

MINUTES OF THE BROMPTON REGIS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT BROMPTON REGIS VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 6th May 2026

The meeting opened at 745 pm

697. PRESENT: Mr J Andrews, Mr D Cherry, Mr S Coates, Mr M Headley (Chairman), Mr L Ringrose.

Also present: Two members of the public, Cllrs Nicholson and Pugsley, and Parish Council Clerk, Ms S Buchanan.

698. APOLOGIES: Ms T Davies, Ms L Luxton (Work and personal reasons).

699. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Mr Cherry: minute 705.3.

The Chairman asked members to review the Register of Interests completed in 2025 and advise the Clerk of any updates. He invited members to consider SALC refresher training on declarations of interest and the code of conduct and advised members to contact the Clerk to make arrangements.

ACTION: ALL

700. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND MEETING MANAGEMENT

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and invited them to contribute at any point in the agenda.

701. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BRPC MEETING HELD ON 1ST APRIL 2026

These having been circulated prior to the meeting, Mr Cherry proposed and Mr Ringrose seconded their adoption as a correct record and this was unanimously AGREED and the minutes were signed as such.

701. POINTS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

701.1 Village hall car parking area (minute 682). The Chairman reminded the meeting that BRPC own the car parking area. He reported that three options for improvements will be provided by a local contractor, including scalping the edges back. It is hoped that costed options may be presented to the next BRPC meeting.

701.2 Sportiva Wimbledon events 28,29 and 30 August 2026 (minute 683.1). The Clerk reported that Sportiva has advised that steps are being taken to prevent and clear litter and that Morebath village hall has been booked a rest /toilet/refreshment stop. Sportiva has been asked to provide information for publication in the Brendon Beacon in good time. Cllr Nicholson asked if road closures will be in place. The Clerk will look into this.

ACTION: CLERK

702. AUDIT 2025-26

The Clerk advised that all documents have been passed to the internal auditor.

702.1 Dates for the notice of public rights and publication of annual governance and accountability return for the year ended 31 March 2026. The Clerk proposed and it was AGREED that this period is announced on 4th June with publication on 5th June and availability until 17th July 2026.

702.2 Certificate of exemption. This having been circulated prior to the meeting the Clerk confirmed that the BRPC meets the conditions for exemption in that income in year was £6891 and expenditure £5256. Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Cherry seconded the proposal that BRPC certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. This was unanimously AGREED.

ACTION: CLERK submit the certificate.

703. CORRESPONDENCE

703.1 Pulham river outflows/discharges (minute 530). The Chairman reminded the meeting of correspondence on this matter in 2024 and 2025 which led to an unannounced inspection by the Environment Agency in 2025, the report from which showed the plant was then operationally correct.

Correspondence received in 2026 from SW Water indicated a reduction in the number and quantity of spills since 2024 and 2025. However spills are higher than in earlier years and it is not clear if the spills are planned and what the quality of the water is.

Ms Hamilton joined the discussion and noted that 6 of 8 spills in the past month took place when the storm overflow as in operation despite limited rainfall at that time. regarding outflows from the sewage treatment plant. Mr Andrews raised questions about possible cost cutting measures. Mr Coates noted that the issues seems to relate to volume rather than quality.

Ms Hamilton advised that the Exmoor Society aims to test water quality and asked if the BRPC will ask SW Water about water testing and results.

ACTION: CLERK to ask SW Water for clarification of the definition of spills, raise questions about water quality after spills.

Ms Hamilton left the meeting at 810pm.

703.2 Land at Hiccombe planning issues (related to minute 686.2). The Chairman introduced this item with reference to correspondence received by himself and the Clerk, cc Cllr Nicholson, setting out a resident's concerns about planning issues at Hiccombe. He advised that advice had been sought about the content of the letter.

Ms Onodi was invited to speak to the agenda item. She advised that a planning application was recently submitted to the Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA). The Chairman noted that this cannot be discussed prior to publication of an agenda citing it as an item for discussion.

Ms Onodi stated her concerns about responses to the planning application. The Chairman outlined the role of parish councils in relation to planning issues and advised that when residents raise questions about planning issues with the parish council these are referred to the planning authority (usually the ENPA in this parish), with responses reported and BRPC meetings and recorded in meeting minutes.

In response to the question of when BRPC will consider the recently submitted application the Clerk advised that an extension to the consultation period has been requested to enable discussion at the BRPC meeting scheduled for 3rd June 2026.
POST MEETING NOTE: THIS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY ENPA.

Ms Onodi left the meeting at 820pm.

703.3. River Pulham. The Clerk reported questions raised verbally by residents regarding developments on and adjacent to the river Pulham. As is usual with such enquiries these have been referred to the ENPA.

704. SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' UPDATES.

704.1 Openreach works: Cllr Nicholson reported a proposal that parishes in which Openreach are working on fibre ducting on highways proposed will be consulted on road closures.

704.2 Planning updates: Cllr Pugsley advised that applications 6/3/25/009 and EXM/26/068 were approved with amendments/conditions. He noted that the aims and objectives of the Local Plan are being followed.

704.3 Exmoor Local Community Network (LCN): Cllr Pugsley advised that Somerset Council will consider a report about this structure. The Chairman noted the value of the LCN to BRPC in the past and going forward.

705. FINANCE

705.1 Insurance renewal: £428.30. Mr Ringrose proposed and Mr Cherry seconded the proposal that this be paid and this was unanimously AGREED.

705.2 SALC affiliation fee: £217.15. Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Headley seconded the proposal that this be paid and this was unanimously AGREED.

705.3 Grass cutting adjacent to village hall: £330. Mr Cherry, as a member of the village hall committee, declared an interest in this item. Mr Coates proposed and Mr Andrews seconded the proposal that this invoice be paid and this was unanimously AGREED.

705.4 Budget 2026-27. This, having been circulated prior to the meeting, was noted. The Chairman advised that future pressures on the parish budget are likely as Somerset Council faces budgetary pressures.

706. PLANNING

The Clerk advised that an extraordinary meeting would be called if the ENPA did not allow BRPC an extension to the consultation period for the recently submitted application for land at Hiccombe.

707. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- Sportiva arrangements and possible road closures
- Audit
- Village hall car parking area
- Pulham River
- Planning applications.

708.DATE TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 3rd June 2026,

The meeting closed at 855pm.

Signed as a correct record:

Name: Date: