

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday May 5th 2026 at 7.30 pm in Enmore Memorial Hall

Attendance: Cllr. Hopkins, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Brailsford, Cllr Fergusson,
Cllr Hucker, Cllr Hubbard.

Clerk: D. McIlroy, RFO: A.Stoye, V. Johnson (prospective new clerk) Cllr Caswell and
P. Evans

1. No apologies. Cllr Hopkins welcomed V. Johnson to the meeting
2. There were no Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items.
3. To approve minutes of meeting on March 3rd 2026. Cllr Jackson asked that reports could be added to the minutes as appendices on the website.
All agreed this happen moving forward.

ACTION: Clerk to ensure reports are put into PDF format and added to minutes for parish council website.

Actions brought forward.

No news received from M. Brookes- (Enmore Golf Club) regarding social membership for villagers.

L. Manning now has computer for SID data.

Cllr Hubbard has not contacted L. Stather regarding definitive map of footpaths.

A. Stoye has sent £100 donation from Enmore Parish Council to Dorset & Somerset Air ambulance.

D. Mcilroy has not organised site meeting with Golf Club regarding pack way and pond as she waiting for more information from Cllr Fergusson.

Parishes have been contacted regarding Clerk position with no result.

Minutes were approved and duly signed by Cllr Hopkins.

4. There were no public comments on agenda items.
5. Actions arising from the previous meeting minutes.
Speed management/SID update.
L. Manning now has a computer to upload the necessary programs in order to download the data from the SIDs. Cllr Brailsford volunteered to work with him as traffic management councillor. There are still issues with vehicles speeding through the village but in order to request police presence in Enmore data is required.

ACTION: D. Mcilroy to email L. Manning for an update.

Road Safety including discussion regarding traffic issues Enmore School.

Cllr Brailsford met with the headmaster and a governor of the school and a representative of Somerset Council to research costings for a new design for the school carpark and then a contractor to build it. The school have allocated a portion of their budget to allow for this. The current design is not fit for purpose; the main concern is at school drop off in the morning. Parents park outside the school, outside of current lines to walk children into school. There is no safe clear route through the car park and the school policy insists that children are walked to the school entrance because of this.

Cllr Brailsford stated that although there will be less spaces available with an improved design it is hoped it will help the problem. She will update the Parish Council with any progress.

6. Correspondence.

The subscription to SALC is due for renewal.

Last year it was agreed that membership of SALC should be kept under review to ensure that the Council receives value for money.

Cllr Brailsford noted that they are a useful point of contact and that with a new Clerk starting it would not be prudent to cancel the subscription at this point.

This was agreed by the remaining councillors.

ACTION: RFO will organise payment for the subscription.

7. Proposed planning applications. Parish council discussion and responses

Planning application number: 27/26/00002/L

Proposal: Change of use of land to create 5No. additional pitches for the siting of 5No. further touring caravans/motor homes/camper vans (Retrospective).

Location: Cutters Combe, Enmore Road, Enmore, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2AH.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Brailsford had circulated to the council the previous planning application, the new planning application and breaches noted.

Cllr Brailsford expressed the view that the original planning application had been for 5 touring caravan pitches that were not permanent, that there was no obstruction to visibility and that the planting had to be completed using native trees.

Mr Evans, the applicant, stated that some leylandii trees had been planted to act a wind break and that there was no obstruction to visibility. He had asked for retrospective planning for an extra 5 pitches as he had obtained materials at reasonable costs. He admitted that the caravans were being used by Hinkley Point workers but it would take time for the site to run with just touring caravans. He suggested that the caravans did move but it was argued that it was just the occupants moving and not the caravans themselves.

Cllr Brailsford commented how this was an example of how the planning process was undermined; that applicants could build anything and then seek retrospective planning permission.

Cllr Caswell commented that the planning committee were just interested in the application for the extra 5 pitches and that the previous planning application was a separate matter.

