WEST QUANTOXHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 7.30 pm in West Quantoxhead Village Hall

Attendees:

WQPC Councillors:	P Mote (Chairman), A Cottrell, B Johnston, M Philipson, W Robinson and S Sherry,
Somerset Councillors:	Cllr Davies
Avon & Somerset Constabulary:	None
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public:	One member

Apologies:

WQPC Councillors:	P Gibbons
Somerset Councillors:	Cllr Rodrigues
Other	-

26/55	**Apologies for absence as noted above and reason for absence approved**
26/56	**Councillor Co-option**
	An application had been received by Mr Bruce Johnston for the position of casual vacancy on the Council. A vote took place after a proposal from Cllr Sherry, seconded by Cllr Mote, and it was unanimously **resolved** to accept the application and co-opt Mr Johnston As Cllr Johnston was in attendance, he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, after which he was able to take part in the remainder of the meeting.
26/57	**Declarations of Interest**
	There were none
26/58	**Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd September 2026**
	It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting Proposed Cllr Sherry, seconded Cllr Cottrell
26/59	**Matters from the Minutes for report**
	(Item 26/50.1) It was noted it had been vegetation that had been cleared from the Avenue and noted it was not the gulley that had been cleared
26/60	**Reports**
26/60.1	Avon and Somerset Constabulary – No report had been received
26/60.2	Somerset Council – The written report received from Cllrs Davies had been forwarded to members – noted
	Cllr Davies highlighted the £100 household energy payment, for council tax bands A-D, as announced in the Autumn Budget. Eligible residents who pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit would receive the £100 automatically into their bank account. Eligible residents who do not pay by Direct Debit will be contacted by Somerset Council. The EDF community bus had been diverted via Williton during the Brendon Road closure
26/60.3	Quantock Hills JAC – Cllr Philipson gave a verbal report on the two recent meetings, one of which had been a workshop discussing the views from Beacon Hill. At the meeting held on 21st October, it was highlighted that the management of the Quantock Hills was being significantly delayed by Somerset Council processes. Climate change was also discussed, including whether existing vegetation, such as Beech trees, should be replaced with species better suited to adapting to changing weather conditions. The aim would be to maintain the character of the landscape, but not necessarily retain the same species, working with nature to support long-term resilience. It was acknowledged that this would be a long-term challenge.

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26/60.4	Local Community Network – The AGM had been held and the reports from the meeting had been circulated. It was noted that reported crime had decreased by 22%, however, unreported crime was not included in the figures, and everyone was encouraged to ensure that all incidents were reported. Minehead Eye gave a presentation on the support they provide for young people's mental health, highlighting the challenges faced by some young people in the area. It was also highlighted that 22% of households did not have access to a car, equivalent to approximately one in four households.
26/61	**Correspondence**
26/61.1	It was resolved to note the contents of the correspondence log.
26/61.2	Fire and Rescue Service consultation – no comments were made
26/62	**Finances**
26/62.1	Current Financial Statement – The current account balance as of 04.11.2026, was £10,739.87, which included ring-fenced funds for the Defibrillator of £1,535.87, so available funds stood at £9,204.00
26/62.2	Bank Reconciliation – it was agreed the Chairman would sign the reconciliation and was duly undertaken.
26/62.3	The meeting authorised the following payments would be issued: Proposed Cllr Mote, seconded Cllr Cottrell, unanimously **resolved**

Date	Details	Cheque Nos	Invoice Nos	Total Bank £	VAT
04.11.26	Clerk Wages Wages – Oct-Dec	FPO		501.72	0.00
04.11.26	HMRC TAX & NI – Oct-Dec	FPO		125.40	0.00
04.11.26	SALC (Retrospective) Affiliation Fees	FPO		165.31	0.00
04.11.26	Fluid Labs IT and Website			360.00	60.00
04.11.26	Fluid Labs IT and Website			178.80	29.80

	The Clerk advised the IT company had been told not to undertake any further work, without explicit authorisation from the Parish Council.
26/62.4	Appointment of Internal Auditor – it was agreed to request last year's auditor undertake the internal audit for 2026/2027
26/62.5	Draft Budget Considerations 2027-2028 – the draft budget presented was discussed. The clerk would ask Somerset Council how much they anticipate the elections in May 2027 would cost.
	The final budget would be set at the January meeting, when notification should have been received regarding the tax base
26/63	**Planning**
26/63.1	The following application was considered:

Application No	Location	Description	Comments
3/38/26/004	St Audries Bay Holiday Club, West Quantoxhead, Williton, Somerset, TA4 4DY	Change of use from seasonal holiday occupation to year-round holiday occupation	No objection
3/38/26/005	Brendons, Staple Lane, West Quantoxhead, Taunton, TA4 4DR	Installation of roof mounted solar PV panels	No objection

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26/63.2	Somerset Council decisions:

Application No	Location	Decision
3/38/26/002	Staple Farm, Weacombe Road, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4EA	Awaiting decision
3/38/26/003	Silver Leaves, Weacombe Road, West Quantoxhead, TA4 4EA	Granted

26/64	**Highway Matters**
	The Avenue – The permissive path had been cleared through to the pipe; however, the drainage channel cut from the road to allow water run-off had been buried. Members would monitor the area for flooding and dig a gulley if required.
	It was noted that Long Street, Williton would be closed from the 11th of January 2027 until the end of February 2027, for Wales and West Utilities to replace the main gas pipe. This would be undertaken in three phases.
	Luckes Lane – the new sign had been damaged again after a recent accident – this had been repaired and replaced.
	The Church railings had been damaged by a lorry turning around due to local diversions.
	It was noted there could potentially be increased traffic through the village as vehicles try to find diversion routes, which could have a great impact.
	It was reported the fencing by Vinnecombe by the quarry had disappeared and safety concerns were raised. Cllr Cottrell agreed to forward photographs so the clerk could report the issue.
26/65	**Community Emergency Plan**
	There had been no update. Cllr Philipson requested any further comments be forwarded as soon as possible and he would finalise the plan for final recommendation.
26/66	**Staple Diet**
	Cllr Cottrell volunteered to write the article for the next edition.
26/67	**Grass Cutting**
	The current contract had been undertaken for 2 years, which would cover the financial year 2027-2028
26/68	**Matters for the next meeting**
	Public Path Liaison Officer
	Replacement of all power lines in the village March/April 2027
	FUTURE MEETING DATES 2027
	13th January; 3rd March; 5th May; 7th July; 1st September; 3rd November
	The meeting closed at 8.47 pm

Signed ……..…….. Dated ……..…..……..

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