to talk about installing an electric fencing whilst his sheep are in the field.

166⁽²⁵⁾ Ramblers 2026 Project

It was **resolved to appoint** Cllr C Jackson to coordinate the identification of unrecorded rights of way in Crosccombe for possible inclusion in the Definitive Map and Cllr P Hodge **agreed** to assist.

167⁽²⁵⁾ Somerset Council Report

No update report was received from Cllr M.

168⁽²⁵⁾ Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted and forms part of these minutes.

169⁽²⁵⁾ Annual Village Meeting 2026 (formerly referred to as the Annual Parish Meeting)

It was **resolved** to host this meeting in the Skittle Alley at the George Inn and Cllr O Baker **agreed** to check availability on 21 April 2026 and to help coordinate the event with the Clerk.

170⁽²⁵⁾ Date and Venue of Parish Council Meetings

The date of the next PCM was **noted** as Tuesday 3 March 2026 in the Church Rooms.

171⁽²⁵⁾ CONFIDENTIAL - Personnel Matter

This item was withdrawn as the request from the Clerk had been superseded by her resignation on 1-Feb-2026. The Clerk advised members that whilst they could stay and informally discuss this now that the meeting had ended, they could not make any resolutions and that the Chair would need to call an Extraordinary PCM if they wished to consider the matter of the Clerk's resignation before the next scheduled PCM on 4 March 2026.

Approved by the Chair of the meeting Date.....