Cllr Brailsford listed her concerns with the application – the site is not fit for permanent accommodation, the rural location of the site is not in keeping with the area, the issue of noise and disruption to the neighbours. She also stated that the site is visible from the road and a public right of way. Mr. Evans stated he had planted many trees but that they would take time to grow and eventually the site would not be visible.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Brailsford that the application should not be supported by the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Hubbard and all agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Brailsford would submit the parish council's objection to Somerset Planning department.

8. Finance.

A) Internal Audit report and final accounts for 25/26.

A. Stoye had circulated final accounts for the 2025/26 financial year prior to the meeting together with a finance report. AGAR forms had also been circulated before the meeting, with explanations of the input where appropriate. P. Ingram had examined the Parish Council accounts and has signed them off. She had no comments or concerns.

B.) Discussion of any recommendations arising from the internal audit.

P. Ingram had no recommendations to make for improving keeping the accounts.

As RFO, A. Stoye had signed section 2 of the AGAR Forms (Accounting Statements) and P. Ingram had previously signed the Annual Internal Audit form. There were no matters of concern arising from the Internal Audit. The Internal Audit was received and noted by councillors, and P. Ingram was thanked for undertaking this work.

C) Approval of Financial and Governance Returns for 2025/26.

Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/256 and this was duly signed by the Chairman and the Clerk. Councillors then approved the Accounting Statements and the Chairman added his signature to the form.

D) Approval of Certificate of Exemption for 2025/26.

As the income and expenditure were both under £25,000 threshold and there were no matters of concern, all councillors were happy for a certificate of exemption to be completed and submitted. This was then signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Finance Officer.

Once the minute references have been confirmed, A. Stoye will scan the forms, upload them to the website, and send the certificate of exemption to the external auditor.

E) Finance report and accounts for the 2026 year to date.

A. Stoye had circulated an up to date finance report prior to the meeting. A. Stoye reported that the precept had been received and no payments had been made at that stage. There were no queries from the councillors.

F) Approval of payments.

A. Stoye requested approval be given for the two invoices from SALC one for a course of £40 and one for SALC subscription of £115.

Although invoices have not yet been received, it is likely that renewal of the Enbecom email package will be due before the next meeting. It is expected that this will be of the order of £25-£30 plus reclaimable VAT. It is a requirement that councils have official email addresses in the format councilname.gov.uk or councilname.org.uk. The Wix (website editing package) renewal is also due before July. Last year this was £108 plus reclaimable VAT. A. Stoye will pay this using her debit card and then to be reimbursed by the parish council. This was agreed by all councillors.

Cllr Hopkins asked if there were any questions to which there were none.

Cllr Hopkins wished it noted in the minutes thanks to A. Stoye for all of her hard work in keeping the accounts accurately throughout the year and to P. Ingram for her work on the audit.

9. Reports

Footpaths

Cllr Hubbard circulated her report prior to the meeting.

Cllrs Fergusson and Hubbard would like to request a site meeting with Matt Brooke (Manager Enmore Park Golf course) Ideally for the safety of walkers it would be ideal to walk down the gully, however there are significant issues with flooding at the lower end and it would be impractical to avoid this by coming up the gully half way down as the sides are too steep and walkers would suddenly appear.

Cllr Hubbard was anxious to start the formal process to protect the route of the Hollow way/Ancient Packway by Modification. However, as Cllr Jackson noted the process is a long one and will take time. She thought the best approach was to have an open meeting with the golf club and ascertain their thoughts on the gully drainage. Cllr Hopkins agreed and asked that the formal process to be put on hold until after the site meeting.

Cllr Fergusson also noted that as a member of the golf club it was very unlikely that application for plans to the practice green would proceed.

ACTION: D. Mcilroy to email Matt Brookes and ask for suitable dates/ times for a site meeting. arrange site meeting.

Wilding.

Cllrs Jackson and Hucker had circulated their Wilder Enmore prior to the meeting.

Cllr Jackson has been asked by Bishops Lydeard Parish Council to present at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20/5.

