

Butcombe Parish Council.

Minutes of Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 23-7-2025

Attendees: Clr.Dick Whittington Chairman. [DW]

Clr.Trevor Mitchell. [via zoom] [TM]

Clr.Jim Crocker. [JC]

Clr.John Rodaway. [JR]

Clerk. Colm O'Doherty [CO]

Six members of the public attended: Mr C Barke, Mrs H. Gregory, Mr.F Worle, Mrs.D Leggo, Mr R Leggo, Mrs. E Charlton

1.0 Apologies: Clr. Justin Millward [JM]. Clr. Thomas Daw[TD].

2.0 Declarations of Interest: Nothing to declare.

3.0 Minutes of Previous meeting: Approved

4.0 District Council Report: None received

5.0 Planning:

Yew tree cottage. The current application 25/P/1249/FUH for Yew Tree Cottage has been approved.

6.0 Brook Farm Barns:

There was considerable discussion relating to the use of the old Barns adjacent to Brook Farm. The new owners Shangri-La are now storing large amounts of various material in the barns.

A letter has been sent to the Directors of Shangri-La by the Parish Council expressing concern over the change of use and the various activity at the Barns. No response has been received.

Local residents are very concerned about traffic, noise, Health and Safety issues and the potential change of use away from Agricultural to Commercial without the respective permissions. TD had said that he intended to visit the site in the near future to assess the situation, he would be accompanied by Mrs Annemieke Waite, the Councillor for Winford and Exec Member with responsibility for Environmental issues.

North Somerset Council [NSC] are fully aware of all the activity and have urged Shangri-La to submit a formal Planning Application for change of use. Thus far

They were not at this stage prepared to take further action, despite our representations.

As the original Enforcement Officer [Andrew Dearing] at NSC has been admitted to hospital the Parish Council will arrange to meet the replacement officer [Mark Wormers] on site to discuss future Action: JR

The Parish resolved to write to the local Member Of Parliament [Sadik Al-Hassan] and the local NSC representative [Tom Daw] to express concerns. DW  
As the Barns are located within the Area of Outstanding natural Beauty [ANOB] they will be contacted as well.

7.0 Highways and Drainage issues: Wessex water have been carrying out extensive surveys of the foul drainage system in the Village. They are carrying out considerable remedial work on the system as the existing Sewage treatment plant serving the Village is at maximum capacity and it appears a lot of highways/rain water is getting into the foul system.

7.1 A meeting has been held with NSC Engineers to discuss the installation of a new drain at the top of The Batch. Currently field water run off, freezes during the winter and there have been numerous accidents as vehicles skid on the ice. NSC will prepare a scheme and advise the Parish accordingly.

7.2 The renovation of the village finger post signs has been successfully completed. The Parish received a grant from The Mendip trust for which the Parish are extremely grateful.

The long-standing blocked drain on Yew Tree Batch will be investigated to determine where it is blocked. We can then agree with NSC what needs to be done to clear it. JR to organise.

7.3 Verge Cutting: A light verge cut has taken place through Village apart from the Butcombe Lane and The Batch . JR will organise a quotation to get the verge cut from the junction with Nempnett Thrubwell at the top of the Batch down to the junction with Yew tree batch [both sides].

8.0 Finance: The Annual Governance & Accounting Statement has been signed off and thanks were expressed to TM for organising. The document will be displayed placed on the noticeboard and on the Parish website once some technical problems have been overcome.

8.1 The following payments have been approved and paid recently:

Finger Post Signs

Community First - Insurance

Vision ICT

8.2 Defibrillator training needs to be arranged. DW has written to The Heartbeat Trust and will chase for a response. JC had volunteered to take on the weekly checks, and would contact Ivor Metherell for details.

8.3 TM expressed concern that the Parish are holding a lot of money in the Bank accounts and requested a schedule of this year's expenditure be drawn up. All to contribute and for further discussion at our next meeting.

9.0 Bristol Airport: There are various discussions going on between NSC and Bristol Airport regarding further expansion at the Airport. It is anticipated a new application will be submitted soon.

10.0 Future Planning: Regrettably Colm O'Doherty is unable to continue as the Parish Clerk. All Clrs expressed their thanks to Colm and wished him well in the future.

DW proposed we advertise in the Village initially to see if there is any local interest to take up the position.

11.0 Exchange of Information.

11.1 JR raised the issue of the overhanging trees on the Batch now becoming a safety hazard and causing serious problems for traffic. He had been unable to get a response from the landlord. NSC will be contacted to determine how the trees can be cut down and the Verge cut back.

11.2 TM raised the issue of the over growing hedge adjacent to field opposite The White House on Blagdon Lane. JR will try and find the owner of the field to determine if they will cut back their hedge.

12.0 Next meeting: DW will send round some proposed dates for the next meeting in September.

A.J Rodaway 31 July 2025