SEAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish **Sue Doble**
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in Seavington Millennium Hall on Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 18.30.

Present: Cllr A Doble, Cllr C Reyland, Cllr N England, Cllr J Roundell Greene, Mrs S Doble (Clerk)

Also Present:
There were 2 members of the public present.

Questions and comments from members of the public

Reports from Somerset Councillors (limited to 10 minutes in total)
Somerset Council has agreed to increase its Council Tax by 4.99%, rather than the previously proposed 11%.
National Highways has indicated that clearance works maybe carried out at the top of Davids Lane.
Flooding and pothole issues throughout the County remain ongoing concerns.
The Budget meeting will take place on 4th March 2026. A three-year settlement is expected, and capitalisation funding may be used to support revenue expenditure.
The Dedicated Schools Grant has been approved; however, the remaining balance is to be repaid by 2028.

18.40 Cllr Roundell-Greene left the meeting.

3993 To receive and agree any apologies for non-attendance:
Apologies have been received from Cllr R Prendergast, Cllr Taylor and Cllr B Small

3994 Potentially Co-Opt a new Councillor & to complete the necessary paperwork and forms.
MEMBERS unanimously **RESOLVED** that Claire Hughes to be Co-Opted as a Parish Councillor for Seavington St Michael, the relevant paperwork was completed.
Proposed Cllr Reyland **Seconded** Cllr England

3995 Declarations of Interest: E.g. Shop and Community Land Trust (CLT).

3996 To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th January 2026.
MEMBERS unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th January 2026 as a correct record and signed.
Proposed Cllr Reyland **Seconded** Cllr England

3997 Clerks Updates:

- **Seavington News Reports**
  The Clerk reported that, as the Parish Council's monthly meeting often takes place close to, or after, the submission deadline for the Seavington News, consequently it was not included in February edition and so a dedicated folder has been created on the Seavington website. Parish Council monthly reports will be uploaded there.
- **AGAR form Assertion 10**
  The Clerk reported that the new Assertion 10 for the AGAR form is a formal recognition that digital systems and data are now central to how councils operate. During the internal or external audit, we might be asked to provide evidence of
  - Where our website is hosted and how updates are managed.
  - Whether Councillors use secure, official email addresses.
  - How the council's data is backed up and stored
  - What happens if a system fails or information is lost

- Whether you have a simple digital risk register or policy.

How to show we are compliant.

- Create an IT Policy (listing systems, risk and mitigations),
- Use Professional Council Emails rather than personal accounts,
- Keep your website maintained with SSL, accessibility and updates,
- Centralise your website and emails on a secure UK-hosted platform.

It was noted that the Parish Council is currently considered compliant; however, it was acknowledged that a dedicated Parish Council website will be required in the future. The Parish Council will complete the current year's audit and will revisit this matter in the next financial year.

Printer Paper

The Clerk reported that she needs to purchase some more printer paper.

3998 Flood Warden/Village Flooding Updates:

- It was reported that Trudy Smith has resigned from her role as Flood Warden. The position of Flood Warden/Co-ordinator will be advertised in the Seavington News.
- It was noted that no residents from the village attended the recent Flood Workshop held at the Village Hall.
- It was agreed that, should a volunteer come forward to take on the role, consideration should be given to developing a Community Emergency Plan.

3999 To receive updates on the Current Village Planning matters:

A. **Application No 21/02654/FUL** Erection of buildings to store and facilitate the construction of carnival floats.
Members noted that the planning permission granted for the building to store and facilitate the construction of carnival floats is subject to numerous conditions and restrictions which can be found on Somerset Councils website.

B. **Planning Application 25/03117/FUL** Branston Potatoes, Upton Lane, Seavington St Michael, Ilminster Somerset TA19 0QB. - Erection of an Agricultural Potato Store and to extend the existing concrete yard to form an 8m wide access road and apron in front of the building along with a 1.2m wide pedestrian footway around it.
Members noted that the planning application for Branston Potatoes has been approved.

4000 Resolutions (Inc Planning - when applicable):

A. To **DISCUSS** and **RESOLVED** planning application No: 26/00264/COL Copper Beech Upton Lane Seavington St Michael Ilminster Somerset TA19 0PZ. Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed use of the land for siting a mobile home for use ancillary to the main dwelling.
MEMBERS noted that this is for information only and no resolution was made.

