

**CURRY MALLET PARISH COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting of Curry Mallet Parish Council
On Monday 16 March 2026 at 7.30pm
in the Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall, Curry Mallet**

Present: Cllrs. F Wood, D Beck , M Whitman and W Wilkes-Wood.

In attendance: L Gowers (Clerk) and Unitary Councillor R Wilkins

25/ To Note apologies for Absence:

140 None

25/ Public Participation

141 None

25/ To approve the Minutes of the previous meetings.

142 It was **AGREED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th February 2026 be approved.

25/ Declarations of Interest

143 All Councillors declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 due to holding shares in the Community Benefit Society which was raising money to purchase the village pub.

- In addition, the following declarations of interest were made in Agenda Item 10:
Cllr. Whitman as he is also a School Governor.
- Cllr Beck as a member of the Village Hall Committee
- Cllr Wilkes-Wood as a member of the Village pub Committee

25/ To receive verbal reports from Unitary Councillors

144 Cllr Wilkins reported:

- The Boundary Commission Report had been recently published. It detailed cutting 110 Councillors across 55 dualled divisions (2 Councillors in each) to 96 Councillors and single member wards. The exceptions would be Minehead, Wells and Cheddar & Axbridge. Curry Mallet would become Curry Rivel Ward. This would take effect in 2027 along with elections.
- The balanced budget had been set for the coming financial year at the recent Full Council meeting. Somerset Council needed to rely on exceptional funding again this year, but this would be the last year that this could be done.
- The Government had put some money aside to try to offset the increase in the cost of heating oil due to the conflict in the Middle East. This would be available via Somerset Council.

Cllr. Wilkins asked the Parish Council if there were any further updates regarding the issue with sewerage in the village. In periods of heavy rain, sewerage had leaked through the manhole in Headwell into the stream. This had also happened in Lower Street, which affected access to the village school. It was noted that Cllr. Mike Stanton had spoken to Wessex Water via Somerset River's Trust. There was no update.

25/ To note that the Parish Council has two casual vacancies to be filled by Co-option.

145 Noted

25/ To receive the Clerks update report

146 The Clerk reported that she would contact Somerset Association of Local Council's regarding a job description and recommended wording for an advert for her replacement.

25/ Local Community Network (LCN) Meeting Update.

147 There had not been a meeting held since the last Parish Council meeting. The next LCN meeting would be held on Thursday 26th March in Somerton.

25/ Update from Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Community Pub:

148 Cllr. Wilkes Wood noted that there had been a recent meeting of the Committee and reported:

- The rescheduled visit from Sarah Dyke MP would take place in the village on Thursday 2nd April at 3pm and the efforts to open The Bell would be the main point of discussion.
- It had been agreed that there would be another training event for Social Media and a date would be confirmed. Crowd Funding is still live. The raffle ends and will be drawn at the end of March.
- The campaign to save The Bell had been picked up in the Morning Advertiser earlier in March along with a two page spread in What's on Somerset.

25/ Grants - To consider applications to the Parish Council grant fund from village organisations.

149 Following discussion, it was agreed to fund all applicants as follows:

- Parochial Church Council of All Saints Church, Curry Mallet £515
To help with the cost of maintaining the Church grounds.
- Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Village Hall Committee £350
Towards the repair of pot holes in the Village Hall car park.
- Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe Community Pub £400
Towards improvements & start up costs.
- Curry Mallet Primary School £400
To be used to furnish the extended pre school provision with storage units.

The Parish Council had budgeted £1350 for grants for this financial year and the applications totalled £1650. Councillors wanted to fund all applications so agreed to take £300 from Section 137 monies towards the village grants.

25/ To consider a grant request from Citizens Advice

150 Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council did not have enough funds to grant Citizens Advice some money. The Clerk, however, was asked to contact them and invite them to have a fundraising stall at the Somerset Day event on Sunday 10th May 2026.

25/ To consider a grant request from Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance

151 Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council did not have enough funds to grant Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance some money. The Clerk, however, was asked to contact them and invite them to have a fundraising stall at the Somerset Day event on Sunday 10th May 2026.

25/ Somerset Day. To receive an update from Cllr. Wood:

152

- Cllr. Wood had been in contact with various people to judge cakes and flower arranging, arts & crafts & paintings.
- Cllr. Wood to contact St Giles Kennels regarding the dog show.
- Volunteers would be required. The Clerk had contact with a young person who had expressed an interest in volunteering and it was suggested that they be contacted for help.
- Cllr Wood to investigate mobile skittles.

- The Village Pub Committee had confirmed they would run a “water or wine” stall.
- The Village Hall had confirmed they would offer tea and coffee and the Church would offer cake
- Cllr. Whitman had contacted the PTFA who had declined a stall.
- Although notice was short, having Morris Dancers was discussed. Taunton Deane Morris Troupe would be the local group. The Clerk would make contact and investigate availability and cost.

25/ Finance:

153 The following payments were noted and approved.

Lloyds Bank service charges March	£ 4.25
Clerks Salary February & March 2026	£421.71
HMRC	£ 68.13

The Clerk had received an invoice from Somerset Council for the emptying of the litter bin outside the village store after the agenda had been published. This invoice was also approved to allow payment in this financial year. .

Somerset Council	£101.40
------------------	---------

25/ Planning: To note the following application and decision from Somerset Council

154 26/00313/NMA Churchills Cottage Lower Street Curry Mallet TA3 6TD

Non Material Amendment to approved application 25/01212/HOU for addition of a roof light into proposed rear (south) elevation.

Application Permitted

25/ Action Status Report: To receive an update on actions outstanding.

155 The following actions were discussed:

Sheepwash Flood Chamber & culverts: The Clerk had printed maps of gullies, bridges and historically cleared gullies for all Councillors. Unitary Cllr. Richard Wilkins showed the Parish Council where to find an interactive map of works from Somerset Council. It was also confirmed that Somerset Council had a small amount of extra budget for gully clearance.

Cllr. Wood suggested that villagers check gullies/culverts near them and report back. Councillors should also check areas near them.

Cllr. Whitman would check the North East part of the map; Top Road, Morrells and Iberry Lane.

Re printing Circular Walks in Curry Mallet and Beercrocombe: The Clerk had contacted Beercrocombe Parish Council who had expressed an interest in the project and may offer a small amount of funding towards the reprint.. The Clerk had made contact with Somerset Association of Local Councils regarding the Health & Wellbeing fund and had a call scheduled to discuss.

25/ Matters of Report

156 The following items were noted:

Cllr. Wood reported that Primrose Cottage (the former shop) had reduced the area of the shop to enable an increase in the size of the living accommodation. As the shop was an Asset of Community Value, it had been questioned if this was possible The Clerk would contact the Communities Team at Somerset Council.

25/ Date of the next meeting.

157 Monday 13th April 2026

The meeting closed at 21.37

Signed:

Dated: