

# Croscombe Annual Parish Meeting

Held in Croscombe Village Hall

20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm

## Minutes

In attendance:

Parish Council Chairman

Locum Parish Council Clerk

Approximately 100 parishioners including Parish Councillors.

### 1. Chairman's welcome to the meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Chairman's report

This is attached as Appendix One.

### 3. Locum Clerk's Financial Report

This is attached as Appendix Two

The Locum Parish Clerk answered questions from parishioners.

### 4. Working Group Reports

The Flood Working Group report is attached as Appendix Three.

The Orchard Working Group report is attached as Appendix Four.

The Play Area Working Group report is attached as Appendix Five.

The Emergency Plan Working Group report is attached as Appendix Six.

### 5. Presentations from Local Groups

Highways – Claire Sully

Claire is a resident and a Somerset Councillor. Claire shared the successes she has achieved in her council division. She liaised with the Police, Somerset Council highways department and the local community where there is a lot of knowledge. People wanted solutions immediately, but solutions are the last stage of the process. Firstly, you need to gather evidence. Photographs and recordings were taken of speeding vehicles. The perception had been that the A361 was a dangerous road, but the evidence showed that it was not. People perceived that vehicles were speeding when they were not. Claire gathered evidence from residents to show the effect of traffic on them. Then she worked with the Police and Highways to find

solutions, which included a change of speed limit to 20 mph. Claire emphasised that everything thing has to be led by Somerset Council and be evidence led. You need to find partners, and push with one voice.

#### The Frolics – Howard Steep

Croscombe and Dinder Frolics have been going for well over 50 years. They have ended up doing rather less than they used to do. They used to have a village pantomime involving youngsters, but this year they did not have a director, musical director or props team so they held a murder mystery event instead. This was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended. They hope to hold a review in October, and maybe next year revive the pantomime. Donations have been given locally this year, and these were detailed. Volunteers are required to assist with the pantomime.

#### Film Night – Mike Dowall

This was started in 2007 to raise funds for the village hall. Originally a company provided the films and equipment to screen them, but they made a charge so in 2018 the village hall committee took over the organising of events themselves. There was a break through covid. They screen films most months apart from July and December on the second Monday of the month. Since 2018 they have raised £7,000 for village hall funds. Residents are invited to go on the mailing list for information about events.

Thanks were given to everyone who supports the film screening. Everyone is always welcome.

#### OAP and Children's Fund – Ian Baker

This is a fantastic group of people who organise events. Every year they organise a day out in Weymouth in early August, an OAP dinner in December, a fun day in July, a harvest festival in the George Inn including a charity auction in October. We will be again helping to fund a Father Christmas this year.

#### Village Hall – Pauline ???

The committee consists of 7 local volunteer trustees who represent village organisations and the Parish Council. Catherine is the bookings secretary and holds everything together. The committee meets roughly every 6 weeks, and the AGM will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> September, and everyone is invited to attend. The main role is to manage the hall, ensuring accessibility and affordability for the whole community. A community consultation was held, and many people wanted the hall to be warmer. The doors and windows have been improved, which has made a huge difference. The Parish Council donated £3,000 for which they are very grateful. The Somerset Community Foundation donated £12,000. New cutlery and glasses have been purchased. We are looking to install solar panels, and a donation of £19,856 from the National Lottery has been received along with a £3,000 donation from a local organisation who wish to remain anonymous.

Apart from the larger projects there is ongoing maintenance. A team of 3 volunteers - Mike, Nicky and Ian – do this work. If we had to pay for that we would really struggle. Fund raising events will be held. Regular coffee mornings are held for people to meet and have a chat. Local people give cakes and produce. Coffee and cake cost a pound, which is affordable. A lot of other projects are planned. We are always looking for volunteers. Please speak to a committee member of come to the AGM.

6. Public Question and Answer Session – Councillor Baker chaired this session.

The following questions were asked which are summarised as follows:

- i) The new access to the Strawberry Line has caused traffic problems with speeding vehicles, and new signs are required. What are the Parish Council going to do about this?

The Locum Clerk replied that requests can be made for Somerset Council for new signs, but they need to be on an approved list. If a resident would like to suggest new signs, then they can ask one of the Parish Councillors to request that this is included on a future agenda. The Parish Council would have to pay for the signs.

- ii) Why does my council tax bill include a 15% increase paid to the Parish Council when they are holding a lot of money in reserves?

