

BRENT KNOLL PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

**Minutes of the Meeting of Brent Knoll Parish Council on
Wednesday 7th January 2026
at 7pm when the following
Business was transacted.**

PRESENT

Cllr R Filmer, (Chairman) Cllr J Gray, Cllr A Holmes, Cllr D Knott, Cllr A Povey, Cllr A Reason, Cllr J Rees, Cllr C Townsend, Cllr T Woods, Cllr C Woodward, Owen Cullwick Clerk. There were no members from the public at this meeting.

134/25: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS GIVEN

Apologies received from Cllr M Borland, and this was accepted unanimously by the Parish Council

135/25: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr R Filmer Other Registerable interest (ORI) on all matters relating to his role as Councillor for Somerset Council.

136/25: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd December 2025 and were accepted as a true record of the meeting and this was unanimous

137/25: PUBLIC SESSION

There were no public requests for addressing the Council at this meeting.

138 /25: PLANNING MATTERS

No Planning matters were considered at this meeting.

139/25: CLERKS REPORT

- (a) Team and Individual photo arrangements
- (b) The reserves policy for 2026/2027
- (c) Annual meeting speaker arrangements for consideration

140/25: CORRESPONDENCE MATTERS

No new matters of correspondence since the December meeting

141/25: WORKING GROUP REPORTS**The Footpaths Team**

- (a) Concerns raised by a local resident about the ongoing conditions of various Stiles and gate conditions around the village footpaths. It was agreed that two or three members of the Parish Council would do a walk round and report matters to the February meeting when an action plan can be set up.

142/25: Highways Team

- (a) Concerns re stated about the condition of bridges as detailed
 - Middle Street Bridge
 - Wick Lane Bridge
 - Crooked Lane Bridge
 - Station Road Bridge

These matters will be reported to Somerset Highways for further investigation

- (b) The entrance to Middle Street white fencing is gradually collapsing and the Council do have a quote request out currently which can be discussed in February

143/25: The Green/ Car Park/ Surrounds

The green inspection for December was undertaken by the clerk who reported a very muddy and wet surface however a number of rubbish items were collected in a bag and disposed of appropriately. The car park and toilets were in a satisfactory condition at the time of visiting. Cllr Woodward will undertake the inspection for January.

144/25: The Staffing / Audit Working Group

No Meetings held last month

145/25: Shop working group.

There were no Buildings group meetings planned at present

146/25: Flood Action Group

No new matters raised although there has been a request in the BKN for local support to take part in this group going forward

147/25: Village Contract review group

This group has now completed its work for the current round of contracts

148/25: IT Working Group

The current working group has not met since the December meeting however the updates on our new website provision are detailed later on this agenda

149/25: Updating Council Policies

No Policy Updates at this meeting

150/25: The Somerset Council report (Cllr R Filmer)

- (i) The Somerset budget gap to be around 50 million in 2026/2027
- (ii) Planning Recovery motion now agreed
- (iii) Sunday Car Parking charges deferred and now a consultation on total parking in the County going forward
- (iv) Push on fostering with 650 currently in care
- (v) Budget to be set in February an online consultation is available until 14th January 2026

151/25: FINANCIAL MATTERS AND PAYMENTS

Payment List Statutory approval for December (Approved under Minute no (241/23 (March 5th 2025)

152/25: Approved Unanimously

To Consider variable Payment Listing **for January 2026**

(resolution to approve)

Expenses and allowances for the period October to December 2025	<u>£252.65</u>
Playing Fields Association Subscription 2025/2026	<u>£15.00</u>

153/25: Approved unanimously

Total of Payments £267.65

154/25: A December 2025 payments list was pre circulated to members and noted no questions

155/25: Other Financial matters

- (i) The Budget agreed in November remained un changed going forward and after a discussion

a precept level taking into account a 6 months expenditure (recommended) for reserves was agreed and the Parish Council set the **2026/2027** precept at **£69.996.00** which represents a modest **2.89%** increase on the current year. This is an increase of **£1.96** per annum for a Band D property. This was approved unanimously.

