



OLD CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th July 2026 at 7PM
AT ROADWATER VILLAGE HALL.

Present:	Cllr Stabb (Chairman)	Yes	Cllr Gaskin	Yes
	Cllr De'Ath (Vice-Chairman)	Yes	Cllr Johnson-Smith	Yes
	Cllr Short	Yes	Cllr Olivier	Yes
	Cllr Cridland	Yes	Cllr Baker	Yes
	Cllr Dutton	Yes	Cllr Smith	Yes
	Cllr Strom	Yes	Cllr Eggar	Yes
	Cllr Gannon	Yes	Cllr Buckle	Resigned
In attendance:	Two members of the public.			

Minute

37/26

To note apologies for absence and approve reason, where appropriate.

Prior to the formal business, a moment of remembrance for Phillippa Harper (former Clerk) was observed by the whole meeting.

The Council noted that no apologies had been received.

38/26

Declarations of Interest/Dispensations in respect of matters on the agenda at this meeting.

No declarations of interest or dispensations were received.

39/26

To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2026.

Cllr Gannon raised a point of order regarding the timely receipt of the agenda and minutes, noting that he does not use email.

Cllr Gannon also raised a point in relation to item 7(e) from the previous meeting concerning the replacement bench and quotations. It was noted that Cllr Stabb had asked someone to inspect the bench to see whether it was salvageable, that no order had been placed, and that the Council could consider alternative options. At present, the bench is unusable. Cllr D'Ath had offered voluntarily to restore it. Cllr Smith advised that there may be volunteers able to restore it at no cost to the Council. It was agreed that no further action would be taken at this stage.

It was noted that planning application 3/26/26/010 at 7 Quarry Road, Washford, TA23 0NR had not been included on the agenda. The Clerk confirmed that this had been received after the previous meeting and that, due to the 21-day consultation period, it would have been too late for consideration at this meeting.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

40/26

Public Participation

Two members of the public were present. Traffic issues at Abbey Road were raised and it was agreed that this would be placed on the next agenda. The Clerk will write to the parishioner.

41/26

Somerset Councillor: To note the report from Cllr Strom (Somerset Council)

Cllr Strom provided a verbal update to the meeting.

Cllr Strom reported on the B3191 and funding bids relating to its reopening. She is gathering impact statements and noted that a briefing had been held earlier that day. The presentation will be sent to the Clerk and circulated to all councillors.

In relation to Belle Vue, there had been no further progress as officers are busy and under pressure. Signage for the housing development had now been sorted. Overhanging branches at Belle Vue will now be dealt with.

Cllr Strom provided an update on booking systems at recycling centres, including the benefits and



OLD CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th July 2026 at 7PM
AT ROADWATER VILLAGE HALL.

detailed financial modelling which indicated that the approach may be successful. No decision has been made at this stage.

Cllr Strom reported that Somerset Council had been issued with a Best Value Notice and that there were concerns regarding finances. She also referred to a resilience fund for flood prevention and resilience works, noting that all parish councils will be consulted and that Somerset Council is looking for ready-to-progress projects.

The Council also discussed bus services for the Parish, including Roadwater and Blue Anchor. Any changes or ideas should be passed to Cllr Strom, who will send the Clerk the relevant email address. Community Payback was also discussed as a potential opportunity for the Parish Council to consider at a future point.

A warning regarding Rogue Traders will be added to the Parish Magazine.

42/26

Planning: To agree a response to the following Planning Application(s):

a) **EXM/26/143/FULL - Heather House, Brompton Regis, Dulverton, TA23 0LL - Proposed construction of a 20m x 40m outdoor riding arena.**

The Council noted that the address on the application appeared to be incorrect and that Heather House is in Watchet. The Clerk was asked to request that this be corrected. The Council also noted the National Park position that any archaeological remains should be retained.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to support the application.

b) **To consider any planning applications after the agenda has been issued.**
No further planning applications were considered.

c) **To consider the Parish Council's response to Somerset Council's consultation on The Local Plan.**

Cllr Olivier had prepared a response for the Council's consideration. The Council considered the response and agreed to endorse it as the basis for the Parish Council's submission to Somerset Council's questionnaire. Cllr Gannon offered to assist if Cllr Olivier could place the response online before 24th July 2026.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to submit the response prepared by Cllr Olivier in the same format.
Thanks were given to Cllr Olivier for his work on this matter.

43/26

Finance

a) **Bank Reconciliation: to receive and note the bank reconciliation statement of 30th June 2026.**

The bank reconciliation was received and noted.

b) **To receive and note expenditure against budget for the year to date.**
The expenditure against budget report was received and noted.

c) **To resolve to make the payments shown on the schedule.**

The Council noted the payments made pursuant to contractual obligations and considered the payments to be authorised.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to approve the payments shown on the schedule, totalling £702.00.

d) **To consider the quotation for the signage at Puthills.**

The Council considered the quotation of £62.31 for the sign and 6ft pole.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to approve the quotation. Cllr D'Ath will install the pole.

44/26

Parish Plan: to review progress and agree any actions (Cllr Dutton)

Cllr Dutton reported that the review is ongoing and that it would be useful to review the Parish Plan around the time of the budget-setting process.



