

WEST CAMEL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the West Camel Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7:30 pm in the Conference Room at The Davis Hall.

Present: Chairman **Kathy Miller-Hunt (KMH)**
Councillors **Jenny Down (JD)**
Jane Lawrence (JL)
Jo Roberts (JR)
Geoff Chapman (GC)

Clerk **Angela Suter (AS)**

Somerset Council Councillor – **Cllr Henry Hobhouse (HH), Cllr Kevin Messenger (KM)**

Members of the public – 2

0326.01 Electors' Participation – Resident PS reported on recent Sarah Dyke flooding symposium. He thanked WCPC for the work that had been carried out so far on flood mitigation. He raised the issue of how none of the input from local residents made at the consultation stage was followed through at the final stage and how if it had the costs would have been negligible. He mentioned that Sarah was keen to move forward and will follow up with PS who will in turn keep WCPC updated. Will also be passing on information to the clerk regarding a national charity making representations on flooding consultations for future planning to be sent out via village email. Any representations to the EA must mention 'in the public interest'. Section 19 report not up to standard.

HH raised the following in relation to the above in particular the Section 19 report and changes. Fluvial flooding to be separated, Advice and signposting to Pegel alarm and Flood Mary to be added to all outgoing correspondence. SuD's - currently no idea of locations and status due to failed handover. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) mimic natural drainage processes to reduce the effect on the quality and quantity of run-off from developments and provide amenity and biodiversity benefits. HH also mentioned issues at Podimore and Martock.

0326.02 Apologies for Absence – Cliff Baker - Work (CB), Mick Richens - Work (MR)

0326.03 Minutes of the last meeting (08/01/26) to be agreed and signed - The minutes were agreed by all councillors and were duly signed by KMH and AS.

0326.04 Matters of Report arising from the previous meeting minutes (not on the agenda) – None.

0326.05 Declaration of Interest and details of dispensations requested / granted since last meeting (councillors and/or visiting councillors). – None.

0326.06 Somerset Council Councillor feedback – HH reported back on the budget meeting held on the 21/01 and announced the budget had seen an uplift of 4.99% and the government had increased the grant by £2million for 2026/2027 and that the highways grant had been raised for gully clearance etc. HH also reported that The Newt had built a dry dam in Yarlinton, and 2 retention ponds which should assist in times of flooding. A303 retention ponds working. SEND bill government has written off 90% but no more funding until 2028 so this will continue to rise again. SEND and adult social care take up approx. 2/3rds of the budget. Octagon Theatre - grants obtained by Somerset District Council to carry out improvement and refurbishment works. Adam Dance and Sarah Dyke have been working hard for Somerset and Leonardo's have been awarded the contract. Unitary boundaries confirmed and we will now be part of the Blackmore Vale area.

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0326.07 Standing Items of Business

a. Footpath/RoW

LS had written to Eve Wynn about a permissive path from Fore Street to the bakery and it was mentioned WCPC could instruct SC to take enforcement action. A working compromise is sought rather than formal action. WCPC to work on idea of 'permissive path' with both landowners. WCPC to work in conjunction with SC. Clerk to progress with PC Footpath Warden. GC proposed JD seconded and agreed by all present. **(AS)**

b. Environment

- i. Flooding feedback from 27th January 2026. JL mentioned CB still had the contingency plan and this needs to be moved forward as will need to go on the new website and some vulnerable properties still needed to be added. Jane also mentioned she had an industrial size water pump which she was donating to the village and this would be moved to the flood container soon available for village use. KMH thanked her for her generosity. Contact to be made with CB re contingency plan finalisation. **(JL)**
JR suggested the list should be in order of how the houses flood. JR also mentioned the setting for alarm levels should really be 1.5m as this is the point when the road will start to flood and cars should be moved up to the Davis Hall. How do we let residents know? JR suggested setting up a WCPC Facebook page **(JR/AS)**. Information to also be made available regarding this in the next edition of The Chronicle. **(JL)**
- ii. Litter pick B3151 between Howell Hill and Camel Cross to go ahead. JR will liase with Les S.