The Locum Clerk had covered this in his report. He explained that every council should hold between 50% and 100% of the precept in reserves. The internal auditor is satisfied that the level of reserves is appropriate.

- iii) Can we have an update on the traffic working group. There has been a fatal accident, and there are high levels of speeding. I would expect this to be high on the list of Parish Council priorities.

The Chairman said that there had been several requests for the traffic working group to be re-established. There was a group which should be restarted. Volunteers are requested to sit on the group, and ideas are welcomed on what the group is expected to achieve. A speed watch group was disbanded because of lack of volunteers. The Locum Clerk said that permanent SIDs could be installed at each end of the village.

A discussion took place about traffic-related problems, including large lorries travelling through the village appearing to travel very fast. The Locum Clerk said that an A trunk road will always have lorries.

- iv) At the parish council meeting on the 15th of July 2025 the chair of the parish council Tony Hargraves stated that he had not had written permission from Dinder Estates for the enlargement of the community orchard and for events to be held there. He received a letter from Dinder Estates dated the 27th of May 2025 confirming they were happy for the

orchard to be planted with more trees and for events to be held there but he only signed this letter on the 6th of July 2025. I would like to ask why he did not inform the parish council of this on the 15th of July 2025 as there was no parish council meeting in August 2025. This meant there were no events held at the orchard last summer depriving the many villagers and their families of the delight of enjoying the Orchard and its beautiful surroundings. In addition, I would like to ask Tony Hargraves why he told Poppy Martin who manages the Dinder Estates for Savilles not to speak to anyone from the Orchard working group throughout the summer as this I feel is not part of his remit.

The Chairman said that he reported at that meeting that he had not received written permission from Dinder Estates. The letter had been a draft from Poppy Martin containing a suggestion which was that she would talk to the Dinder Estates solicitors, then she would talk to the trustees and if they were happy then both Poppy and he would sign the agreement.

The Chairman confirmed that he said at the meeting that he had not received written permission from Dinder Estates which was correct.

Councillor Tully said that she had not received all documentation from the Chairman, and he said that this would have been held by the Parish Clerk who would have provided it if asked. The Chairman confirmed that he signed the letter on 25<sup>th</sup> September which was when Poppy Martin signed it.

The Locum Clerk said that a complaint regarding this had been dealt with by the Somerset Council Monitoring Officer, and the Chairman was cleared. The Monitoring Officer had said that as this matter is closed then this should not be discussed, however if the Chairman agrees to it being discussed it is his decision.

A discussion continued for more than 25 minutes and is too long to be minuted in detail. At one point the meeting became a heated discussion between parishioners. The discussion included councillor WhatsApp groups, Freedom of Information Requests, Internal Auditor Reports, the responsibilities and roles of Chairman, Councillors and the Parish Clerk, the performance of previous Clerks and documents posted on the council website. Many questions were asked and replies were given.

- v) Can the Parish Council introduce a bio-diversity policy.

The Chairman said that the Parish Council will introduce this policy.

- vi) Can the Parish Council consider a village transport scheme to drive the disabled and elderly?

The chairman said that seven months ago he put a post on Facebook asking if there was any interest in a Community Car Scheme which would

be run by the Somerset Council Local Council network. He received no replies showing interest, so this has not been taken any further.

- vii) Why is the Parish Council mailing list not being used? Can the council be more proactive with communication?

A discussion took place about the Parish Council lines of communication and website.

- viii) What has happened to the cemetery gates and are there any plans to replace them?

The gates were removed as they were unsafe and were banging into cars. The replacement of the gates will be considered by the council

A parishioner said that all Councillors should resign and that there should be an election. The Locum Clerk said that the next election would be held in May 2027.

Another parishioner thanks all Councillors, past and present, for the work they have done. They are volunteers and they do their best. They deserve a vote of thanks.

#### Appendix One – Chairman's Report

Welcome to this our Annual Parish Meeting for 2026 – not to be confused with our Annual Parish Council Meeting (which is next month) and last month's Residents Meeting that was independently called by a small group of 13 villagers. My name is Tony Hargraves and I am your Chair of the Croscombe Parish Council. Alongside me is Tony Jay, our locum parish clerk.

Safety Announcement: Please note the position of the Fire doors. In the event of a fire or the alarm sounding, please Exit the building and gather in the car park.

Let me first walk through the agenda. I will kick things off with the Chair's report, and Tony Jay will then present our finances. Cllr Hodge will then introduce the Group presentations and Cllr Baker will end the meeting overseeing the Q&A.