OLD CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th July 2026 at 7PM
AT ROADWATER VILLAGE HALL.

- 45/26 **Highways: To note any updates on this matter.**
The Clerk will circulate the slides relating to the B3191 consultation.
- 46/26 **Washford Recreation Ground**
a) To receive an update on the MUGA project.
The Council noted that the MUGA works are due to commence on 10th August 2026 and are expected to take approximately two weeks to complete.
b) To consider any actions required for the practicalities of the MUGA project.
The Council noted that it was awaiting confirmation from the Hall as to whether the car park could be used for materials. The anticipated movement of dumpers was noted as low-level, with approximately 10 to 12 dumper truck movements.

The water supply issue was discussed. It was noted that water could be pulled from the river, but that the contractor requires a clean water supply. Cllr D'Ath is in discussions with the Hall. The contractor can bring a bowser but cannot fill it, and other options will be explored.
- 47/26 **Speed Indicator Device (SID) and road safety matters.**
a) To consider any updates in relation to the SIDs owned by the Parish Council.
The Council noted that a location in Bilbrook is still being sought and that a suitable location has not yet been found.
b) To receive the latest data from the Parish Council's SIDs.
Cllr D'Ath will try to obtain and present the latest SID data.
- 48/26 **Environment Committee:**
a) To receive an update on the Land at Belle Vue Play Area in Washford.
No update was received.
b) To consider the Licence Agreement in relation to the school playing field.
The Council noted that this matter remains problematic. The School has not been contactable and the Clerk has chased several times for agreement or a maintenance agreement, but no response has been received by the Council.
c) To consider the correspondence on grit bins and agree any associated actions.
The Clerk confirmed that a map had been requested but had not yet been supplied. Cllr Stabb will liaise on this matter. Councillors will inspect the bins to ensure that grit is present. The Council noted that, without a map, it is very difficult to progress the matter.
d) To consider the correspondence with the Steam Railway.
Cllr Strom reported that the MP has become involved and that she is liaising with the MP. It was noted that the railway now plans to inspect. The Clerk will send the letter as soon as possible.
e) To receive an update on Puthills.
It was noted that this item should refer to Puthills and not Belle Vue. The Council is awaiting the tree survey. One quotation has been received and a contact name for a tree surveyor has been provided. The Clerk will contact the surveyor and will update Cllrs Gannon and Gaskin once contact has been made.
- 49/26 **To elect a Councillor to become Chair of the Finance Committee for the Civic Year.**
The Council noted that Cllr D'Ath has been standing in following the resignation of the previous Chair. It was agreed that the election of a Finance Committee Chair would need to be added to the next agenda.
- 50/26 **To consider a nomination for the Somerset Council's Chair Award.**
A nomination was received for Claire Swatski. It was noted that a nomination form had been completed



OLD CLEEVE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 20th July 2026 at 7PM
AT ROADWATER VILLAGE HALL.

and would be returned to the Clerk. The closing date was noted as Friday. Cllr Eggar will return the form to the Clerk.

51/26 **To consider a contact phone number for the Parish Council.**

The Council discussed the need for a telephone number so that members of the public are able to speak to the Parish Council. The Clerk will need a phone number, either using the existing number or through a dual-SIM arrangement on the incoming Clerk's phone.

52/26 **To consider a proposal for a Pump Track within the Parish.**

Cllr D'Ath presented an outline area for a Pump Track. It was agreed that Cllrs Baker and D'Ath would form a working group to consider the proposal further.

53/26 **Reports for information only - no decisions to be made**

a) To note the Clerk's Report.

The Clerk's Report was noted.

b) To receive an update on the situation with Tregenna.

Cllrs Strom and D'Ath and Cllr Buckle had met with the Operations Director to raise concerns regarding vehicle movements and the safety of children. It was noted that lessons had been learned and that all vehicles will now drive in rather than reverse. A new sign will be installed to remind drivers what to do on site, including 5mph signage and signage relating to the need for a banksman where required.

54/26 **Items for future agendas.**

The following items were requested for future agendas: Pump Track, traffic at Abbey Road, dates for the budget-setting process, and a Budget Working Group.

55/26 **To consider changing the meeting dates of the Parish Council.**

It was agreed that this item would be considered together with item 21 in light of the appointment of the new Clerk.

56/26 **Closed Session: To consider moving into a closed session and exclude the public and press, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed for the below items.**

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to move into closed session and exclude the public and press.

57/26 **To consider the appointment of a permanent Parish Clerk.**

The Council noted that the new Clerk starts this week and that this is the Locum Clerk's last week. A handover will take place during the current week with the Locum Clerk. The new Clerk will work remotely until he is in the area.

It was noted that the new Locum Clerk will be engaged under a temporary service level agreement for 10 hours per week.

The Council also discussed meeting dates, noting that the new Clerk cannot make the current Old Cleeve Parish Council meeting date. The Council considered whether meetings could move to the fourth Monday of each month rather than the third Monday. It was noted that the December meeting would likely be held on 14th December, although there is currently a clash.

Thanks were given to the Locum Clerk.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 20:30.

Signed Judea Stabb
24 August 2026