Minutes of the Ordinary Cutcombe Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th October 2026 in the Edwin Beckett Room, Moorland Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Eric Norman (Chair), Roger Foxwell, Hazel Crockford, Oliver Yiend, Richard Norman

In attendance: Liz Stitt – Clerk, Sheralee Matravers, Cllr Frances Nicholson, Cllr Steven Pugsley

Item	Minutes	Action
	Public Question Time. No members of the public were present, and no public comments were made.	
26/104	**To receive Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Cllr Sarah Cook.	
26/105	**To receive declarations of Interest.** Cllr Eric Norman, The Rest & Be Thankful Inn. [Cllr Steven Pugsley joined the meeting]	
26/106	**To approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the 15th of September 2026.** These were approved and signed. After the minutes were signed Councillors took part in a minute's silence for one of the Parishioners that passed away recently who did an awful lot for the community, Sybil Williams.	
26/107	**To Co-Opt a Councillor.** Sheralee Matravers said she was born and bred in Cutcombe. She ran the pre-school from 1996 – 2023 and has been on other various committees around the village, and now she would like to join the Parish Council to put her views forward and be as fair as possible with any voting that needs to be done. [Sheralee Matravers left the room while Councillors discussed her application] Councillors all agreed that Sheralee would be a good Councillor and unanimously agreed to co-opt her onto the Council. [Sheralee came back into the meeting]. The Chair Welcomed Sheralee to the Council and she duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office.	
26/108	**To receive reports from Somerset Councillors.** - The prices of car parks that already charge are going up in January. A decision on the current free car parks has been delayed by a year until next Autumn when there will be a proper consultation. Officers have acknowledged that the Rest and Be Thankful car park is leased by Somerset Council and not owned and they are suggesting that they would like to talk to the Parish Council about it next year. - At the latest LCN it was discussed about the work schemes for probationers to do outside work and there is one starting any minute as a result of that meeting in Allerford. Cllr E. Norman has put in a case for a scheme to help clear the Valley for Snowdrop Valley. - There was talk at the LCN about emergency preparedness regarding fires as well as floods and the kind of maintenance that is helpful to avoid flooding and fire. - The road in here is going to be closed for a little while to be able to put up new signage to stop lorries from turning left at the crossroads and the Council will be consulted to find the best time for it to happen. - The application for a dwelling at Luckwell Bridge was turned down recently due to justification grounds. Officers got opinion from a land agent as to whether or not the agricultural justification could be justified for looking after Exmoor Ponies which was refused. - Issues were continued to be raised at the latest Highways meeting about the	

	standard of white lining on the roads across Somerset. - Cllr Pugsley chaired a meeting for Exmoor National Park which brought representatives of the Developer of the proposed housing behind the Moorland Hall, Exmoor National Park as the Planner and the County as the housing authority together to see what can be learnt from the latest planning application. Main points were that processes need to be run concurrently rather than sequentially. It was suggested to have a housing leader to make sure projects are delivered on time, and also to make sure that houses that are already in the housing stock can be let to local people more regularly, which means some of the housing providers are going to have to designate some of the housing stock as local need in the first instance. - A Councillor suggested that the Exmoor National Park Authority members are hiding behind policy when it comes to Planning Applications and said that Policy is there to be challenged. Cllr Pugsley answered by saying you have to abide by the policy, you can sometimes argue that the policy can be applied in a different way, but the clear message we were having in our meeting for the application at Luckwell Bridge was that there were no obvious grounds to be able to challenge the advice that Kevin Bateman (The Land Agent) had given to the officers and therefore the officers had given to us. Policy is not there to be disregarded, you can argue with it and say actually it does accord with policy, but in this case the clear advice from officers was it doesn't. - The Police and Crime Commissioner confirmed the funding for SIDS would be available again at the latest LCN. The Clerk will contact Samantha Murrell to get more information on this as there is currently nothing about it on their website.	Clerk
26/109	**To consider highways and transport matters.** - The broken Wheddon Cross sign has been reported and is all in hand to be replaced. - The two Highway Stewards will go round the Parish to check all the road signs to make sure they are all visual from a safety point of view. - Concerns have been raised at the Highways Meeting about Pitt Bridge, where there is temporary fencing, to get clarification as to whether the highway is safe. Kate Brown is looking into this.	Cllr Oliver Yiend & Cllr R. Norman
26/110	**To consider any Planning Matters.** No planning matters were discussed.	
26/111	**To discuss appointing a person to co-ordinate local news for the Parish Magazine.** Cllr Hazel Crockford and Cllr Sheralee Matravers agreed to work together to co-ordinate local news for the Parish Magazine.	Cllr Hazel Crockford & Cllr Sheralee Matravers
26/112	**Cutcombe Parish Council Bank Signatories** **i) To approve removing Jonathan Levenson as a signatory off all Cutcombe Parish Council's bank and savings accounts.** It was agreed to remove Jonathan Levenson from all the Parish Council Bank accounts. **ii) To approve a Councillor to be a signatory on the Unity Trust Savings Account.** It was agreed for Cllr Oliver Yiend to be added as a signatory on the Unity trust savings account. **iii) To discuss if any further changes need making to the signatories of Cutcombe Parish Council.** It was agreed for Cllr Sheralee Matravers to be added as a signatory. It was also agreed for any Councillors who are no longer on the Council to be officially removed as signatories from the bank.	
26/113	**Committees and working groups.** **i) To appoint a Councillor onto the Snowdrop Valley Committee.** It was agreed to keep two Councillors on the Snowdrop Valley Committee which is Cllr Eric Norman and Cllr Hazel Crockford.	

	ii) **To appoint a Councillor as a backup member for the Finance & Risk Working Group.** It was agreed for Cllr Roger Foxwell to be appointed as a backup member on the Finance & Risk Working Group.	
26/114	**Finance** i) **Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2025/26.** This was received by Councillors. ii) **To receive the Q2 2026/27 Budget Outturn.** This was received by Councillors. It was noted that the toilet donations have reduced a lot this year. iii) **To receive and approve the schedule of payments and note receipts.** This was received and approved.	
26/115	**To note the correspondence which Councillors have received in the correspondence report.** This was received and noted, and no further correspondence has been received. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks for all their work and effort and time to Jonathan Levenson who was Chair for the Council and on the Snowdrop Valley Committee and rural Housing Committee, and John Anson who was on the Parish Council for several years and was Chair through Covid.	
26/116	**Items for consideration on the next agenda.** - Ideas for putting proposals forward for getting grant funding to make the Public Toilets more accessible. - Update on funding for the SID.	

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.24pm

Signed: Dated:

Appendix:

i) **Notice of Conclusion of Audit 2025/26**
ii) **Q2 2026/27 Budget Outturn**
iii) **Schedule of Payments**
iv) **Correspondence Report**