Thank you for this opportunity to deliver this the Chair's report for 2026. This meeting is supposed to celebrate our village, but as so many disparaging and insulting comments have been uttered in recent months and so much effort has been expended recovering the community orchard situation, please allow me this opportunity to respond. I ask that you please defer any questions to the end.

So! Another year has passed and progress has been made, but we still have issues from previous years:

The devolution of services from Somerset Council – how will it affect small parishes, are we any wiser? It looks like Somerset Council is turning the corner, and certainly from the perspective of a small parish - I believe that the risk that we must deliver

services ourselves has significantly reduced, and our proposal to use local Town Council services remains for consideration.

The risk of flooding - I have no wish to tempt fate but thanks to the weather and the excellent work undertaken by our Flood Working Group we are in a far better place – but I will leave that to Cllr Hodge to brief you later in this session.

The Community Orchard – Cllr Tully will shortly update you on the activities of the year and what is proposed. Considerable work was required to recover the position with Dinder Estates, but we eventually secured the required written permission that made our community orchard 'legal' and the orchard events insurable. This has enabled us to lift the ban on orchard events. One of the questions in the Q&A session later concerns this topic, so more about this later.

Concerns about traffic through the village persist, both in terms of speed and their size of vehicles. The recent fatality on the edge of the village is a sad reminder of the risks, even on our doorsteps. I understand that some parishioners want your Parish Council to re-establish the Traffic Working Group: this will be discussed in a forthcoming parish council meeting. I ask that we consider what we want a Traffic Working Group to achieve and how we will know it has been achieved.

Whilst many believe that traffic regularly speeds through our village, the data that has been provided from the Speed Indicator and from the Somerset Council's Highways department depicts a different story. I await an update from the Highways team with the latest data and will share that accordingly. I welcome any input from parishioners regarding views and what can be achieved by a Traffic Working Group.

Recruitment – it was a live issue last year and just when we thought we were out of the woods having recruited a very experienced clerk, it became very clear to some of us that the parish council and the parish clerk were not a good match. I must be careful what I say here but I learned that she had also resigned in a similar manner from her previous council position.

To recruit a new experienced clerk, we have increased the number of hours for the parish clerk and the hourly rate. The recent audit detected several shortcomings attributable to clerking practices so the appointment of the right person into this role is vital. Improvements must figure highly in our clerking efforts in coming months once we have recruited a parish clerk. There is a shortage of clerks across Somerset, so it remains a real challenge. We have had little interest so far, but hopefully this will change soon. Our locum has advised us that he can only remain for a few months.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to fellow councillors for their contributions to the parish council throughout the year. They are volunteers who work tirelessly and give up so much of their own time for the parish, and often for very little acknowledgement and thanks.

I also thank our working groups for their tremendous support – especially our flood wardens who are exemplar and second to none.

I also thank Tony Jay for stepping into the breach to serve as our locum parish clerk. I am conscious of the time, but I would like to briefly discuss a significant topic with you.

Is there a significant divide in the village? Is it just about the community orchard or is there more to it?

I recognise that not everyone favours the community orchard.

[for a range of reasons: 1) Proximity to the cemetery; 2) its non-central location with major access challenges; 3) lack of toilets; 3) small number of car parking spaces; 4) the OWG's failure to address issues raised in the responses of the 2021 survey; 5) the misinformation of some of the results of the 2021 survey; 6) the misinformation about securing Dinder Estates permission in 2022.]

I sense a feeling of 'Us and Them'; a few folk have mentioned it to me – citing concerns about what they see as arrogance, and elitism.

Ever since I secured the position of Chair in 2024, I seem to have been on the receiving end of a nasty campaign, originating from the Orchard Working Group. In addition, Croscombe's Parish Council has had FOI requests about the parish council's use of WhatsApp messaging – this took considerable effort to respond with 77 pages of messaging data some of which had to be redacted! My thanks to Cllr Tully and Tony for undertaking this work.

We've also had a few complaints about the publication of our minutes on the notice boards and the removal of documents from the website – so apologies for those; for some reason our parish clerk took them down but failed to restore them!

A Croscombe parishioner made a formal complaint to Somerset Council's Monitoring Officer, accusing me of lying, along with a request that should I be found guilty, I be removed from the position of Chair, and I understand something similar was suggested at the recent Resident Meeting!

It seems that any villager can throw mud without any evidence and expect no come-back! I did not realise there was such nastiness in our small village!