B. To **DISCUSS** and **RESOLVE** the Parish Council's response to complaints received concerning dogs and their owners' responsibilities, including relevant legislation governing behaviour.
MEMBERS unanimously **RESOLVED** that, in light of recent incidents and in order to align with neighbouring areas, "All Dogs to be Kept on Leads" signage be installed on the Playing Field. Two signs will be erected: one at the edge of the main car park adjacent to the dog waste bin, and one at the entrance at the top of the field near the overflow car park. The cost is £76.53 plus VAT per sign, with an additional £4.99 plus VAT for an emailed proof. Installation is to be completed, where possible, by the beginning of April.
Proposed Cllr Hughes **Seconded** Cllr England

C. To **DISCUSS** and **RESOLVE** the new Treasurer for the Seavington News.
MEMBERS unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will liaise with the current Treasurer to arrange for the present Parish Council Clerk, and then any future Clerks, to be added as a signatory to the Seavington News bank account, in order to introduce additional security measures and ensure greater transparency. Colin Turner confirmed that, having reviewed his current commitments, he is unable to take on the role at present and will not be in a position to do so until after his retirement in a few months' time. It was therefore agreed that Mary Corcoran will act as temporary Treasurer for a maximum period of six months at which time Colin Turner will be in a position to take on the role.
Proposed Cllr Doble **Seconded** Cllr England

19.43 Two members of the public left the meeting.

D. To **DISCUSS** and **RESOLVE** the Clerks travel expenses to and from the area south planning meeting.
MEMBERS unanimously **RESOLVED** to pay the Clerks travel expenses to and from the area south planning meeting (£10.35).
Proposed Cllr Reyland **Seconded** Cllr Hughes

E. To **DISCUSS** and **RESOLVE** the Clerks overtime of 7 hours in January.
MEMBERS unanimously **RESOLVED** to pay the Clerks overtime of 7 hours in January
Proposed Cllr Reyland **Seconded** Cllr England

F. To **DISCUSS** and **RESOLVE** the Data Protection Policy.
MEMBERS unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the Data Protection Policy.
Proposed Cllr Doble **Seconded Cllr** England

4001 To receive any additional information (if any) on the following:

A. SID's and Community Speed Watch – Cllr England
Nothing to Report

B. Highways issues – Cllr Taylor
Nothing to Report

C. Ranger Scheme - Cllr Reyland
- The Ranger has been maintaining and clearing drains in Davids Lane and Church Street.
- The Ranger will be asked to arrange for a suitably qualified operative from Parsons Landscapes, holding the relevant certification, to undertake chainsaw works in Sawpit Lane.

D. Village Footpaths - Cllr England
- The Rights of Way Officer from Somerset Council, with the permission of the farmers of Manor Farm, has proposed that the gates on their land be replaced.
- It has been reported that there has been no response from Mead Farm. It was noted that, without the landowner's permission, no works can be undertaken on the affected footpaths.

E. Seavington Playing Field Association - Cllr Doble
- The dishwasher is currently being installed.
- The electrical certificate has been completed, and all identified issues have been resolved.
- A raffle prize has been agreed from Branston Ltd, and Cllr Reyland will collect it next week.

F. Seavington Community Shop & Café – Cllr Taylor
- The Community Shop and Café are in process of buying new cooker.

G. LCN – Clerk
- 19th February 2026 there is a LCN Highways Working Group online meeting.

H. Village Facebook Group – Cllr Small
Nothing to Report

4002 Finance Matters:

A. Balances:

Current Account:	£40.72
Savings Account:	£17,690.08
Reserves Account:	£32,466.01

B. To note the items of expenditure that have been pre-approvingly paid.

11-Feb-26	11/02/2026	£9,101.11	£4,644.90	£337.00	£1,226.08	£505.60	£68.87	£4,068.28	£309.04	£230.00	£210.00	£200.00	£22.99	£81.49	£5,368.79	£14.37	£2,958.94	£42.50	£3,962.91	£33,352.87
Date	Brief Description of Supply	Ranger	Grass Cutting Playing Field	Meeting Venue Hire	Bins	Insurance	Maintenance	Assets Purchased	Subscriptions	Payroll	Audit	Misc	Website & Emails	Clerks Expenses	Clerks Wages	Clerks HMRC	SPFA Clerks Wages	Bank Charges	VAT	Total
19-Jan-26	Lloyds Bank - Charges																	£4.25		£4.25
21-Jan-26	Tesco - Milk													£2.40						£2.40
21-Jan-26	Berensens Solicitors											£200.00							£40.00	£240.00
29-Jan-26	Mrs S Doble - Clerks Wages														£469.19		£236.15			£705.34
01-Feb-26	Seavington Millennium Hall			£28.00																£28.00
04-Feb-26	Parsons Landscapes Limited	£922.88																	£184.58	£1,107.46
05-Feb-26	Somerset Council				£338.00														£67.60	£405.60
06-Feb-26	Whitefield Accountants Ltd									£42.00									£8.40	£50.40

C. To agree and note the items of expenditure and approve payments since the last meeting.

4003 **Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 17th March 2026 immediately after The Annual Parish Meeting which will start 6pm

Meeting Closed at 19.50