c. Community Housing Scheme

- i. Plot 1 – second period started 1st March 2026 and advertised on village email.
- ii. Plot 7 - sale has now been completed and S106 signed and copy received by WCPC.

d. Community Engagement & Communication

- i. Defibrillator training session new date Friday 13th March as advertised on village email. 2 sessions 4.30pm-5.30pm and 6.00pm-7pm. **(AS)**

e. Parish Council Processes / Unitary Authority Update

- i. AS issued council with Assertion 10 compliance requirements which she is working on. All councillors to be set up with a council owned email format agreed was Cllr(Surname)@westcamel.org.uk Clerk to liase with CK Creative. **(AS)**
- ii. All WCPC policy documents being updated and revised prior to loading on the new website which is currently under construction. **(AS)**
- iii. Website upgrade proceeding well. Clerk loaded on screen and showed council ease of use. Gallery of photo's needed so if any councillors have any images they would like to be shown in the gallery of any village work parties, village events etc please email to the clerk.
- iv. Personnel meeting report issued to all councillors for discussion. Clerks' hours and rate proposed to be increased to reflect the work being provided by the clerk and the hours spent in administering council business. Hours agreed to be increased to 336 per year proposed by KMH seconded by GC and agreed by all. Hourly rate agreed to increase to SCP level 23 with immediate effect then subject to a successful performance review (held before 1st June 2026) to be raised to SCP level 29 proposed by KMH seconded by GC and agreed by all.
- v. Elections will be in 2027 not 2026 as previously discussed.

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f. Community Benefit Fund (CBF)

No new applications.

0326.08 Correspondence / Other matters requiring action

- a. Friends of Mudford Action Group email received requesting contributions towards their fundraising campaign spring & summer 2026 towards legal costs fighting proposed developments in Mudford Parish. Council does not feel we can offer support at this time. Clerk to email. **(AS)**

0326.09 Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer Report

- a. Interim fidelity carried out by KMH no issues reported.
b. Precept for 2026/2027 – SC notified and acknowledged £22,400 to be received in 2 instalments. April & September.
c. Payment Authorisation – Agreed by all. Those highlighted in yellow paid prior to the meeting.
d. Budget year end is on target.

Cheque No. or OP Ref	Payee	Service / Goods Purchased	Amount
48/2526	A SUTER	EXPENSES	£ 31.98
49/2526	HMRC	Q3 PAYE	£ 332.36
50/2526	DAVIS HALL	DEFIB TRAINING	£ 26.00
51/2526	NET WORLD SPORTS	NEW GOAL POST	£ 436.94
52/2526	DORSET & SOMERSET AIR AMBULANCE	DEFIB TRAINING	£ 100.00
53/2526	J STAMP	LENGTHSAN DEC25/JAN26 INV401	£ 205.00
54/2526	L STEVENS	MOWER SUPPER REIMBURSEMENT	£ 200.00
55/2526	INSPECT & REPAIR	REPAIRS CLIMB FRAME & MATTING	£ 2127.48
56/2526	SLCC	TRAINING COURSE (CLERK)	£ 34.68
57/2526	SLCC	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	£ 116.00
	DAVIS HALL	PERSONNEL MEETING	£ 4.00
	SALC	TRAINING COURSE Clerk x2 Cllr x 1	£ 120.00
	A SUTER	EXPENSES	£ 31.98
Total			£ 3,766.42

0326.10 Planning Applications

New planning applications – None to report.

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Planning Updates – None to report.

0126.11 Matters of Report / Future Business

- a. **Other Matters of Report** - none.
- b. **Matters of Future Business** – none.

0326.12 Date of next meeting

Thursday 7th May 2026 in the Davis Hall Committee Room.
Annual Parish Meeting Friday 29th May 2026 – Davis Hall

0326.13 The meeting closed at 21.09pm

Signed.....
Chairman Date 7th May 2026

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Clerk Date 7th May 2026