The Somerset Council Monitoring Officer quickly dismissed the complaint as being unfounded and without substance. I will be referring to this complaint a little later in this report.

Let me provide some of the details behind this constant stream of verbal attacks. In 2024, the Orchard Working Group requested permission from the Parish Council to expand the orchard. In considering this request, I reviewed the orchard survey report of 2021 and found a few issues with it – for example: the promised committed limits

were exceeded regarding planted trees, and some misleading results were announced in a Parish Council meeting in 2022.

In essence, the 2021 survey indicated that the village was split approximately 50/50, those in favour and those against the orchard. The parish clerk announced and minuted a 66% majority in favour of an orchard in the village; I found this declaration rather odd, firstly, as the village was not asked if it wanted an orchard in the village, and secondly, the actual majority in favour of an orchard adjacent to the cemetery, was nearer 4% - a very different number to a 66% majority. If one added the figures for those voting in favour of the orchard 'next to the cemetery', to the number voting not in favour of that location but in favour of an orchard 'in principle', then a 66% majority of an orchard was reached. But parishioners were never asked if they wanted an orchard in the village; one of the questions concerned an orchard in principle – an odd and very different question. Thus this 66% figure was very misleading, to say the least.

Given this situation and the limited mandate from this first survey, the CPC when deliberating over the request to expand the orchard, decided in 2024 to go back to the parish with another, more straightforward survey; this was greeted with numerous protests and insults from the Orchard Working Group, but the Parish Council persevered with its decision to conduct the survey and the result was a clearer majority in favour of the orchard.

Whilst deliberating over the request for orchard expansion, attention turned to the Title Deed for the 1992 purchase of the land from Dinder Estates for a new burial ground. It became very clear from this Deed that the seller of the land, Dinder Estates, back in 1992, set conditions with the sale, allowing only two activities on the purchased land – the burial of human remains and animal grazing; this stipulation is not surprising given the land was purchased to establish Croscombe's new cemetery; the trustees were clearly eager to ensure the land was used for that purpose. Any other activity on the land had to first be approved by Dinder Estates IN WRITING.

A search was conducted of parish records for the written permission said to be gained from Dinder Estates in 2022 to establish the orchard when the when the Parish Council was informed that permission for an orchard had been received from Dinder Estates. Unfortunately, the individual failed to mention that only verbal permission had been received and that written permission had neither been requested nor provided; thus, the Parish Council concluded in 2025 that written permission was still required for the original orchard. This posed an issue as it could be construed that the lack of written permission nullified the insurance cover and so events undertaken to date could have been undertaken at risk had a claim been made on the insurance. Consequently, the Parish Council decided to ban all orchard events until written permission was secured from Dinder Estates; this was expected to take several weeks, but it was delayed by Dinder Estates and the actual written

permission from Dinder Estates was not received until September 2025, whereupon we lifted the ban on orchard events.

But this again did not satisfy the Orchard Working Group, as it was suggested that *I had sat on the document* to prevent orchard events taking place!

Despite being advised of the real situation, a member of the Orchard Working Group raised a formal complaint to Somerset Council – complaints to the Monitoring Officer are supposed to be confidential (to protect folk in the event of the complaint not being upheld), but the complainant publicly informed the Residents Mtg of the complaint. As expected, as advised earlier, the complaint was baseless and was quickly rejected by the Monitoring Officer, but the complainant, instead of issuing an apology, asked for the same complaint to be included in today's meeting – but more about that later in the Q&A session.

So, this campaign of verbal attacks has been ongoing for many months, in the main hidden from the view of the village but causing additional work and much unrest within the parish council.

Is this what one should expect from Croscombe? Why is this small band of individuals so disruptive?

It is a strange situation wherein I am constrained by GDPR legislation whilst parishioners seem able to make false accusations at will!

*I wanted to discuss here the false accusation about the parish council having a toxic culture and being dysfunctional, but GDPR prevents me from doing so, other than to state that the accusation is false and as with several complaints, baseless! I do, however, accept that there is a divide within the parish council.*

*All councillors should be prepared to work together as part of a team, and if they feel that is not possible then they should consider stepping down from the Parish Council.*

So how do we resolve this issue?

Croscombe will hold elections for the CPC in 2027. That will be the opportunity for the parish to make any changes it chooses. In the meantime, I seek a commitment from all councillors to overcome the divide, yes exercise scrutiny and question our proposals, but be less disruptive, support the council's decisions – and if they cannot make that commitment then please step down from the parish council.

