

BATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Rob Sage

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Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Batcombe Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st April 2026 in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, commencing at 6.45pm.

Present - Councillors: Janet Jones – Chair, Jayne Cox, Peter Glaisher, Bryony Harling, Clare Kingston, Tom Price and Ian Sage.

Also Present: The Clerk – Rob Sage and five members of the public.

5946 – Apologies for Absence: None.

5947 – Declarations of Interest: Ian Sage and Jayne Cox declared an interest in the authorisation of the Clerk's salary and expenses as relatives of the Clerk.

5948 – Public Participation: Members of the Batcombe Cricket Club requested the use of the cricket net in the Playing Field for practice on several evenings in April before the cricket season began. The Parish Council had previously considered the use of the cricket net by the cricket club and were happy for this to happen, but asked the cricket club to put up warning notices when they were using the net for practice. It was suggested that if the hard cricket ball presented a safety concern then a softer ball could be used for the practice. The cricket club were hoping to improve the relationship between the club and the village and were looking for help with teas.

5949 – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2026 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5950 – Matters Arising: Action Table – A copy of the Action Table from the meeting on March 4th had been distributed with the Agenda.

Allotments – Peter Glaisher reported that he had inspected the allotments. While these were currently under control there were likely to be problems later in the years due to the limited number of allotment holders.

Planning – the owner of Boxbush stated that he would like to meet with Councillors before putting in a planning application for a two-storey extension and the removal of various lean-tos. Councillors were happy to meet with him but any decisions would have to wait until the planning application could be considered at a Parish Council meeting.

5951 – Highways and Rights of Way: A local resident had expressed support for the Ramblers' campaign to add footpaths to the definitive map, believing that the paths referred to by the Ramblers were walked. To be considered at the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that a resident had raised concerns about the obstruction being caused by a wheelie bin being left in the road outside Church Farm with stones placed around it to prevent vehicles hitting it. The Clerk to write to the owner of Church Farm stating that wheelie bins cannot be permanently left on the highway – only put out on collection days.

5952 – Playing Field – Maintenance Report and Removal of Litter Bin: Bryony Harling proposed keeping the litter bin as she had been in contact with the officer responsible for litter bins at the Somerset Council and would aim to ensure the bin was emptied weekly. It was

agreed to extend the trial period for a further two months with Bryony as bin warden to see if this would resolve the problem of the bin overflowing.

5953 – Planning Applications: There were no planning applications on the Agenda. The Clerk reported that notification had been received of tree works at Pastoral on Kale Street, which could be responded to by the Clerk under delegated authority. There were no objections to the proposed tree works.

Planning Updates: Nothing to report.

5954 - Authorisation of Payments: Councillors authorised the following payments:

- £1,337.42 The Clerk – Salary for 4th Quarter.
- £25.99 HMRC – Income Tax & Employer’s NICs for 3rd Quarter.
- £89.49 The Clerk – Expenses for 4th Quarter.
- £300.00 Kevin Gale – Grass cutting in March (3 cuts).
- £196.99 Somerset Association of Local Councils – Affiliation fees.

The payments to be made online.

The Clerk reported that the following authorised payments had been made by online bank transfer since the last meeting after being approved by the Clerk and the Chair:

- £95.00 Kevin Gale – Grass cutting in Playing Field and War Memorial in February.
- £116.00 Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk’s membership of the SLCC.

5955 – Other Business – matters of information only. A local resident had requested the Parish Council’s support for retaining the The Three Horseshoes as an Asset of Community Value. To be considered that the next Parish Council meeting.

Ian Sage reported that the Page family had donated the beacon stand used at Jubilee celebrations to the Parish Council and it was agreed that it should be added to the Schedule of Assets.

5956 - Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Old School Rooms. This would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting at which the Chair of the Parish Council was elected for the coming year.

Janet Jones
6/5/26