She was also in contact with Steve Dury, Lead on the Local Somerset Nature Recovery Strategy. It is very encouraging the depth of work that is being done to support this. The accompanying maps will be very useful to understand potential planning application impacts. Steve and FJ discussed the roles of Parish/Town Councils and their role in focussing on how to improve wildlife habitat in their local environs through community engagement.

Cllr Jackson had a good meeting with Rev. Eleanor King, Denise and Michael Hopkins, to discuss next steps and received some valuable input. There is a School visit again on the 12th May

Jubilee Meadow is alive now the sunshine is out. Cllr Hucker has reminded residents of the gate code and encouraged them to visit. Approval was requested to build a bug hotel in one corner of the meadow. All agreed this was a good idea and permission granted.

There is to be another Litter pick June 14th and as usual Cllr Jackson will request equipment from Somerset Council and book Enmore Hall for refreshments.

Denise Hopkins and Cllr Jackson met with Duncan MacRae, the Head, re plans for 2026 in the churchyard and school grounds.

ACTION: Cllr Jackson to organise equipment for litter pick

There followed a discussion regarding how the church will fund repairs the roof and grounds following an enquiry by Cllr Jackson.

Cllr Hopkins advised her to speak to P. Ingram regarding funding and resources.

Neighbourhood watch.

Cllr Fergusson stated that there were no incidents or reports of crime in the area.

He had attended the Annual Assembly held by Sir Ashley Fox MP.

10. To consider the post of Parish Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr Hopkins had welcomed V. Johnson at the beginning of the meeting. She is happy to apply for the position of Parish Clerk.

Cllr Brailsford is happy to take over the role of RFO short term.

ACTION: D. Mcilroy to source a suitable application form and pass onto Cllr Hopkins.

11. Date/ Time of Village assembly.

Enmore Village Assembly to take place June 10th @ 7pm in Enmore Memorial Hall.

ACTION: D. Mcilroy to book Hall and notify those with a vested interest in the village of Enmore.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed 9.10pm

Signed: Date:
Chairman of Council

NEXT MEETING Tuesday July 7th 2026 at **7.30pm**

Planning application 27/26/00002

Object for the following reasons:

- That the application demonstrates a flagrant disregard for Planning Policy, the planning process and the views of the Parish Council, neighbours and the wider community. Granting this retrospective permission would set a precedent for other breaches of Policy and process, both in the village and elsewhere
- That intensification of the site by 100% will significantly impact on the rural character and views and cause an increase in large traffic movement in and out of the site
- That a PROW (BW 15/2) is recorded as running adjacent to the site on the Definitive Map therefore the site can be seen from both the PROW and the road (this is expressly denied in the application)
- Please can it also be noted that the applicant has breached four of the ten planning conditions given for the original application (27-23-00010):
 - Condition 2. The site has not been built in accordance with the submitted plan for five touring caravan pitches and that this was done wilfully rather than 'by accident' as described in the planning statement
 - Condition 3. That the caravans and motor homes accommodated on site are not holiday touring vehicles, rather they are permanently occupied vehicles in contravention of Policies D17 and CO1 (not suitable for permanent occupation)
 - Condition 4. That the caravans and motor homes accommodated on site are not holiday touring vehicles, rather they are permanently occupied vehicles in contravention of Policies D2 and D19 (impact on rural character)
 - Condition 9. That the planting has not been completed with native species. Leylandii trees have been incorporated into the border planting as a wind break
- It should also be noted that the use of the site has not 'been well received' by the community as described in the planning statement

Should this application be permitted we request that a restriction is placed on the whole site (or the new portion) so that touring vehicles are only permitted to stay on the site for maximum of 14 days.

FOOTPATHS REPORT FOR May 5 2026 Enmore Parish Council Meeting

Following my last March 3 Report, when I explained that I and Councillor Fiona Jackson thought it necessary to protect the route of the Hollow way/Ancient Packway by Modification, I have been working on a Form A Modification of the Golf Course Right of Way BW:15/4. We also hoped to provide for the safety of walkers by using the Gully and to sort out legally the encroachment of the Club House and buildings on the Right of Way.

