



# OLD CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 at 7PM AT  
LYSAGHT VILLAGE HALL, OLD CLEEVE

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Cllr Stabb (Chairman)</b>	Yes	<b>Cllr Gaskin</b>	Yes
	<b>Cllr De'Ath (Vice-Chairman)</b>	Yes	<b>Cllr Johnson-Smith</b>	Yes
	<b>Cllr Short</b>	Yes	<b>Cllr Scofield</b>	Yes
	<b>Cllr Cridland</b>	Yes	<b>Cllr Baker</b>	Yes
	<b>Cllr Dutton</b>	No	<b>Cllr Smith</b>	Yes
	<b>Cllr Strom</b>	Yes	<b>Cllr Eggar</b>	Yes
	<b>Cllr Gannon</b>	Yes		
<b>In attendance:</b>	Cllr Strom (Somerset Council) and two members of the public.			

## Minute

### 263/26 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Chris Dutton.

### 264/26 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 265/26 **Minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2026**

It was unanimously **resolved** by those Members present at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026. that the draft minutes should be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**Action:** Chair to sign the minutes and Clerk to add to website.

### 266/26 **Public participation**

No members of the public were present.

### 267/26 **Somerset Councillor's Report**

Cllr Strom reported that she continues to pursue safe walking routes, enhanced bus services and improvements to the temporary traffic lights in Dunster. She will also follow up issues relating to earth movements in Washford and Billbrook.

## Minute

### 268/26 **Planning application 3/26/26/001 Rock Cottage, Torre to White Horse Pub, Old Cleeve**

It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application.

**Action:** Clerk to submit response to planning authority.

### 269/26 **Bank Reconciliation Statement and expenditure against budget**

The bank reconciliation statement at 31 January 2026 and expenditure against budget was noted; there were no exceptional items to report.

### 270/26 **Payments made since the previous meeting**



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The following payments were verified as agreed in previous meetings or in line with the Council’s contractual obligations and the powers granted to the Parish Council

Payee	Description	Amount£
Peninsula Pensions	Pension Contributions	313.42
Unity Bank	Bank service charges	7.00
A Johnson	Salary and homeworking allowance	1041.32

271/26 **Payments for authorisation**

It was unanimously **resolved** to make the following payment under the powers granted to the Parish Council, totalling £34,239.40.

Payee	Description	Amount£
Scribe	Accounting Software	532.80
Rhinoplay	Play Equipment	29,934.00
	Additional Matting	3597.60
T Barnett	Bus Shelter Cleaning	175

**Action:** RFO to arrange payments.

272/26 **To agree to appoint Richard Young to carry out an internal audit of the accounts for 2025/26.**

It was unanimously resolved to appoint Richard Young.

273/26 **To note the award of a grant from Sport England and the next steps in this process.**

The Council noted the award of £7,500 and asked the Clerk to investigate whether the crowdfunding element part of the award was necessary or whether this could be funded from other resources either internally or externally sought.

274/26 **Governance:**

- a. to **consider** and **approve** the Risk Management Report 2025 – 2026
  - b. to **review** and **approve** the Asset Register
- Both items were deferred.

275/26 **Parish Plan:** to **review** progress and **agree** any actions(Cllr Dutton)

This item was deferred. Members noted the substantial progress that had been made particularly in relation to Washford Recreation Ground.

276/26 **Community Support:** to **receive** the report from Roadwater Youth Club and **agree** to make the payment due under the Service Level Agreement.

The report was noted. It was unanimously agreed to make the payment under the Service Level Agreement.

277/26 **Highways:** To note the minutes from the LCN Highways sub-group.

Members noted the Environment Agency proposal involving the movement of approximately 4,500 tonnes of rock by road to Minehead for sea defences. It was resolved that the Clerk



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write to the Environment Agency outlining concerns about the hazardous road conditions through Washford and Bilbrook.

278/26 **Watercourses:** to **agree** a response to Environment Agency Consultation on the Withdrawal of maintenance and request for supporting information.

Cllr Gannon will draft a response to the Environment Agency consultation regarding future maintenance of watercourses including the Washford River and the River Pill.

279/26 **Washford Recreation Ground**

- a. To confirm the existing dog control Public Spaces Protection Order remains relevant and to suggest any further potential areas for inclusion.
- b. To consider any information relating to CCTV for this area.

Members confirmed that the existing dog control Public Spaces Protection Order remains appropriate. The proposal for CCTV was discussed and further information will be sought including arrangements used by Watchet Town Council.

280/26 **Blue Anchor Seafront:** to consider installing signs and agree any actions

It was reported that fishermen have introduced alternative arrangements for storing equipment which do not obstruct pedestrians. Dog fouling in the area was noted and will continue to be monitored.

281/26 **Speed Indicator Device (SID):**

- a. To receive any correspondence on the above matter.
- b. To consider any information relating to the SID.
- c. To agree purchase of post and have installed at Washford Train Station.
- d. To receive an update on the arrival of new SID ordered for this location.

Members considered correspondence relating to SIDs. It was suggested that Cllr M Smith submit a formal proposal regarding the potential funding of two SIDs and associated costs from reserves. Cllr Eggar was thanked for continuing to relocate the SID around the parish.

282/26 **Reports for information only – no decisions to be made**

- a Clerk's Report  
No report was presented.
- b To note the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners is to be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm at Washford Hall.



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The date of the Annual Meeting of the Parishioners was noted as Wednesday 13 May 2026 at Washford Hall. The event will include information relating to the future of Puthills and Bellevue.

- c To consider the correspondence from a Parishioner with regards to damage of their property (Cllr Scofield to speak on this matter).  
Members noted correspondence from a Washford resident regarding road damage and difficulties associated with the temporary traffic lights. Cllr Strom will make enquiries with the Highways Department.

283/26 **Items for future agendas:**

- Recommendation on ecology survey provider for Puthills Copse– Environment Committee
- Tree Management Plan - Environment Committee

284/26 **Exclusion of the Press and Public:** To **resolve** that, under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the employment matters to be discussed. It was unanimously agreed that the press and public be excluded due to the confidential nature of the business.

285/26 To **ratify** the decisions of the Personnel Committee regarding the interim appointment of a locum Clerk and the arrangements for the recruitment and appointment of a permanent Clerk, following the resignation of the current postholder.

It was resolved to ratify the decisions of the Personnel Committee relating to the interim appointment of a locum Clerk and arrangements for recruiting a permanent Clerk. It was also agreed to extend the advertising period for the permanent post.

271/26 To **consider** quotations for the installation of CCTV and **agree** any actions  
No quotes were received.

272/26 There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Signed.....

Dated:

Initialed.....