

CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Friday 20th February 2026 at 6pm in the Church Rooms.

Present: Councillors A Hargraves (Chair), O Baker and A Ford.

Locum Clerk: T. Jay

172/25 Public Forum Session

A parishioner spoke about the parking problems at the Orchard. It was agreed that there will be an agenda item for the April Parish Council meeting, 'To consider parking issues at the Orchard'.

A parishioner spoke about car parking on the verges near the Thrupe Lane exit from the Strawberry Line. The Locum Clerk asked that a Councillor send him details of the precise location and the nature of the problem, preferably with some photographs, and he will report these matters to Somerset Council Highways Department.

173/25 To receive and approve apologies and reasons for absence.

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors B Gudzelak, C Jackson and P Hodge and L Tully.

174/25 To receive declarations of any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests from members regarding matters on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

175/25 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2026.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

176/25 To approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 20th February 2026.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

177/25 To note the date of the Annual Village Meeting to be held on 14th April 2026.

The date of the Annual Village Meeting was noted. It was agreed that the agenda for this meeting will include:

- Chairman's Report.
- Locum Clerk's Financial Report.
- Working Group Reports.
- Presentations from Local Community Groups.

178/25 To note the parishioners have called an additional Annual Village Meeting to be held on 15th March 2026.

The Councillors noted that the agenda for this meeting has been published, with

the title of Croscombe Resident’s Meeting, therefore this will be a meeting with no legal standing.

179/25 To consider the procedure for the appointment of a new Parish Clerk, including the hours of work, salary to be offered and job description.

It was resolved that the Staffing Committee will meet informally as soon as possible to consider the recruitment package for a new Parish Clerk. Their agreed findings will then be forwarded to all Councillors for their agreement. If any Councillor does not agree, then an Extraordinary Parish Council meeting will be called.

The position will be advertised on the websites of Somerset Association of Local Councils, Avon Local Councils Association and Wiltshire Association of Local Councils.

180/25 To consider the renewal of the Cemetery field lease for animal grazing.

This item will be adjourned to the April Parish Council meeting for further enquiries to be made.

181/25 To receive an update on the Cemetery from Councillor A Ford.

Soil and stones removed from graves is being deposited at the Cemetery and is becoming an eyesore. Enquiries will be made with local farmers and landowners to find out if any of them would be prepared to take the soil and stones. Transportation would then be arranged.

It was agreed that flower seeds should be sown on bare pieces of soil.

182/25 To receive an update on the purchase of new noticeboards from Councillor Gudzelak.

Two notice boards have been purchased and delivered. They will be installed when there is a good spell of weather.

183/25 To receive and note Somerset Councillor Lovell’s update report.

184/25 To approve the following payments

Payee	Detail	Amount
Linda Roslyn	Clerk’s salary	£276.74
HMRC	PAYE	£61.20

It was resolved to approve the payments.

185/25 To note any planning or enforcement matters.

There were no matters to report.

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

186/25 To receive Working Group Updates

a) Crocombe Flood Group

Councillor P Hodge had provided the following report prior to the meeting.

The Group last met on the 27th of January.

1. Rain Gauge

A residents storm rain gauge Storm rain gauge is currently being used via an app. A Council Rain gauge is to be installed in the coming months. Contact has been made with North Wooton who are getting a gauge for the Environment Agency.

2. Culvert Access Chamber

The legal agreement to allow access to the chamber is in progress for 2026. The Solicitor is making the access arrangements and registering the property concerned.

3. Culvert Responsibility

The Environment Agency have advised that a second survey is to be undertaken to determine the route of the culvert and so identifying the riparian owners. The survey should be completed this summer. No date yet.

4. River Survey

Riparian owners of the culvert will be advised of their responsibilities when the route of the culvert has been determined.

5 Attenuation Ponds

No reply has been received from the letter sent to owner of land adjacent to the A371 offering to buy the land. There are no grants available for the purchase of land so we will need to fund raise.

5. SCC Flood Report of January 2024

The final report has not been released.

b) Orchard Working Group

No update was given to the meeting.

c) Play Area Working Group

No update was given to the meeting.

187/25 To note the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Tuesday 7th April 2026 in the Church Rooms.

The date of the meeting was noted. The Locum Clerk said that he would not be

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available to attend the scheduled council meeting on Tuesday 2nd June, if his services are still being required by the council at that time. It was agreed that if a new Parish Clerk has not been appointed by that time, then the meeting would be moved to Monday 1st June to allow the Locum Clerk to attend.

188/25 The Council is recommended to resolve that members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item by reason of the confidential nature of the items of business to be transacted, in accordance with section 1(2) of the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960.

No members of the public were present at this point of the meeting.

189/25 To receive a report on the exit interview conducted with the former Parish Clerk.

The content of the exit interview was noted. The Councillors present raised concerns raised about the questions that the former clerk was asked were leading, generic and not all specific to the role of parish clerk. The recording of the interview has been deleted, and so the accuracy of the notes cannot be verified.

End of minutes.

DRAFT