

CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 2026, 7.30pm, VILLAGE HALL, CHILTHORNE DOMER

Emma Meecham, Clerk, 15 Meadow Road, Yeovil, Somerset BA21 5PB
Tel: 01935 415361

Mr M Batstone (Chair)
Mrs R Parsons

Mr T Brandt
Mrs K Taylor

Mrs A Blaney

0 Members of the public
Miss E Meecham (Clerk)

The meeting commenced with an open session for Chilthorne Domer Parishioners only, no items were raised.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were received from Mr Woodman.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – None declared.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – Subject to an amendment to the wording of item 7 the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. Mr Brandt read out the wording of his proposed submission to the Electoral commission – “Chilthorne Domer is a parish in Somerset, near Yeovil. The Parish Council wishes to express our support for continuing with multi-councillor divisional representation on Somerset Council. Our experiences of this arrangement have been very positive. It allows the councillors to divide the workload and increases the probability that they will be able to attend Parish Council meetings, improving democratic communication and transparency. It provides increased resilience in case one Councillor is on holiday, ill or otherwise unavailable when timely response is needed. It gives our parishioners a choice of councillor to contact when they need help. Overall, we consider that any move away from multi-councillor divisions would be a retrograde step for local democracy.” It was unanimously agreed that this submission should be submitted.
- 4. SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR’S REPORT** – Cllr Seib’s report had been circulated via email.
- 5. HIGHWAY MATTERS**
 - a) SID. – The batteries have been changed but no report this month. Mrs Blaney had supplied a video to the clerk of the water running down the ‘S’ bend on Tintinhull Road, it would seem that at least one drain is blocked. The clerk is to contact highways and submit this video. Brympton Parish Council have responded to Mrs Blaney enquiry regarding signage for the lane through Thorne. Brympton Parish Council have informed Mrs Blaney that they are not willing to install or fund any additional signage. The clerk is to contact highways and discuss options. Mrs Blaney and Mr Brandt will write an article for What’s On or for a stand-alone flyer, a budget of £10 for the necessary printing was agreed. The high friction surfacing on the A37 has not been replaced, the clerk is to contact highways regarding this.
- 6. COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS** - Nothing to report.

7. **GARDEN PLOTS** – The report pack as created by Mrs Taylor had been circulated to the councillors ahead of the meeting. It seems that there is widespread support for the Parish Council taking on the Garden Plots, which the council considers a mandate to carry on. The report is to be published on the Parish Council website but prior to this Mrs Taylor will anonymise the data.

The Parish Council thanked Mrs Taylor and Mrs Blaney for their hard work on the project to date. The sub-committee is to carry on and commence work on the plot lease agreement wording and Ms Honnor will be invited to join the discussions.

8. **LCN UPDATE** – Mrs Blaney informed the meeting that she had attended the meeting of the LCN on 18 December 2025. During the meeting a briefing was given on the Nelsons Trust project that is looking to expand their work to the Yeovil area.

9. **FOOTPATHS** – It was noted that the footpath near the Halfway House had not yet been cleared by the landowner, despite the letter sent by the Parish Council.

10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCOUNTS**

- a) Receipts: None. – Noted.
- b) Payments: Clerks Salary, HMRC. – All unanimously agreed.
- c) Grant requests: None. – Noted.

11. **PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Applications: None – Noted.
- b) Decisions: None – Noted.
- c) Appeals: None – Noted.

12. **CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE** – None.

13. **VILLAGE HALL** – The meeting was asked to note that there had been an offer of a Christmas tree for next year.

14. **RECREATION TRUST** – The letter of complaint re the behaviour of the footballers sent originally to the Parish Council was discussed at the committee meeting and has been passed to the football team to address the problem. The Recreation committee will be looking at future projects that will require significant financial input over the next year, this will include the surface of the car park. Currently the committee are considering approaching the school for some assistance as they use it as staff parking. The Santa helicopter for the school was very well received and the damage to the field caused by it has been repaired.

Mr Seib arrived. Mr Seib opened discussion on possible locations for the Electric Vehicle Charging Points project from Somerset Council. The Parish Council requested that Mr Seib take Little Sammons parking area to Somerset Council for consideration.

15. **HR UPDATE** – The clerk left the meeting. Notes of the item were made by Mrs Taylor: Interviews were conducted during this week to replace our Parish Clerk who will be leaving us at the end of March. There were three candidates. The recruitment panel advised of the interview findings and a selection recommendation. The council agreed the candidate to be offered the post, subject to references. A second suitable candidate was approved for appointment should the first-choice decline.

16. **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN** – None.

17. **DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS** – 5 February 2026 7.30pm.