

# DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD At DUNSTER TITHE BARN ON Monday 09<sup>th</sup>  
March 2026 7.00pm

## Attendees

**Councillors:** Geoff Dibble (Chair), Kevin Sully, Alan Vicary, Peter Finney, Matt Griffiths, Tessa Williams, Barbara Bryan, Steve Harris and Carol Ell

**Clerk:** Mrs Sarah Towells

**Other:** Syed Shah (SC) Marcus Kravis (SC)

## Apologies

**Councillors:** James Morley

**Other:** Cara Strom (SC)

**Cllrs absent without apology:** None

Prior to the start of the meeting Syed Shah updated the Council on the Dunster Traffic light improvements: The scheme will be complete by 2<sup>nd</sup> April and the resurfacing works are taking place next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

**25/263 To note apologies for absence:** As noted above.

**25/264 Any New Declarations of interest and dispensations:** There were none.

**25/265 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 09<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for approval:** It was resolved to approve the minutes.

**25/266 Somerset Councillor Report:** Cllr Kravis reported that with the new boundary's Dunster would become a one ward member. 5 million pounds has been made available by the government for family hubs. Somerset Council still hopes to become carbon neutral by 2030.

## **25/267 Accounts**

25/267.1 Approval of expenditure: It was resolved to pay the payments on the attached list.

25/267.2 Current account expenditure analysis for February 2026 It was resolved to note the figures, and Cllr Finney would sign these.

25/267.3 Bank reconciliation for February 2026: It was resolved to note the bank reconciliation which would be signed by Cllr Finney.

25/267.4 Budget Monitoring: It was resolved to note the budget monitoring which would be signed by Cllr Finney.

25/267.5 PAYE figures for February 2026: It was resolved to note these were correct and a payment of £71.37 would be sent to HMRC.

25/267.6 Earmarked reserves: It was resolved to agree the following as earmarked reserves:

West street cobbles £2000, New cemetery £5000, Dunster Working Group £10,035, Buttercross Orchard £1674, Locum Clerk £1000, Toilet block roof £2000, Allotment improvements £2000. The Clerk explained that the buttercross orchard figure varies on a monthly basis depending on income and expenditure.

## **25/268 Planning:**

EXM/26/024/VOC	13 The Olde House, Tea Room, High Street, Dunster, TA24 6SF	Proposal: Change of use of ground floor retail space to tea room (class A3), as per amended plans dated 20/03/08, without complying with condition 2 of approved application 6/10/08/106 to vary opening hours.	It was resolved to support the application.
EXM/26/066/TCA	Dunster Castle, Castle Hill, Dunster, TA24 6SL	Proposal: Works to trees in conservation area	It was resolved there were no objections

- 25/269 Review of Asset Register:** It was resolved to note there were no updates or amendments.
- 25/270 Cemetery's:** It was resolved to note there was nothing to report.
- 25/271 Allotments:** It was resolved to note all plots had now been allocated.
- 25/272 Buttercross Orchard:** Cllr Harris reported that pruning of the trees was now complete. The new tree funded by Ellicombe Manor had now been planted.
- 25/273 Riverside Walk:** Cllr Vicary reported grass cutting would start next week.
- 25/274 Correspondence:**  
 25/274.1 Email from Tony Melnyk resigning from the Council due to health issues: The email was noted and it was resolved the Clerk would write to thank Tony for his work whilst on the council and wish him all the best for the future.
- 25/275 Review of Risk Register:** It was resolved to note there were no updates.
- 25/276 Defibs:** It was resolved to note there was no update.
- 25/277 Highways:** To receive the Highway Working Group Minutes from meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 and agree any recommendations: It was resolved to note the minutes and further resolved:
- Cllr Finney would replace Tony Melnyk on the group.
  - Cllr Finney would represent Dunster Parish Council on the group looking at re-opening the B3191.
- 25/278 Bike Racks:** Cllr Ell reported there was nowhere on West Street for bike racks. Cllr Dibble would contact Mervin Sully to see about fitting one near the Ball.
- 25/279 Memorial Hall:**  
 25/279.1 CCTV- It was resolved there was nothing to report but quotes would be sought for the next meeting.
- 25/280 Date for Parish Assembly:** It was resolved to hold the Parish assembly on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at The Tithe Barn at 7pm
- 25/281 Damage to the bus shelter:** The Clerk reported the side of the bus shelter had been kicked completely out. The handyman was called and removed the wood and replaced it the following day. It now needs staining and the other side re-enforcing so it can't happen to that side. This would cost a total of £90. It was resolved to accept the quote and get the work done ASAP.
- 25/282 Approve IT Policy:** It was resolved to approve the policy and put on the website.
- 25/283 Items to Report:**  
 The school hedge is now touching cars on West Street so need cutting urgently.  
 The potholes have been repaired on the back road but there are now huge gaps on the side of the road where vehicles could get stuck.
- 25/834 Matters for the next meeting to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026:**  
 Hanging baskets  
 Review Cllrs expenses
- 25/285 Close Meeting:** The chairman declared the meeting closed 8.27 p.m.

Signed ..... Date.....