

RUISHTON AND THORNFALCON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 8th July 2026 in the meeting room of Ruishton Village Hall
CLLRS PRESENT: Mullins, (Chairman) Angell, Boucher, Liz Harper, Sherry, Stroner, Williams and van Bussel

ALSO PRESENT: Jim Claydon (Neighbourhood Plan) and the Clerk, Heather Bryant.

PARISHIONERS QUESTION TIME (ON GENERAL PARISH MATTERS)

There were no members of the public present

SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

The Council received a written report from the Somerset Councillors before the meeting
Somerset Councillor Sarah Wakefield sent her apologies

26/7/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllrs. Bulgin, Tarr, Fudge and Richard Harper

26/7/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

26/7/3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 1st JULY 2026

Deferred until next month

26/7/4 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman reported that a productive and consultative meeting was held with the flood team, with the offer from SC of a Community engagement meeting to be held with the village at some stage in the future to discuss flood mitigation measures.

The Chairman reported that he had a meeting with Dan Bennett from Somerset Housing regarding Dinham properties and the flood gates to ensure their efficiency. However, the flood shed could not be accessed as someone had put a padlock on the shed door. The Chairman has now purchased our own padlock and will have a follow up meeting with Dan to review the equipment in the shed.

26/7/5 PLANNING

31/26/0008 Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of application 31/22/0022LB) at Ruishton Court, Ruishton.

The Council had no comments

31/26/0009/LB Installation of fibre broadband connection at Potmans, Stoke Road

The Council had no comments

Woodlands

The Clerk reported that she had received a reply from the Planning Inspectors Office. Basically, the letter said that they referred to the Neighbourhood Plan sent to them and their decision could not be changed. Jim Claydon reported that the Inspector was looking at the Neighbourhood plan sent by Somerset Council which not the 'made' version. Jim Claydon continued that there are two copies of the Neighbourhood Plan on the Somerset Council's web site both stating 'made' but one of the copies is not the final version. The Neighbourhood Plan Administrator is looking into this

HELAA – Call for sites for the Somerset Local Plan

Jim Claydon reported that much of the land either side of the A358 has been proposed for development by land owners and their agents, but it doesn't mean they will be selected in the new Local Plan. He recommends that the PC to review any of these options when these are produced in the Local Plan process

26/7/6 FLOODING MATTERS

Update on ongoing matters

The Chairman reported the cost of three 'road liable to flood' units with a flip sign 'Road Flooded' with flashing amber lights will cost in the region of £12,221 excluding VAT. These are to replace the now redundant flood signs in the parish. The Chairman is awaiting further information from the Company.

Cllr Sherry reported that the Environment Agency had visited the flood bank where there is an active badger set and evidence of rat holes but he has not heard any more. It was suggested that Cllr Sherry contact Cllr Tarr in regard to the badger set

26/7/7 HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATHS

Gravel update

Cllr Sherry reported that the gravel has not been laid as yet due to the very hot weather That is the footpath between Bushy Cross Lane and the garages adjacent to Newlands Crescent.

Orbital Gateway in Henlade

Cllr Stroner reported that he had been waiting for Somerset Highways to fit a post for the gateway for several months. However, he has found a person who will fit the post for £200. It was agreed that he could go ahead providing he had written Somerset Highways approval

26/7/8 RECREATION GROUND

The picnic table where one end has sunk and will be difficult to correct as it is anchored in the ground. However, it is safe and still functionable.

Cllr Sherry reported that one of the picnic tables has a rough surface and it could be corrected if the top is turned over.

It was agreed to wait for the annual inspection which is due very soon for any other safety issues regarding the play equipment.

26/7/8 DEFIBRILLATORS

All three defibrillators are now active (Village Hall, Dinhams and the School)

Preparation work is required for the defibrillator at Lower Henlade of a concrete plinth, paving slabs pole and ductwork to connect to the National Grid at a cost of £799.20. This was agreed

26/7/9 THORNFALCON PROJECTS

Cllr Angell reported that he had one quote to hard surface a grass area at the Church. The Chairman suggested Councillor Angell contact Greenslades Landscaping, who had previously completed work for the parish.

26/7/10 SOMERSET COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN AWARDS

It was agreed to nominate Sue Gunstone and her team of volunteers for regularly carrying out litter picking in this parish and beyond

26/7/11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CHEQUES FOR PAYMENT (Unity)

RESOLVED: that this Council approves the schedule of cheques/invoices and bank statements with the Financial Report subject to the requirements of our Risk Assessment Document

Internet Banking

The Clerk reported that she needs Cllrs Bulgin and Liz Harper to sign page one of the Internet Banking form and Cllrs Mullins, Richard Harper, Williams and Stroner to sign page three. Once signatures are completed, she will scan and send off to Unity.

Neighbourhood Plan Administrators support price review

RESOLVED: to approve the hourly rate of £20

26/7/12 POLICIES REVIEW

RESOLVED: to approve the Complaints Procedure Policy as presented.

26/7/13 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS/ SOMERSET COUNCIL

Nothing to report

26/7/14 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk had an email from a parishioner complaining about the overgrown hedges along pavement adjacent A358 and Cheats Corner. The Clerk advised the parishioner to report the problem to Somerset Council via a link on Ruishton's web site

26/7/15 MATTERS TO REPORT (for information only) **OR FOR THE AGENDA AT THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Sherry for this help with the bus shelter roof replacement which has now been completed.

Items for the next meeting-

Project Management 'Trello' Cllr van Bussel to send the Clerk the details.

Presentation equipment for Parish Council events

Date of the next meeting –5th August 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm