

# BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

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## You are Summoned to the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council to be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Old School, 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**

*This is necessary as any member who is absent for six months, without the Council accepting their reasons for absence, automatically loses their seat on the Council.*

**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 fifteen minutes 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 at any other appropriate point in the meeting.*

**4. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to be agreed and signed.**  
*Enclosed/attached.*

**5. Matters Arising – information updates only.**

*Action Table – A copy of the Action Table from the meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> is attached/enclosed.*

**6. Somerset Councillors' Reports and the Shepton Local Community Network**

*An opportunity for the Somerset Councillors to report on matters relevant to the parish, either in person or in writing.*

**7. Highways and Rights of Way**

*Mary Comley as Chair of the Mendip Bridleways and Byways Association has written to Richard and Tom Calver at Westcombe Dairy asking them to cut back the overgrowing hedge on the lane from Westcombe to Lower Alham.*

*Tom Price has been forwarded an e-mail from the Senior Rights of Way Officer by the landowner at Mill Farm regarding the damaged bridge on the Spargrove footpath where it goes onto Mill Farm land. The e-mail states that: "The RoWBP is split into 2 zones, north and south. Bridge 4093 is number 14 on the northern list. To put this in some context there are currently 76 bridges and structures on this list. As I mentioned in my previous email, the Bridge Warden covering the northern zone is currently off work and we do not have anybody to cover the projects in this area. I am trying to pick up some emergency works, but where a closure is in place, as there is here, we will monitor and maintain this until a project can be progressed. Having said this as I set out in my last*

email I will visit site to look at what can be done but regrettably I will not be able to do this for some time, due to other work priorities.” *The landowner suggests putting this in the parish magazine to keep people informed of the dangerous state of the bridge.*

#### **8. Playground - Maintenance Report**

*British Gas estimated the electricity usage in the Playing Field in January as 2,278 units and as a result took £749.13 by Direct Debit from the Parish Council bank account. When I contacted them and told them we didn't use any electricity, they initially said they would credit us the difference of £720.31 but didn't provide refunds. When I pointed out that they couldn't take £750 by mistake and not refund it and that it would take around four years for us to use £750 of electricity, they relented and promised to refund the £720.*

#### **9. Planning Applications**

Planning Application 2026/0328/TCA Apple (T1) - Fell, Crab Apple (T2) - Fell.

Ivy Wall House, Back Lane, Batcombe. Works/Felling Trees in a CA.

*The two trees are in the garden behind Ivy Wall House. The owner wishes to fell them to create light and space in his garden.*

**Planning Application Updates.** *The application to reduce the Lime in the glebe field by 3m has been approved. As has the application to remove the Box stems at the entrance to Boxbush farm and to reduce the Beech, Norway Maple and the Cherry in the garden at Boxbush.*

#### **10. Annual Parish Meeting**

*The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup>. Our MP Anna Sabine is happy to attend and be part of a Question Time panel with our Somerset Councillors. Timetable: 7.30pm refreshments; 7.45pm usual business; 8.15-9.00pm Question Time. A parking space needs to be reserved for Anna Sabine as she may arrive after the meeting has started. Councillors have volunteered to arrange refreshments.*

#### **11. Review of Schedule of Assets**

*The Schedule of Assets should be reviewed annually before the independent examination and an updated copy of the Schedule is attached. The one change from the last time the Schedule was updated (a year ago) is the addition of the new grit bin at Hincombe Hill (purchase value £216). As a result, the value of the Parish Council's Assets has increased to £64,373. It should be noted that the values given are the purchase value with no account made of depreciation or increase in value. The exception being the telephone kiosk in Westcombe which is recorded at its insurance value.*

#### **12. Review of Risk Management Policy and Insurance Cover**

*The Risk Management Policy should be reviewed annually before the independent examination. Enclosed is a copy of the Risk Assessment and Management document. This is essentially the same as last year's document as there has been little change in the risks to the Council.*

*The Insurance Policy should also be reviewed annually before the independent examination and before it is due for renewal in June. We are coming to the end of the first year in a three-year long-term agreement with Ecclesiastical arranged through Clear Councils Insurance. We will obtain a quote for next year's insurance closer to the renewal date but because of the long-term agreement there should not be a large increase in premium this year. Our insurance cover appears perfectly adequate and there is no reason to change insurance in the middle of a long-term agreement.*

#### **13. Authorisation of Payment**

£95.00 Kevin Gale – Grass cutting in Playing Field & War Memorial in February.

*The following payments were made by online bank transfer since the last meeting and after being approved by the Clerk and the Chair:*

£47.29 water2business – Water supply to Playing Field.

£6.78 Bryony Harling – Reimburse cost of sticker for litter bin.

**14. Other Business** – matters of information only.

*Nothing at present.*

**15. Date of Next Meeting** - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at 6.45pm in the Jubilee Hall.  
To be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

*Rob Sage*

Rob Sage – Clerk

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026