I recognise that not everyone favours the Community Orchard and that not everyone supports the Orchard Working Group; whilst I understand the angst that many in the village feel, we must recognise that we have an orchard and it is not going away, so I ask that we all pull together.

The Parish Council will ensure that the Orchard Working Group will work to address some of the issues. For example: -

If the village wants a picnic, it can hold a picnic; if it wants more parishioners to attend the picnic then why don't we hold it in the playing fields next to the Village Hall – it is more accessible, there is more car parking space, there are toilets, there is running water, there is a kitchen, there is a play area for the children and there are benches and tables. We do not have to hold village events in the field next to the cemetery. Look at the success of the Fun day!

With regards to the Orchard Working Group, the Parish Council will consider how best to proceed with this working group – some changes are being considered with regards to its membership.

In a few weeks we will hold the annual parish council meeting wherein the chair and vice chair positions become available, and councillors will vote to fill them.

With regards to my own position, given what I have had to put up with during these past two years, I will think long and hard about what I will do next!

Thank you for your time!

If you have any questions, please hold on to them until the Q&A at the end of the meeting. I will now hand over to Tony Jay for the financial report.

Appendix Two - Locum Clerk Financial report.

At the end of the 2025-26 financial year the Parish Council held £17,822 in financial assets. This is a decrease of £1,652 compared with the previous year.

Of these funds, £12,222 has been earmarked as follows:

General contingency for three months running costs	£2,000
Access Chamber Project – Solicitors fees	£2,620
Play area funds – Monkey bars etc.	£2,534
Play Area Funds _ Reserves to replace equipment	£4,000
Orchard Group funds	£1,067

Therefore, the Parish Council's unearmarked and available reserves are currently £5,600.

The Parish Council's internal auditor is satisfied that the Parish Council is currently holding an appropriate amount of reserves.

During the 2025-26 financial year major expenditure amounts were:

Flood barriers	£4,185
Village Hall grant	£3,000
Cemetery ground maintenance	£2,034

Three new notice boards

£1,305

Staffing costs increased by £1,812 from £4,111 in 2024-25 to £5,923 in 2025-26.

The precept figure charged by the Parish Council increased from £13,916 in 2025-26 to £16,079 in 2026-27. Whilst this is an increase of 15.5%, it only represents an increase of £7.89 a year, or 65p a month for a Band D council tax property. Many Town and Parish Councils in Somerset have increased their precept percentage more than this.

The Parish Council does not currently have a clerk, and I have been engaged as a temporary contracted locum clerk. Locum Clerk costs are not shown in the council accounts as staff costs, but as general administration expenses. Therefore the 2026-27 staff cost figure is likely to be less than in the previous year, but the general administration figure will be significantly higher. Locum clerks are more expensive than contracted staff. In the seven weeks that I have been your locum clerk my costs have been just under £2,000, but this period has included the preparation of the council's end of year accounts, and I have had to deal with a time consuming Freedom of Information request from a parishioner.

The clerk position is currently being advertised so hopefully a new clerk will be appointed before too long to prevent the additional costs associated with having a locum clerk continuing and therefore reducing the Parish Council's reserves.

In the short period of time that I have been working for the Parish Council I have become aware of a strong difference of opinion between Parish Councils, and between parishioners regarding the use of The Orchard. It is my opinion that if the parish is to recruit and retain the services of a new Parish Council clerk then these divisions need to be resolved.

Appendix 3 – Flood Working Group report – Councillor Paul Hodges

- Wardens

There is an active group of Flood Wardens. A section of the group monitor the river level. The River Monitor Group of 5 people monitor any storm 24 hr and communicate via a WhatsApp group. The Senior Warden – Paul Hodge or Deputy would call out Wardens (from a list of 12 volunteers) as required. There is also a separate WhatsApp group that are messaged when household flood barriers need to be in place. Luckily, we have had little risk of flooding in the last year, but we have had good feedback when we have issued flood alerts.

- Flood Barriers

A grant of £4k was granted from the Somerset Prepared Group. These barriers when in place will direct water from Jacks Lane and Old Street Lane into the river.

- Access Chamber on Culvert

A grant of £19,500 was awarded by Somerset Rivers Authority to build an access chamber on the culvert so that any blockage in the culvert could be removed. The Parish Council are paying the legal fees to establish access onto private land. Our target completion is the end of June.

