

CHILTHORNE DOMER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2025, 7.30pm, VILLAGE HALL, CHILTHORNE DOMER

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

Mr M Batstone (Chair)
Mrs K Taylor

Mr T Brandt

Mr P Seib

Mrs A Blaney

Mrs R Parsons

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** – Mr Seib confirmed his standard interests apply.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. **SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – Cllr Seib had previously issued an electronic report. There were three items to be added. Cllr Seib reported that the Executive Committee of Somerset Council had confirmed the Council Tax relief scheme for 2026/27, consultation for the budget had commenced, and the decision on Sunday parking charges has been deferred due to the level of public feeling – this will enable Somerset Council to a set of coherent principles to cover the whole of Somerset.
Mr Brandt asked Cllr Seib about the consultation on the electoral boundaries, the extended date for comments is now 14th January. Mr Brandt queried whether the Parish Council wanted to make a representation, and if so on what grounds. Following discussion it was agreed that a representation should be made demonstrating that Chilthorne Domer Parish Council would prefer to remain with two Councillors. Mr Brandt volunteered to draft the response.
5. **HIGHWAY MATTERS**
 - a) SID. – No report this month.
 - b) Road safety between Thorne and Chilthorne Domer. – The number of motor bikes using this route as a cut-through is increasing. Mrs Blaney asked the Parish Council to consider requesting and supporting additional signage from Somerset Highways to warn motorists of pedestrians and horses along the road. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council did support the proposal and suggested that any illegal vehicle activity should be reported to the Police. An article should be written to be included in the next What's On magazine asking people to report appropriate issues in this location, and on Kings Hill.
It was noted that the Give Way sign has still not been replaced at Vagg Lane junction. (Post meeting note. Reported again with reference 863422)
6. **COMMUNITY SAFETY & POLICE MATTERS** – Nothing to report.
7. **GARDEN PLOTS**

- a) Report on engagement meeting – Mrs Taylor reported that she and Mrs Blaney had leafleted everybody immediately affected by the Garden Plots (14 properties). To date there had been 10 responses to the survey, 5 of which were from people bordering the Garden Plots. At the engagement meeting Ms Honnor had done a presentation on Skool Beanz and the Garden Plots, and a question regarding the number of people from outside of the parish using them – this did not seem to be an issue. Ms Honnor has asked Mrs Taylor and Mrs Blaney if the Parish Council might consider, in principle, allowing a ‘classroom’ on the plots. Following a brief discussion the Parish Council did not make a decision as any such exercise would require planning permission. Mrs Taylor is to write a report to be included in What’s On to thank people for participating.
8. **LCN UPDATE** – There was a meeting about Violence against Women and Girls today, unfortunately Mrs Blaney wasn’t able to attend. No minutes for the last meeting, or date for the next have been received.
9. **FOOTPATHS** – Although not a Public Right of Way the barriers by the play area are not compatible with accessibility needs. The clerk is to report this to Somerset Council. (Post meeting note. Reported with reference of 863421)
10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS AND ACCOUNTS**
 - a) Receipts: None – noted.
 - b) Payments: Clerks Salary, HMRC, Hall hire for rec £30, Printing for Garden plots £55.76 – All agreed unanimously.
 - c) Grant requests: £500 for grass cutting and maintenance of church yard and area around war memorial. – Proposed to grant the money by Mr Seib, seconded by Mrs Blaney, agreed unanimously.
 - d) Budget: Budget proposal circulated. – The budget as proposed and circulated by the clerk was accepted unanimously subject to changing the title of the allotments line to Garden Plots and including the Octagon donation as ear-marked expenditure. Precept £10,000.
11. **PLANNING MATTERS**
 - a) Applications: 25/02605/FUL, Greenacres, Vagg Lane, Chilthorne Damer - Replacement Outbuildings & Home office, Entrance gates to storage area and Change of Use of Land and Outbuildings to Residential (Partially Retrospective).

The Parish Council discussed the application and unanimously agreed on the following comments to be sent to the Local Planning Authority.

‘The highway immediately outside the site is a derestricted highway of substandard nature and the recently erected buildings have reduced the previous substandard visibility splay from both this site and the bungalow next door to practically zero visibility. The use as stated in the application and the submitted Design and Access statement for the storage area is residential, however, the Design and Access statement also makes note that the applicant is storing materials, equipment and vehicles for their building business – the Parish Council does not consider this to be residential use. Several different vehicles with the same company logo have been witnessed entering the site at various times and as such the Parish Council strongly believe the site is not being used for a residential use, more so a builder’s yard, Use Class B8. This Use Class could very easily attract large vehicles that are wholly unsuitable for this narrow highway that is currently much busier than a highway of this type would suggest to those that don’t know the area. Large vehicles would find manoeuvring in and out of the site very difficult, no swept path drawings for medium or large vehicles have been provided to prove otherwise. Any gates for this site should be set to open inwards and allow vehicles to exit the highway before operating the gates and suitable visibility splays should be demonstrated on a drawing.’

b) Decisions: None – Noted.

c) Appeals: None – Noted.

12. CLERKS REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

a) Anonymous letter received to be passed to recreation committee – Letter read to the Council and was passed to the Recreation Area representative.

b) Email message received re potential political grooming of children at the allotments – An email had been received and after discussion this is to be sent to Somerset Council as they are responsible for the allotments currently. Mrs Blaney offered to talk to Ms Honnor regarding the message.

13. VILLAGE HALL – At the Christmas tree lighting £187 was raised for Children in Need. No contribution is currently required from the Parish Council. The school use will be changing from January; bookings will need to be specifically made for use.

14. RECREATION TRUST – Nothing further to report.

15. HR UPDATE – The advert is to be sent to SALC and Somerset Council. The ALCC contact details will be sent by Mr Seib to Mr Brandt. A draft contract of employment has been written by Mr Brandt and will be circulated.

16. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN – Nothing raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

17. DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS – 8 January 2026 7.30pm.