

# DUNSTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD At DUNSTER TITHE BARN ON 14<sup>th</sup> April  
2025 7.00pm

## Attendees

**Councillors:** Peter Finney (Chaired in the absence of both the Chair and the Vice chair), Matt Griffiths, Tessa Williams, Carol Ell, Peter Finney, Tony Melnyk, James Morley and Alan Vicary

**Clerk:** Mrs Sarah Towells

**Other:** Victoria Webbon (National Trust Estate Manger) and Carol Hunt (General Manager of Dunster Castle)

## Apologies

**Councillors:** Kevin Sully, Geoff Dibble, Steve Harris and Chris Oliver

**Other:** Christine Lawrence (SC) and Marcus Kravis (SC)

Prior to the start of the meeting Carol Hunt introduced herself as the general Manager of Dunster Castle and she hoped that the working relationship between the Castle and the Parish Council could improve.

The meeting started at 7.12pm Cllr Finney was voted in to chair the meeting

**24/245 To note apologies for absence:** As noted above.

**24/246 Any New Declarations of interest and dispensations:** There were none.

**24/247 Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for approval:** It was resolved to approve the minutes.

**24/248 Somerset Councillor Report:** It was resolved to note there was no report.

## **24/249 Accounts**

24/449.1 Approval of expenditure: It was resolved to pay the payments on the attached list.

24/249.2 Current account expenditure analysis for March 2025: It was resolved to note the figures and Cllr Finney would sign these.

24/249.3 Bank reconciliation for March 2025: It was resolved to note the bank reconciliation which would be signed by Cllr Finney.

24/249.4 Budget Monitoring: It was resolved to note the budget monitoring which would be signed by Cllr Finney.

24/249.5 PAYE figures for March 2025: These were checked and signed by Cllr Melnyk.

24/249.6 NS&I Account: It was resolved to close the account and transfer the money to the NatWest Savings account

## **24/250 Planning:**

**24/250.1 Verbal report from the Planning Committee:** The committee reported their thoughts regarding the applications list below.

**24/250.2 To consider the following planning applications:**

ENP	6/10/25/003LB	Listed building consent for proposed installation of new stair to Bin Floor, new external access and the creation of new dormer and external door, along with new external stair and walkway across the leat and associated works without complying with condition 2 (approved plans) of approved application 6/10/23/010LB due to alterations to the design of structural elements during the project. At DUNSTER WORKING WATER MILL, 7, MILL LANE, DUNSTER, MINEHEAD, TA24 6SW	<b>It was resolved there were no objections</b>
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ENP	6/10/25/005 6/10/25/006LB	Proposed erection of greenhouse, shed, and fence along with replacement natural slate to rear extension, replacement render and installation of boiler flue and slate vent at Walnut Cottage, 15, St.Georges Street, Dunster, Minehead, TA24 6RX	<b>It was resolved there were no objections</b>
ENP	6/10/25/007	Proposed erection of detached outbuilding to the south east corner of Orchard House 7, ST. GEORGES STREET, DUNSTER, MINEHEAD, TA24 6SB	<b>It was resolved there were no objections</b>
ENP	6/10/25/008LB	Listed building consent for the proposed replacement of existing quarry tile floor with engineered oak flooring in kitchen/diner, upgrading various windows to double glazed units in the same style/colour as existing, installation of various extractor fan vents and one toilet waste connecting into an existing soil stack.  Retrospective. At PRIORY GATE HOUSE, DUNSTER, MINEHEAD, TA24 6SD	<b>It was resolved there were no objections</b>
ENP	6/10/25/009	Proposed erection of a dual pitch natural slate roof with turret to detached garage replace flat roof, together with, erection of a stone boundary wall to the street frontage and extension of the garden area over the hard standing area. At 34, ST. GEORGES STREET, DUNSTER, MINEHEAD, TA24 6RS	<b>It was resolved to submit no comments</b>
SC	3/10/25/002	Display of 3 No. non illuminated roundabout sponsorship signs at Ellicombe roundabout, A39/515, Minehead	<b>It was resolved there were no objections</b>
ENP	WTCA 25/06	Works to tree in a conservation area: fell sweet chestnut. At FLAT 2, PRIORY COURT, PRIORY GREEN, DUNSTER, MINEHEAD, TA24 6RY	<b>It was resolved there were no objections</b>

**24/251 Toilets:** The Clerk reported the builder had started work and was doing an excellent job. The builder asked if a large sign above the toilets stating 'toilets' could be placed there. It was agreed to get the sign.

251.1 CCTV: It was resolved to get quotes

251.2 Donation boxes/pay to use: It was resolved to get quotes for sturdy donation boxes before going down the line of pay to use.

**24/252 Cemetery:** It was resolved to defer all cemetery items as Cllr Sully was not present.

24/252.1 Wall by new gate in cemetery 1

24/252.2 Phase two works of cemetery 3

24/252.3 New gate cemetery1

24/252.4 Metal entrance gate in cemetery 2

**24/253 Allotments:** Cllr Sully had sent an update to the Clerk to say there are presently 5 vacant plots. It was resolved to put this in the parish magazine again.

**24/254 Buttercross Orchard:** It was resolved there was no report

**24/255 Riverside Walk:** It was resolved to note there was nothing to report.

**24/256 Correspondence:**

24/256.1 Email from Fluid Labs regarding upgrade of website: It was resolved to go ahead with the upgrade of the website at a cost of £145.00 plus VAT and Domain renewal at a cost of £20.00 plus VAT.

**24/257 Risk Register:** It was resolved to note there were no updates.

**24/258 Highways:**

24/258.1 Light on priory Green: Cllr Vicary was still trying to get the light reinstated.

**24/259 Community/Neighbourhood plan/Top 5 priorities:** It was resolved to note the group had met and recommend to Full Council the following:

To proceed with the intention of producing a Local Neighbourhood Plan to give the community more influence on how Dunster develops in the future.

All the villagers need to take ownership of this so a meeting will be called at a future date to discuss the results of survey which will be issued to all residences in the coming weeks. This survey will canvas villagers opinions across 5 broad areas and give them a chance to add any other concerns/ideas of their own.

The broad topics will be:

TRANSPORT to include safety, parking, public transport, walking/cycling routes etc

COMMUNICATION to include mobile signal, internet, websites/social media etc

AMENITIES to include open spaces, toilets, shops, village assets (Tithe Barn, Memorial Hall etc.)

HOUSING liaising with Colin MacDonald from Somerset County as and when necessary regarding affordable housing.

ENVIRONMENT/COMMUNITY to include Dog/general litter, pollution (dark skies etc.), village events etc.

There was no resolution regarding the above so this will go on to the May agenda.

**24/260 Electric substation on West Street:** The Clerk reported she had received a phone call from the Taunton office who would come to look at the substation.

**24/261 Concerns regarding the person sleeping in Dunster Steep Car Park:** It was resolved to note they were no longer there.

**24/262 Concerns regarding the number of rats at 3 Conygar View:** Cllr Griffiths reported he had been to the property and thought there was nothing to worry about.

**24/263 Village Weed spraying:** It was resolved to ask the contractor to spray the weeds.

**24/264 Items to Report and matters for the next meeting to be held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025:**

Yarn Market

Email from parishioner regarding buses

Allotment cups

Allotment charges

Cemetery Charges

**24/265 Close Meeting:** The chairman declared the meeting closed 20.25 p.m.

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