



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held on Thursday, October 23rd 2025, at 7.30 pm, at Morganians RFC.

Present Parish Councillors Kennedy, Browne, Mason, and in attendance 1 parishioner, a member of the public, LCN Officer and the clerk

25/10/68 Apologies received from Mr R Davies, Mr D Lane, Mr G Bond, and Councillor Rodrigues. There were no declarations of personal/prejudicial/ disclosable pecuniary interests.

25/10/69 Resolved to sign the minutes from the meeting held on 18th September 2025 as a correct record.

25/10/70 Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda - Neighbourhood plan: LB has spoken with Stuart Todd, who provided options that depend on what the PC wishes to achieve. There is a cost, and CIL monies will cover this. Resolved to arrange a meeting that all parish councillors can attend, Nick Tait to be invited to participate in.

25/10/11 Unitary Councillor report shared – attached to the minutes.

25/10/72 Parish Councillors – LB provided more information relating to the neighbourhood plan, explaining that the community review documents would assist with this. Actions were assigned to the clerk to ensure that parish maps were available. The community review made it clear that parishioners need open space. She attended a full council meeting to talk about affordable housing. She has conducted extensive research on this subject. She has also requested traffic data for areas within the parish's curtilage. RK reported that he had witnessed chaotic parking at KDP during school pickup times, as well as occasional coach parking. ME reported potholes along the edge of the carriageway on the entrance to Medway Park. PM commented on the road resurfacing and asked whether there was anything further the PC could do regarding Old Bath Road—clerk to contact the police.

25/10/73 Community Review LB shared a report of a meeting held, report attached

25/10/74 Clerk reported Cheques payable – 300071 – £35 Morganians Hall hire
300072 - £120 and 3000760 £120.00 Quinns Window Cleaning
300073 – £340.00 and 300075 £170.40 GWB Services
300074 - £71.00 Mrs K Lang Starlink (KDP) £19 and ICO £52 Football pitches at KDP discussed as currently are out of use, Clerk is working with grounds team and EDF hoping to have them open asap. Notice boards and bench for KDP agreed, Clerk to send out options with the aim of agreeing quickly. An email was received regarding a safety issue with hedging at River Lane. The clerk is to write to the homeowner to request that the hedge be cut. Vehicle gates at KDP have been damaged. The Clerk is to arrange a repair.

25/10/75 Planning applications - none



25/10/76 Date of next monthly meeting – 20th November 2025, public speaking at 7.15pm.

SOMERSET COUNCIL

Briefing Sheet for Parish & Town Councils

October 2025

Council agrees to pay consultants £20m to balance its budget: Somerset Council has appointed Newton Europe as its “strategic partner” to deliver the Inspiring Innovation Transformation Plan and identify £101.4m of savings for 2026/27, rising to £190m by 2029/30. Newton will be paid up to £20m. The Council expects a minimum £2.50 saving for every £1 spent, though the tight timescale means significant savings must be in place by April 2026 to avoid a budget deficit.

Consultants and Agency Costs: Since declaring a financial emergency in 2023, Somerset Council has spent £33.6m on consultant and agency staff via its Matrix supplier (£12.5m in 2023/24, £14.2m in 2024/25, and £6.8m so far in 2025/26). This excludes non-Matrix spend, so the true cost could be higher. In April, 555 full time posts were cut from the local authority as part of a major restructuring exercise.

Life Factory Project Payments: Somerset Council has faced criticism over its handling of the Life Factory project, part of Glastonbury’s £23.6m Town Deal. Internal audit (SWAP) highlighted serious weaknesses in financial controls, governance, and oversight, yet significant payments continued to be authorised through 2023–24. Following questioning at Full Council, the Council admitted that earlier this year it awarded a £20,812 revenue grant to the Red Brick Building Centre Ltd, specifically to support the closure of accounts.

Planning Service Recovery Plan: A motion at Full Council (25 Sept) called for the Executive to develop a Planning Service Recovery Plan with targets to reduce planning application backlogs, restore parish and councillor engagement, strengthen enforcement, and publish quarterly reports. Instead, the ruling group voted to refer the matter to Climate & Place Scrutiny on 23 Oct. Parish councils and councillors remain restricted under the current emergency measures introduced in July.

Council Homes Purchase: Full Council approved plans to use a £3.3m underspend from the Housing Revenue Account to purchase around 15 additional council homes. The properties will initially be used to reduce reliance on costly temporary accommodation such as hotels and B&Bs, before becoming part of the general housing stock in future years. The proposal received cross-party support.

