

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage Tel: 01749 850934 e-mail: clerk@batcombe-parish-council-somerset.org.uk

You are Summoned to the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 6.45pm in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Agenda

1. Apologies and Acceptance of Reasons for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

It is the Councillors' responsibility to declare any interests they may have in any item on the Agenda. If you are uncertain please ask the Clerk before the meeting.

3. Public Participation – Open village meeting for any member of the public to raise any issue relevant to Batcombe Parish

The Chairman can invite members of the public to speak at this or any other appropriate point in the meeting.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 5th March 2025 to be agreed and signed.
Attached/enclosed.

5. Matters Arising – information updates only.

Action Table – A copy of the Action Table from the meeting on March 5th is attached/enclosed.

6. Footpaths and Highways

Tom Price has contacted Daniel Gordon (the Rights of Way Officer) regarding the health and safety concern posed by the damaged bridge resulting from the fallen tree on the Spargrove footpath and had no response yet. A local resident has reported seeing children climbing up the vertical bridge and suggests that it is made safe by the removal of the vertical bridge. Tom asks what action we can take as a Parish Council given the clear safety risk the bridge poses. Apart from asking the landowners to deal with the issue and informing the Rights of Way Officer, there is little the Parish Council can do apart from warning people of the danger.

7. Playing Field - Maintenance Report

Nothing to report.

8. Planning Applications

None at present.

Planning Application Updates

Nothing to report.

9. Grant Application – Community Review

As Tom Price noted at the last meeting, there may be funding available for a Community Review. Attached is a grant application that Tom would like the Parish Council to make for a Community Health and Wellbeing grant. These grants are administered by the Somerset Association of Local Councils with funding provided by the Somerset Council. There is a deadline of the end of March that has been extended to enable us to make a decision at our meeting on April 2nd.

The grant is for £4,850 to pay for a Community Review undertaken by the Community Council for Somerset. The Community Council for Somerset would be designing and producing the review survey and managing responses and collating data of the Community Review. They would also provide a full report and forward plan/action plan. The Community Steering Group would be responsible for delivering the Community Review and are requesting the following from the Parish Council:

- 1. Minuted Parish Council approval to make the application;*
- 2. £250 seed funding to support launch events in the parish to highlight the purpose of the Community Review/Community Plan and engage parishioners;*
- 3. A commitment in principle to support the findings of the Community Review;*
- 4. An annual budget allocation to help support the targets of the resultant Community Plan over 5 years (2026-2030). This could be achieved by a small increase in the parish precept, alongside our planned fundraising initiatives (i.e. the tourist levy).*

10. Authorisation of Payment

£1,303.96 The Clerk – Salary for 4th Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*
£2.80 HMRC – Income Tax on Clerk's Salary for 4th Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*
£88.29 The Clerk – Expenses for 4th Quarter. *See enclosed sheet.*
£190.00 Kevin Gale – Grass cutting in March

11. Other Business – matters of information only.

A celebration of 80 years since VE Day on Monday May 5th is being organised by a group of residents. This will include lighting a beacon on Burnel.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms, Batcombe. *This is the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which the Parish Council Chair is elected for the year.*

Rob Sage

Rob Sage – Clerk

26th March 2025