

NYNEHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16th February 2026 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, NYNEHEAD

Rachel Gilmour MP attended the extended Public Question Time where there was lively debate about the impact of local road flooding on Nynehead, with residents complaining repeatedly about lack of routine maintenance from Somerset Council. Ms Gilmour, the Liberal Democrat MP, told the 25 residents that she understood that Somerset Council had financial problems and faced massive challenges following Storm Chandra, but that SC needs to understand that flooding matters can and must be resolved. Mr R Wilkins SC Lead Member for Transport and Waste, invited to the meeting by Ms Gilmour, noted that January saw 7,000 reports of potholes compared to 2,000 in the same month last year. He apologised that his budget was insufficient to handle everything “But I can promise you I will be working hard to get the best value from everyone I work with.” The MP concluded that she would press central and local government to pay more attention to the threats facing Somerset, not only flooding but also rural deprivation and lack of public transport.

The meeting started at 20.20 and concluded at 21.55

Present	Mr J Toye - Dr J Butterley - Mrs A Harcombe - Mrs R Ball Risk - Mr M Vest. Mr Gary Sparks, Mr Joe Frost and Mr Frank Meadows attended the first part of the meeting.	
26/013	Apologies	PCSO Henderson, SC Cllr Dave Mansell.
26/014	Declarations of Interest	There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations.
26/015	Approval of Minutes	The Minutes of the meeting held 19 th January were approved and signed as a correct record.
26/016	Actions from the previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The outer cover for the Hall defib will be monitored by Nick Povey when he carries out his monthly checks as on closer examination the cracking is not of the outer layer of plastic. (ii) A reply from Chris Mewse, of Parish Online regarding the large number of hits on nyneheadparish.gov.uk website originating from China - <i>“Having hits to your website from China is common, they're "robots" as they're not browsing the site, they're just checking it exists. Yes, having your website and email on a GOV.UK domain means you're more likely to have your services scanned, analysed for vulnerabilities and have attempted hacks, but the systems we've set up more than protect for this sort of thing”.</i> (iii) A condolences card was sent to the family of Matthew Upham. (iv) Ian Rutherford (Memorial Hall Treasurer) has updated their business account to prevent page 404 error on the parish website
26/017	Planning Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 26/26/0001/T Notification to carry out crown-raise to 2.5 metres above ground level to one cedar tree and to fell three cypress trees within Nynehead Conservation Area at Foxdown, Chipley Road, Nynehead. SC Decision of No Objection (ii) 43/25/0088 Layout, landscaping, scale and appearance of the erection of 178 dwellings and associated infrastructure on land north of Taunton Road, Longforth Park, Wellington – Nothing to Report
26/018	Police Report	(i) There were 2 calls to 101 and 999 to police for Nynehead, Oake, Bradford on Tone, Langford Budville for the month of January that resulted in a police report - 1 Theft ,1 Assault and 1 Violence against the person.

NYNEHEAD PARISH COUNCIL

26/019	Rights of Way	(i) Footpath to Bradford-on-Tone WG 14/1. Rachel Pearce SC Senior Rights of Way Officer replied when asked for an update “ <i>Regrettably I am unable to give you an idea of when I will be able to pick up this project and move it forward.</i> ” Members asked the Clerk to enquire to Bradford-on-Tone PC on their views on how to progress reinstatement of this strategic footpath between the two villages.
26/020	Highways	<p>(i) Update on Flood Signs – Mr M Vest is waiting for a response from SC Highways Officer Kate Brown</p> <p>(ii) Speed Indicator Device– NPC has been awarded a grant of £2,400 from Avon & Somerset Police Community Fund towards the cost of installing a SID. Once the cheque is received, Members agreed that the Elan City battery operated SID would be purchased. SC Highways have advised NPC that due to workload pressures the two new mounting posts for the SID may not be installed until August. Therefore Members agreed to look for an alternative contractor to install the new posts.</p> <p>(iii) Trees in the Hollow – Members agreed to determine the ownership of the batter (sides of the Hollow) to attribute responsibility for certain trees.</p> <p>(iv) Nuisance parking in Blackdown View turning circle – this has been discussed with a SC Traffic Engineer who warned that in similar cases the displaced vehicles have become even more problematic.</p> <p>(v) Work has been carried out to clear the flood water under the railway bridge. However, lack of fall on the gullies here means that the gullies are very susceptible to silting up.</p> <p>(vi) When Nynehead Road was officially closed due to flooding under the railway bridge, work was undertaken by NPC at the site of the railings to clear the parapet of silt. The weight of this silt build-up was threatening the integrity of the railings and could also prevent water from draining from the road. NPC would like to thank Fox’s Farm Service for completing this task.</p>
26/021	Parish Council Administration	<p>(i) Scribe Payments and Receipts - noted</p> <p>(ii) Google analytics for nyneheadparish.gov.uk – data not available</p> <p>(iii) Signing of new Memorial Hall Lease which is due for renewal in March – Members requested that they should review both the existing and the new lease for the Memorial hall before signing.</p> <p>(iv) New Chair for NPC – Mr J Toye will be standing down from NPC as Chair and as a Member in May. This will leave a vacancy for a Parish Councillor so Members discussed possible replacements for the role of Parish Councillor.</p> <p>(v) The Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy were reviewed and adopted.</p>
26/022	Receipts and Payments	<p>(a) The Council authorised and instructed payment for:</p> <p>(b) The Clerk’s Salary (306.72) and Expenses (20.00) Total £326.52</p> <p>(c) HMRC (Clerk’s PAYE for January) £76.80</p> <p>(d) Fox’s Farm Services (Clearing soil etc around railings, Hornshay) £200</p>
26/023	Correspondence	
26/024	Items requested for next agenda	Items Requested for the next Agenda (16 th March 2026):