Consultation on Sunday Parking Charges: Somerset Council launched a six-week consultation on proposals to introduce Sunday charges in car parks across the county. There are currently no Sunday charges in car parks in Taunton, Wellington, Bridgwater, Chard,



Crewkerne, Yeovil and Highbridge. The consultation will inform a report to Climate & Place Scrutiny before a final decision is made at Executive on 3 December. If approved, changes would take effect in early 2026. The consultation runs until 20th October:

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/parking/copy-of-consultation/>

Community Working Review: Somerset Council has commissioned Citizen Network to lead a review of how the Council works with communities. The review will examine national best practice, engage councillors, parish councils, VCFSE partners and statutory agencies, and co-produce a framework for future community development and engagement. Somerset Council should decide on the recommendations produced by Citizen Network in May 2026. Find out more information on the review and its current progress here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/sc-community25>

Digital Slinky Transport: Somerset Council is expanding its Digital Slinky demand-responsive transport service, funded through the Government's Bus Service Improvement grant. Following earlier rollouts in Somerton & Langport (May 2024) and Sedgemoor (August), the service launched in Taunton and Wellington on 15 September. Digital Slinky allows passengers to book via app just one hour in advance, with phone booking still available. The service runs Monday–Friday, 7.30am–5.30pm. Registration is required:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/slinky-services/>

Minutes of Meeting to Discuss Community Report 13/10/25

Present: Kate, Paul, Dave, Liz

Apologies: Robbie

Meeting was held to discuss the findings on the survey information in the Report and to formulate an Action Plan utilising this information.

Introduction

- The report was published in Dec 2024, and we needed to discuss the findings before the information does out of date.
- The Community Report provides the evidence for need within the Parish. The parish is very fragmented - most respondents came from Kingsdown because it has the biggest population.
- CCS deemed that the response rate was sufficient to make the survey valid
- Key findings of the survey were: need for more recreational activities provision for families and teens, insufficient greenspace. There were also concerns re speed and volume of traffic in the area. Improved communication with the PC would also be welcomed.

- The survey identified that the greatest need was for improvements to the play areas which could be described as poor condition, unfit for purpose and inadequate.
- Further construction in Kingsdown may mean even more pressure on already inadequate greenspace provision.

Actions

Community involvement	Community Report needs to be published on the Kingsdown Community FB page.	Kate /Liz
	Meeting with interested residents in the New Year at Pavillion-Fri pm	All
The play areas on Kingsdown are either owned by “Trust” or by “Pinnacle”.	Map where these areas and find out who is responsible for each parcel of land and what management agreements are in place.	Kate/Liz
Pitches in poor condition after the summer resulting in a sports team moving elsewhere	Find out maintenance schedule by? Sedgemoor	Kate will talk to Andrew
Play areas in poor condition and not fit for purpose	Inspect/photograph to illustrate current condition of play spaces.	Kate/Liz
	Acquire and examine the contract/management agreement for what was agreed by Trust	Kate
	Approach management companies, send them the review and state that we would like to work in partnership to improve play facilities by securing funding to improve these play spaces for our community- copy in CEO.	
	Check CiL agreement. Is provision adequate with more building in progress on Kinsdown	Liz
	Arrange a Teams meeting to discuss.	Kate

Finding additional provision	EDF land disposal - various parcels including area of grass adjacent to of land electric substation which could serve as a good location for a skate park or something for older teenagers in the area. Find owner of piece of land near lorry park nr Tesco's?	Kate will contact Andrew/Will Liz
Utilising existing provision	Cricket pitch ?redesign edge as a multi-use greenspace -TBD-woodland area was cut by ?IDB Youth Club -one Friday a month Approach Sports Clubs to see if they would like to run "taster sessions" on the cricket pitch area (previously 1610 said Pavilion space too small)	Liz Liz All
Better Communication between PC and Kingsdown in particular	Set up a public FB page and post on community sites	Kate
Traffic calming- There is speeding on some residential streets other than Kings Drive	Identify which areas -liaise with Highways/developer	TBC

PS and DL were concerned that residents might question as to what Trust are using their management fees for if the PC are utilising their funds/precept to supply and maintain equipment.

We need to investigate the management agreement and work in partnership to redesign and improve play equipment on land they manage. There are many funding streams/ grant-making bodies and these have been given to us by CCS (now Thrive).

Would we be better finding a piece of land ourselves for additional provision?
Neighbourhood Plan should highlight what areas are available. Purchase or crowd-funding might be an option on such areas.



The Pavillion is only free on Mon/Thurs/Fri pm (not every Friday). No room to extend Pavilion (only on one side) due to location of a pump house for the school.