I have been in contact with Sue Coman, Rights of Way Officer (Definitive Map). A Diversion Order needs to be requested by the Golf Club because Right of Way BW15:4 has been "obstructed". Such an order is outside the remit of the Modification process. She has already sent a copy of my draft to the Warden and suggests he should deal with this as it is a planning matter. AS reported, I think we should insist the Golf Club contacts the warden and arranges to apply for a deviation.

Matt Brooke Manage, Enmore Park Golf Club attended the March 3 Meeting and next day I emailed him copies of the Modification and suggested an onsite meeting would be useful. He acknowledged the email and I am wondering if the clerk has had any success in arranging anything.

I redrafted the application, and below is a copy of Sue's reply and her Map. I must confess to being completely out of my depth – the whole process is far more formal than I expected and I do not have the specialised and expert knowledge required. But I DO think that if this Parish Council does not try to correct the situation, nobody in the future will and it should be our legacy to rescue the Hollow way/Ancient Pack way from Anonymity.

We have consulted Councillor Graham Fergusson, a Golf Club Member and he feels that it would be difficult to obtain the consent of Club Members to walkers emerging from the Gully in an area used by golfers and also that draining the pond to assist walkers would be problematic. He supports an on-site Meeting also.

Amanda Hubbard
Enmore PPLO

Sue Coman's Email Dear Amanda. As promised, I've attached a map for you to mark the route you are applying for. If the map does not cover the whole area you need, please let me know and I can adjust it.

The rights of way shown on the attached map are approximations. The precise line of a right of way can only be determined by reference to the Definitive Map and Statement (extracts previously sent). The line on the Definitive Map represents the centre line of the route and not its width. I don't recall asserting that the Definitive Map was correct, only that the Definitive Map and Statement are the legal record of public rights of way and if you had evidence to show that the Map and Statement are in error you could make an application to modify them. As a modification application can only be made to correct the legal record and not for the creation of new rights, matters such as practical or safety concerns are not factors that can be taken into account. The relevant considerations are whether there is sufficient evidence that as

some point in the past public rights existed over the route and if they did exist in the past then whether or not they have been subsequently legally extinguished or diverted.

It would be helpful if you could clarify what you believe your evidence shows:

1. the recorded route has a particular width, or
2. the existence of legal rights not currently shown on the Definitive Map, or
3. that legal rights do not exist on the alignment currently shown on the Definitive Map but exist on a different alignment.

For points 2 and 3 case law suggests it may be more appropriate to make an application to add a route (option 2 on the form) rather than to add to the particulars (option 4).

It is not possible to address an obstruction to an existing recorded right of way through the modification application process. I recommend that you seek advice from the area warden on your options for addressing such matters rather than referring to them within your modification application.

I note that the grid reference you have given in Part 2 is some distance east of the end point described in the preceding paragraph. You also refer to an undulating area of the Golf Course, and I have the impression this is to the west of the starting point described in the preceding paragraph. I appreciate that you have been waiting for me to provide a map for you to mark the route which will make things clearer. However, the described from and to points, grid references and map will need to be consistent.

Because there must be sufficient evidence of the legal rights claimed existing for an order to be made to modify the Definitive Map and Statement you may want to include documentary evidence from the sources set out in our guidance document "7. Doc Evidence Guide" that I previously sent.

If you are including user evidence, please bear in mind the user evidence section of document "6. Guidance to applicant appendix". I also recommend asking people to complete the user evidence form, where appropriate.

If you need further copies of the guidance documents or form mentioned above, please let me know. If you have any queries with regards to the above, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,

Sue

Sue Coman

Rights of Way Officer (Definitive Map)

Somerset Council

+44 1823357309



Modification Map (2)
(1) (1).pdf

Report for 5/5 EPC Meeting.
EPC Initiative Wilder Enmore

With impending March presentations and the repeated request by organisations for WEG to have a display table, FJ worked with Tony Eggar to get something together. Tony was invaluable. He suggested which display board to get (kindly funded by EPC), worked with FJ on the design and then printed out all of the display material for the board - the result was fantastic! Sincerest thanks to Tony for all his diligent efforts and patience. Additional appreciation too, for he very generously donated the use of his printer and inks for this exercise. The display board with WEG material will be used for subsequent WEG events, in the Church to support School visits and at School. The board is available for village event use by application to EPC.

