

EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Jim Murray (Clerk) Hillcroft, Bristol Road, Brent Knoll Somerset TA9 4HL Tel: 07714 300981

Minutes of the meeting of East Brent Parish Council, held at the Village Hall on
Monday 13th April 2026, when the following business was transacted.

- 1 Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest and dispensations – Cllrs present at meeting:** Cllrs Bray, Carter, Chrisfield, Champion, A Dover, D Dover, Wall In attendance the Clerk, Unitary Cllr Grimes and 22 Parishioners

Apologies from: Unitary Cllr Filmer

There were no Cllrs interests declared

The Clerk informed the meeting that Andrew Gilling, a Parish Councillor for over 50 years, has decided to step down from the Parish Council. Andrew will be sorely missed, with his vast experience of Parish issues, especially the Drainage Board. The Parish Council wish to put on record his 50 years' service is exceptional and his legacy will take us forward. The Councillors' have been asked to consider a fitting token for his loyal dedication to the parish.

- 2 Minutes of the last meeting– Monday 2nd March 2026** - these were agreed unanimously and signed as a true record, then signed by the Chairman

At this juncture, the Chairman brought forward agenda point 6, due to the number of attendees wishing to discuss the possible Asset Community Value for the Knoll Inn.

After much discussion, it was agreed that a small working group be set up of two Cllrs and residents to take the application forward. Following guidance from the Parish Council's governing body, a consultation within the Parish will have to take place. The Clerk to arrange

- 3. Planning - 24/26/0004 – Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed 3m rear extension and dormer roof LOCATED at 26 Rookery Close Rooksbridge BS26 2UQ**

The Parish Council agreed unanimously that a no comment be registered on the planning portal

4. Financial Matters

a) Clerks Salary March	£467.52
b) Clerks PAYE March	£141.90
c) Clerks expenses March	£135.33
d) PGC Contracts 9/9 (inv 2309)	£582.00
e) Reimbursement to Cllr Bray re litter pick bags	£7.99
f) Somerset Council re dog loo emptying at Cemetery Jan-March 2027 – inv 32016228	£202.80
g) Steve Chick – cutting footpath Old Rectory Close	£158.00

All invoices include VAT where applicable

The above invoices were agreed unanimously by the Cllrs and will be paid by the Clerk through the Parish Council's Unity Trust online banking facility

- 5. Somerset Playing Field Awards 2026** – it was agreed that the Clerk to reply the SPFA to enter our play areas into the competition
- 6. Asset Community Value Enquiry** – see note above

7. **The Stores – Brent Road** – it was brought to the Parish Council's attention that the current owners have erected a pony shelter in the northern part of the field adjacent to the A370. As the Parish Councils holds a covenant on the land, it was agreed that the Clerk to write to the owner informing him of the breach of the covenant

8. **To adopt Standing Orders and Financial Regulations** – it was agreed to adopt the revised Parish Council's policies

a) Code of Conduct	b) Financial regulations
c) Standing orders	d) Complaints procedure
e) Grant Policy	f) I.T. Policy
g) Privacy Policy	

9. **New Councillor Interviews dates** – the Clerk to arrange some dates to interview the prospective Councillor – Wendy Ashdown

10. **Telephone box** – following the article on the “E” newsletter, the Clerk had received two replies. Ideas ranged from local produce from local households – to freshly baked wares, also displays of the school's artwork. It was agreed that, as the Parish Council is conducting a Consultation Asset Community Value, that a question would be added as to whether we keep the telephone box or not

MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Grimes – Cllr Grimes stated that Somerset Council has now set its 2026/27 budget following the Government's decision to reject proposals for any increase above 4.99%. This means that an average council tax bill will increase by nearly £122 per year.

A new phonenumber for residents struggling to afford the increased cost of oil. This is being run in conjunction with Citizens Advice. **Telephone number is 0808 278 7842**

New electoral boundaries have now been agreed, which will mean the number of Councillors will reduce from 110 to 96. These recommendations are expected to be in place for the possible May 2027 election

Cllr Wall – asked for an update on the situation near Nut Tree Cottage. The Clerk to chase Highways

Chairman – asked for new signage for Joseph's Pounds to be updated, along with a request from the Drainage Board to come to the meeting to confirm the work to be carried out, which was cancelled to the floods a couple of months ago

A member of the public asked is something could be done about footpath AX17 – as the bridge is in a very danferous condition, being rotten. The Chairman agreed to chase up Somerset Council

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

**Date of next Parish Meeting to be held in the Village Hall -
Monday 11th MAY 2026 starting at 7.00 pm**

DATE

CHAIRMAN