

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 4th February 2026

The meeting opened at 735pm

662. PRESENT: Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Ms T Davies, Mr M Headley (Chairman).

Also present: Councillors Nicholson and Pugsley (from 8pm) and Sarah Buchanan (Clerk).

663. APOLOGIES: Ms L Luxton (personal), Mr L Ringrose and Mr M Arnold (work commitments).

664. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

665. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd December 2025

These having been circulated prior to the meeting Ms Davies proposed and Mr Andrews seconded their acceptance and approval as a correct record, and the minutes were signed as such.

667. CORRESPONDENCE

667.1. South West Lakes Trust: Countryside Fair, Wimbleball 17 May 2026. This having been previously circulated further information had been requested by the Clerk. Members were invited to note the date. It was agreed that the date and any further information be placed on parish noticeboards and if possible in the Brendon Beacon.

ACTION: CLERK

667.2 Skilgate Parish Meeting open session regarding power cuts 26 February 2026. Members were invited to contact the chairman of the Parish Meeting and attend the session. The Clerk advised that she is not available to attend on that date.

668. FINANCE

668.1 Precept 2026-27. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the agreement reached at the December parish council meeting to consider updated information then awaited from Somerset Council by email and, as far as possible, seek retain the total precept at the 2025-26 level. The Clerk had circulated information from

Somerset Council. In light of information received no member had expressed a wish to change the total precept amount. The Clerk submitted the formal request for the total precept of £5750.

668.2 SALC/Somerset Council community wellbeing grant (minute 632.3). This grant was awarded to the Parish Council to directly support the activities of the Crafternooners. The Clerk advised that because of occasions when expenditure was needed between the parish council's scheduled meetings there was a need to adjust the Council's financial standing orders as they applied to this grant. The meeting AGREED that expenditure in line with the grant conditions could be made outside of scheduled meetings, with reporting at the next meeting, and with the agreement of two parish council signatories.

668.3 West Somerset Advice Bureau report and request for a grant. Papers having been circulated prior to the meeting, members considered the levels of use of this service in the parish and the effectiveness of the organisation's work. The meeting welcomed the service. Mr Andrews proposed. Ms Davies seconded and the meeting unanimously APPROVED grant of £300.

ACTION: CLERK

668.4 Somerset Council invoice, replacement road sign, £102.49. This invoice is for replacement of a brown tourism sign to Wimbleball Lake which had been mysteriously removed in 2025. The invoice had been circulated prior to the meeting and was unanimously approved for payment (Mr Cherry proposed and Ms Davies seconded). The meeting noted that the sign appears to have been intentionally removed and members expressed regret at such an action and subsequent cost falling to the parish.

ACTION: CLERK

668.5 Emergency first aid session (minute 635.2). The Clerk reported 16 expressions of interest from Brompton Regis and interest from adjacent parishes. She outlined three quotes received, each from recommended providers. After discussion Mr Andrews proposed, Ms Davies seconded and the meeting unanimously APPROVED payment of £250 for a half day session for up to 20 people. It was AGREED that places be free of charge with priority given to participants living or working in Brompton Regis and spare places available to others outside the parish. The event will be promoted in the Brendon Beacon, on noticeboards and in the shop.

ACTION: CLERK

669. HIGHWAYS

669.1 HGV Signage, Bury. The Clerk reported that orders were in place for replacement and new 'unsuitable for HGVs' signage on Frogwell Lane, following concerns expressed in Bury.

669.2 Drainage issues in Brompton Regis village. The Chairman reported that Highways staff had visited the village after concerns expressed by residents and the Clerk (minute 659). The BRPC has been advised that requests have been placed to replace the pipe through the hedge on Sanctuary Lane, work on road ditches, clear and jet drains (incl opposite Haddon View). It is hoped that those works will reduce water runoff from the village to Ridge Cottage. Opposite Trotts Lane and Rock House it has been reported that BT cables and mains sewers run through the same area as road drains and this poses problems. Jetting is proposed here with CCTV to assess damage and a likelihood that a spinner may be required to clear blockages prior to re-sleeving. There are budget limitations and the parish council had been advised to expect delays to works. Ms Davies commented that CCTV, replacements and jetting have taken place before.

Cllrs Nicholson and Pugsley joined the meeting (8pm).

669.3 Resurfacing and drain clearance. Mr Coates expressed concern that resurfacing is of limited value unless drains are cleared beforehand, noting that patch repairs in the Bessom Bridge area have been lifted by January rains. Cllr Nicholson suggested that resurfacing and patching would not be delayed by drain works. Cllr Pugsley recommended that the issue be raised at the forthcoming (20th January 2026) Highways LCN meeting and advised that while drainage issues have been longstanding on Exmoor the recent flooding in other parts of the county has brought drains under scrutiny.

ACTION: CLERK raise with Highways.

669.4 Gritting. Two members reported their concerns that gritting appeared to only address half the width of the carriageway, and that this appeared to be the case on different roads on Exmoor.

ACTION: CLERK raise with Highways.

669.5 Faded road signs. The Chairman asked that faded signs be reported to Highways for replacement. Members should alert the Clerk (ideally with location and photograph) of problematic signs.

ACTION: ALL; CLERK to report.

670. Somerset Councillors' updates.

Cllr Pugsley reported that a request has been made to central government for an increase in Council Tax of 11% and that a response will inform budget setting.

At present there does not appear to be pressure to devolve Somerset Council services to local councils.

The parish was encouraged to respond to the current survey of housing needs on Exmoor. Mr Cherry reported that the current issue of the Brendon Beacon carried this information. Mr Headley asked if succession planning and housing for family

farms will be included in the new local plan for Exmoor. Cllr Pugsley advised that such a policy is in place on Exmoor.

Cllr Pugsley outlined recent performance by the ENPA planning team.

The gritting of 'green' routes was discussed. This is at the discretion of contractors and problematic.

Mr Cherry noted that grit bins and bags in the parish have been topped up following the Clerk's requests to Highways.

Cllr Nicholson outlined the proposed consultation by Somerset Council regarding control of dogs in public places. Members expressed concerns that working dogs would be inadvertently excluded from public places where they were required.

ACTION: CLERK to seek information and report back.

671. OTHER BUSINESS.

Mr Coates noted the welcome efforts of some residents to support the parish in bad weather. This was unanimously endorsed and it was AGREED that the Clerk thank individuals accordingly.

ACTION: CLERK

672. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Apologies: Mr Cherry (personal).

Finance: Crimestoppers grant request; ZEN invoice.

673. DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 730pm at Brompton Regis Village.

The meeting closed at.

Signed as a correct record:

Name: Date: