

BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish – Mrs C Sylvester
Tel: 07392 732283 Email: clerk@broomfieldparish.com
www.broomfieldparish.com

Public Session

None.

Reports from Somerset Councillors

Councillor Bill Revans address addressed the meeting.

The Minutes

Present: Councillors Steve Hughes, Doug Wilson, Lucinda Garland and Jess Osman.

In Attendance: Donna Durham (Assistant Clerk), Somerset Councillors Alan Bradford and Bill Revans and 3 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

Councillor Aras

2. **Declaration of interest**

None

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 19th November 2024 were circulated with the agenda of this meeting and unanimously approved.

4. **Chair's Report**

Firstly, a belated Happy New Year to all, thanks for your support during 2024 and I hope everyone had a good festive season.

There has been little time since the last meeting and little of concern appears to happen (outwardly at least) in our community in the quiet winter months, so this inevitably is a short report.

Roads

I have reported several ongoing issues, which I do regularly. In this case the usual blocked drains on Rose Hill, the appalling state of the Volis Hill road to Taunton, the ongoing and dangerous flooding on Rooks Castle Road and various potholes.

It has been reported that some work has been instructed and that by the end of the month it should be completed – given past promises but little action let's wait and see.

I urge everyone to report significant issues for the sake of all road users.

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Footpaths and Bridleways

The recent storms have caused a number of trees to fall in the lower common. These again have been reported and some have been cleared but I appreciate that there are limited personnel available and major routes take precedent.

Again, please report blocked paths and bridleways.

The Common

The seemingly annual issue of people stealing wood from the common occurred again this year. Thanks to Paul Trolley for challenging the offenders.

As a reminder the PC is not responsible for the commons, and we can't afford to be; Somerset Council holds the primary responsibility.

As a reminder however nobody has the right to enter the common to remove timber whether fallen or otherwise, to do so is theft.

There are 'commoners rights' to take a set amount and size of hazel poles (for plant supports etc) but that is as far as it goes.

Many of the trees planted a year or two back are thriving and in time we will have a more varied environment with ash still the main species perhaps but supplemented by other trees growing where swathes of ash have been felled.

Lastly

....a thank you to the locals who help out every year often without thanks or reward who clear fallen trees from roads and paths, collect litter on their walks, clear drains and generally help out wherever and however they can.

5. LCN Children & Young Person Group (Chair of Group, David Stripp, addressing meeting)

- Drafted a letter with background to issue
- David Stripp used to run Youth Club in Kingston St Mary, which folded post covid.
- Since Youth and Community Service was pulled, there have been significant challenges over last 10 years.
- SALC have a well being fund, which could be tapped into (£!800).
- Running research asking what young people want. Intention is that there will be a bid of up to £35,000 (5% of precept).
- Local parishes have few young people, and a percentage would be asked for (£278) depending on how many young people are in the parish. If agreed, a bid will be submitted to provide:
 - Multi sports
 - Drama
 - Art
- Asking for support and money put aside will stay in Broomfield account.

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SCC can't afford to fund this so it may be that others have to now fund. Larger parishes will probably benefit more and it was mentioned that 50% of children in the parish go to private schools and have a raft of extra-curricular activities on offer to them.

The Council, unanimously supported to put aside £278 from the 2025/26 budget.

6. Village Hall Update

- Continuing to get bookings
- Two wedding receptions booked this year
- Decorators starting work week beginning 03.02.2025
- Electrician quoting for additional sockets and also heaters
- Who is responsible for service charge of defibrillator? Fundraising should cover cost for replacement batteries.

6.1 New Gate for Car Park

Edwin fixed the gate, invoice with clerk for payment.

7. Footpaths/Bridleways

Bridleway diversion at Shelthorne down to Christmas trees (4/10). Currently waiting for objection period (end of Jan).

Footpath clearances through the woods.

8. LCN Highways - Priorities

The Council have been asked by LCN Highways to put forward three priorities:

- Flooding on Rooks Castle
- Potholes
- Blocked drains throughout parish

Unanimously agreed by Council.

Footpath issues should be reported to Karen Hughes who is the footpath representative for the LCN.

Kingston St Mary Parish Council had a representative from Kier to discuss priorities in the parish. Councillor Hughes will try to contact them.

9. Somerset Electoral Review

Boundaries are being reviewed. Kingston St Mary Parish Council have suggested they go in line with LCNs. Somerset Councillor Bill Revans confirmed that the end of consultation was 20.01.2025.

It was suggested that grouping Broomfield with large parishes might not be to this Parish Council's advantage.

It was suggested that the Council review the document, even though the deadline has passed. The public consultation is scheduled for June 2025.

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10. Finance

10.1 Receipts and Payments

The Council unanimously approved the receipts and payments.

10.2 Budget 2025-2026

The Council unanimously approved the budget for 2025-2026.

The meeting closed at 20:38

Signed _____ (Chairman) 25th March 2025

DRAFT