FJ and Beth Riches (BR) presented on Community Action, the Wilder Enmore & Goathurst Initiative at their Nature of the Quantocks Conference on 21st March. At the Conference, FJ and BR were invited to apply for the CPRE Countryside Changemaker Award so an application was submitted by the close date of 30/4. Letters of recommendation to support the application were kindly received from Brenda Smith, Churchwarden of Goathurst PCC; Duncan MacRae, Head at Enmore Primary School; Robin Stamp, Chair of Friends of the Quantocks; Tony and Jane Eggar, residents of Enmore and Clare Sylvester, Clerk to Broomfield PC (arranged by Alicia Aras, lead Wilder Broomfield Initiative).

FJ and BR presented to the Enmore Gardening Club at their March meeting on 31st March. The title was "Wilder in the West and Beyond". The presentation was centred on the importance of improving wildlife habitat on private land, namely in this instance gardens. Doing this provides vital wildlife corridors that fill in the gaps in the Nature Recovery Network, linking together the larger scale wildlife conservation activities across Somerset. There was much positive and enthusiastic feedback afterwards with four new club members signed up.

FJ has been asked by Bishops Lydeard Parish Council to present at the Annual Parish Meeting on 20/5. Alison Roberts, BL Parish Councillor was given FJ's name by Robin Stamp, Chair of Friends of the Quantocks. They are interested in started a Wilder Bishops Lydeard Initiative. Sadly, BR is on holiday so cannot co-present this time.

FJ was also in contact with Steve Dury, Lead on the Local Somerset Nature Recovery Strategy. It is very encouraging the depth of work that is being done to support this. The accompanying maps will be very useful to understand potential planning application impacts. Steve and FJ discussed the roles of Parish/Town Councils and their role in focussing on how to improve wildlife habitat in their local environs through community engagement. The advantage is that the decision making at this level is less complex and therefore less of an impediment to action. In particular, the power of gardens in creating wildlife corridors particularly across urban areas. He has asked to keep in touch and for critical input on draft information handouts that support this.

Tony Eggar has kindly offered to submit updates and articles relevant to WEG in the Monthly Parish Magazine. He will not be alone in doing this but FJ and BR are sincerely grateful for him offering to do this on behalf of the Initiative.

Churchyard

FJ had a good meeting with Rev. Eleanor King, Denise and Michael Hopkins, to discuss next steps and received some valuable input. There is a School visit again on the 12th May and will include a book reading by local author Aidan Meighan who has launched his book The Folklore of Trees recently in March. Also plans for a Nature and Heritage Trail for locals and visitors alike. The School are very keen to be actively involved with this.

Jubilee Meadow

Jubilee Meadow is alive now the sunshine is out. Andrew has reminded residents of the gate code and encouraged them to visit.

Aidan Meighan launched his book The Folklore of Trees at Broomfield Hall on Saturday, 14th March which FJ attended. He used the Jubilee Meadow Car Park for the afternoon and made a donation to EPC.

School

Denise Hopkins and FJ met with Duncan MacRae, the Head, re plans for 2026. Amongst things covered were the next Churchyard visit (14/5), the Nature and Heritage Trail, Wilder School status, the Wild Area and the June Fair. It is indeed encouraging having such a supportive Head of School.

Residents' Gardens

Litter Pick

Another Litter Pick took place on Sunday 8th March. A good turnout and refreshments much enjoyed afterwards.

EPC Initiative Traffic Management

Highways will invoice on completion of all the scheduled signage works. It was agreed that it was simpler for their accounts to produce just one invoice despite some works having been completed last financial year. They are conscious that the delay for the remainder was due to Highways error.