(ii) Annual grants made under section 137 legislative powers of the Parish Council

The Parish Council advertised in December through the BKN applications from local organisations for a small grant to assist the funding of their group

The following decisions were made

- (a) RE reengage** would receive a sum of £100.00 to support their work with local people
- (b) St Michaels Church** would receive the sum of £200.00 to contribute to the cost of Ash Die back tree removal, This a majority decision
Cllr Filmer left the meeting before the next item having declared an interest on matters relating to the Parish Hall.
- (c) The Meet and Eat group and good companions'** amount will be deferred to after the Parish Hall meeting on 12th January and a decision on amounts will be made at the February Council meeting.
- (d) The girl Guiding request for individual funding** will be met in the sum of £200.00 from the Brent Knoll Charities account which is designed to support this very specific grant this was a unanimous decision.
- (e) 3 further grants were made to larger groups who provide a service to the residents of Brent Knoll.** Each of the following organisations were awarded £100.00
The Somerset Air Ambulance
The Weston Super Mare Samaritans
The local Citizens Advice
These 3 grants were agreed unanimously

156/25: NEW MATTERS OF CONSIDERATION (Decisions to be taken)

(A) National Grid proposals for new sub station on Council owned land

The details for this proposal from the National Grid were identified on the December minutes and the National Grid will site a substation on a small piece of land just inside the village green perimeter with close access to the car park. It will be protected a close board fencing and the National Grid will require access to the substation. All costs of the legal transfer of land will be met by the National Grid and the Parish Council receive the added advantage of new White Lining for the car park and the substation will be capable of upgrading to electric charging points in the future. The land on which the substation is to be erected will be transferred together with full access rights in the sum of £1.00 nominal fee. This project will now be the subject of both the legal process and arboricultural survey by National Grid. It was further requested that an agreement be reached for the ongoing maintenance of the feather boarding surround to the sub station.

(B) Flood alleviation Hills to Levels project rear of the Parish Church

Significant progress has now been made in moving this project forward in 2026. And grant

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funding has been agreed in the sum of £4132.00 with no cost to the Parish Council for this part of the project. Declarations and Mandates for grant receipts now ready for submission. The Parish Council formally agreed by a resolution to go ahead with the process unanimous. The Clerk to submit the appropriate signed paperwork

(C) Annual Play Inspections

It was decided unanimously to appoint a separate organization to carry out the annual inspection to ensure that the play area has a fresh set of eyes on it each year to compliment the current inspection regime Agreement to contact Somerset Playing Fields Association to get inspection done as early as possible.

(D) Website Domain changes and upgrades

After agreement the Parish Council has been in discussions with Aubergine who are recognised provider of website services for the Parish and Town Council sector. The Council will now move forward to the company the Councillor photo and profiles and to source appropriate local pictures to place on to the website. The Council will also start the required moves to a .gov.uk domain in line with current requirements for a secure digital communication protocol. In the mean time our current website provider will continue to maintain our website on a month-by-month basis however it is hope to have the new facility up and running by the end of March. The fee structure for the temporary arrangement with Decision power has been agreed at a level of

2 x £40 per month for Support January and February and ongoing to march if required

£20 for web hosting

Total of £100

(E) Play Surface improvements for 2026

The play surfaces on the climbing frame are now in need of refurbishment and the Parish Council is currently seeking grants to achieve the lowest local cost of this project. There are also one or two smaller matters that need attention as part of this project

157/25: MATTERS OF REPORT

Cold Calling

Flag Pole re positioning

Defibrillator Provision in the Village

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full meeting of the Parish Council will be **4th February 2026** at 7pm Parish Surgery on **February 3rd 2026** 10am to 12 Noon. A provisional meeting may be required subject to

planning matters.