- Maintenance of drainage system

There are several volunteers who check and clear debris from the drains – many thanks.

- River Survey

A river Survey has been completed, and letters have been delivered to riparian owners making them aware of their responsibilities.

- Culvert Survey

This survey has not yet been completed by the Environment Agency hopefully this will be completed this summer so that riparian owners can be advised of their responsibilities

- Attended Flood Training Sessions

Several training sessions have been attended by Flood group members. At one such meeting we met “Flood Mary”. It was at such a meeting that we were able to get a discount on our Flood Barriers.

- Projects considered but not progressed

Boulder traps – a design of hoops about 12 in high were designed to stop large boulders entering the culvert but the installation was not permitted by the EA as it would impede the natural flow. We disagree with this view.

Debris Screen – the advice of a resident with experience of such Civil Engineering structures advised that such a screen could not be fitted due to limitations imposed by the depth of the channel and access restrictions.

- Attenuation Ponds

The proposed project is to restore one of the Mill Ponds on the A371 bends. An offer has been made to buy the land, and we are waiting for a response. Money for the project will be fund raised by the Flood Group as there are no grants available to buy land.

- Liaison with Flood Groups

We have regular meetings with members of the Shepton Flood Group. We are also in regular contact with Somerset Council staff and Environment Agency Staff. We are also in contact with FWAG staff.

- Communication

There are regular Flood Group Meetings and there are occasional Public Meetings. Most of the communication is by reports in the Roundabout. We will look to improving communications with all Croscombe residents in the future. We are in regular contact with our current MP Tessa Munt who has been helpful. We have also spoken to Alistair Carmichael Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on the Environment about Flooding concerns and responsibility.

Appendix 4 – The Orchard Working and Management Group – Councillor Louise Tully.

It has been a quiet year for social events at the Orchard however we have some lovely events planned for 2026.

Earlier in the season on a very wet Sunday afternoon, we held our first Wassail. In recognition of the proximity to the burial area this was an ‘amended’ Wassail with none of the associated noisy banging and dancing. We sang what Wassail hymns and said specially written prayers to reflect the event, and our young was Wassail Queen read the Wassail chant and did the traditional Wassail blessing of the trees. We had a nature quiz where just about everyone learned something new and we also held a raffle. Despite the soggy weather over 30 people joined together to join the beautiful setting of the community orchard.

Our next event is planned to be ‘Spring in the Orchard’, where people are invited to bring a picnic and we will have had tea and cake on offer. We hope to have another child centred activity with prizes. Following this we are currently planning a meditation day which we hope will involve a yoga, Tai chi and meditation.

We have our fingers crossed for warm sunny days ahead! In anticipation of the arrival of a notice board at the location, we asked if the children of Croscombe School would help us with orchard related designs to enhance our information board. The school guided them so that the activity tied in with their curriculum. The results are lovely and we hope to do the same thing again this year.

Maintenance has continued with watering and pruning as necessary and what will hopefully be a one off treatment for blight. To enhance the location to support biodiversity we are currently in discussion with the parish council to place some wildlife friendly habitats in some of the quieter corners of the field. Last year was our first ‘No Mow May’ season, which was part of a national initiative, where the area of grass under the young trees is left uncut so that flowers can seed and spread. The seeds are energy rich food for birds and small mammals. If anyone would like to join our group or would like to hear more of the story of the Orchard please contact me.

Appendix 5 - The Play Area Working Group – Councillor Ben Gudzelak.

The play area is something that we updated in 2022. The equipment had come to the end of its life. It was replaced with new equipment that should last around 15 years. We are putting aside some money every year so that when it does need

replacing, we will have an amount of money that we can use to get more grants to replace the equipment again. The equipment has been well received. The kids are enjoying it, and it is well used. Having spoken to people who use it and the school it would have been good to install some extra equipment, but this is expensive. We would like to add a second phase with new equipment. We are about halfway through the fund raising for this phase. Football goals were put in the school field which are well used. Volunteers are required to help raise more money.

Appendix 6 – Emergency Plan Working Group – Councillor Ollie Baker.

The parish council should have a plan in place for keeping people safe during emergencies and after emergencies as well. There are lots of different roles involved if there is an emergency where we need to evacuate people. Then we will be requiring volunteers to help with the evacuations, people to check on houses that have been evacuated, first aid, pastoral care etc. It is a living document which is changing all the time. It will be put on parish council website at some point. It is a new group that we are just starting up, so we need people to help. If anyone would like to join us please contact me.