

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT

Minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Assembly held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20th May 2025 in Enmore Memorial Hall

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting and recorded apologies for absence from Lucie Brailsford (Enmore School PTA), Rosalie Burge, Jenifer Clarke (Gardening Club), Doug Cole (Enmore Memorial Hall), Cllr David Comley, Eleanor King (St Michael's Church), Debbie McIlroy and Duncan MacRae (Enmore School).

1. The minutes of the 2024 Assembly, held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 were approved as correct, nem con, and signed by the Chairman.

Reports had been received from the majority of organisations listed on the agenda. With the exception of the Chairman's Report, written reports have been included as Appendices to these minutes.

2. Chairman's Report

The Parish Council has held six regular meeting in the past year. We meet on the first Tuesday in the odd months of the year – January, March, May, July, September, November. We are always pleased to welcome members of the community to these meetings and we are grateful to those who have attended the meeting over the past 12 months. There is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for members of the public to speak on agenda items.

Each member of the Council hold a special brief and you will hear from each of these shortly as they report on their area of focus. So I will not, as part of my report, refer on these topics as this preempt what each councillor has to report.

Generally our work consists of monitoring planning applications, reporting any enforcements, and taking forward any other projects for the benefit of the community. Over the past year this has included: raising the awareness of road safety within the village – including monitoring speeding, a simplification of the speed limits and the introduction of 20 flashing lights at the school and advanced warning signs relating to non-motorised use of the highway – pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. We are currently investigating the provision of mirrors at vario us junctions. We are grateful to Fiona and David for the work they have undertaken on road safety.

The wilding Enmore under the leadership of Fiona and Andrew has progressed throughout the year with the involvement of the school and the church and others within the village. There have been a number of litter picks and we are grateful to all those who have taken part in these to help keep the village clear of litter. David has continued his campaign for better broadband. Amanda, as footpaths officer has, undertaken regular monitoring of the footpaths and bridleways. Graham as neighbourhood watch officer has, thankfully, had a quiet year. So my thanks to them all for their support and the work they undertake on behalf of the community.

I would also thank all those individuals who have contributed the life of the parish over the past year. Much of it is done on the margins but when put together make up much of the community spirit of Enmore. The various organisations within the village, the school, the church, the pub, the hall, the Enmore & Goathurst Magazine, delivered free of charge to all households in the villages - all give the village cohesion and builds up our common life together. We have much to be thankful for here in Enmore.

Finally, we the elected members of the council could not function without our excellent officers. Debbie, our clerk and Anne our finance officer both undertake their duties with diligence and enthusiasm. I would like to thank them both for their support and the manner in which they keep the public records. And a thank you too for Petra Ingram for undertaking the examination of the accounts. All of these people undertake their duties at no cost to the council. So a big “thank you”.

3. Reports from named councillors on their area of responsibility:
Written reports had been received from Cllrs Hucker & Jackson (Civil Cemetery and Wilder Enmore), Cllr Fergusson (Neighbourhood Watch) and Cll Jackson (Traffic Management). These may be found as Appendices I (page 3), II (page 4) and III (page 5) respectively. Cllr Hubbard reported briefly on Footpaths.
4. Elected Somerset Councillors - no report received from Cllrs Caswell or Bolt.
5. Somerset & Avon Constabulary - a brief report was received, listing crimes by category, for the local area (so not specific to Enmore). Please see Appendix IV (page 6) for details.
6. Quantock Landscapes (formerly AONB) - no report received.
7. Enmore C of E Primary School - please see Appendix V (page 6) for full report.
8. Enmore & Goathurst Magazine - please see Appendix VI (page 7) for full report.
9. Enmore Memorial Hall - please see Appendix VII (page 8) for full report.
10. St Michael's Church - please see Appendix XI (page 9) for full report.
11. Enmore & District Women's Group (no report) and Enmore School PTA - see report in Appendix VIII (page 8).
12. Enmore Gardening Club - please see Appendix X (page 10) for full report.
13. Enmore Park Golf Club - no report received.
14. Open Forum for members of the public.

Interest was expressed in having more information available to local residents about the SID recordings and it was agreed that Cllr David Comley would be made aware of this request.

The possibility of using Enmore footpaths for a sponsored walk and making more people familiar with the routes for the purpose of exercise and well being was discussed briefly. Cllr Amanda Hubbard, Footpaths Office, will make some recommendations for routes.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Appendix I

Report on the Civil Cemetery/Jubilee Meadow and Wilder Enmore Councillor Andrew Hucker and Councillor Fiona Jackson

The “Wilder” Initiative is a collaborative endeavour with Goathurst. The elements of the report most relevant to Enmore are included below.

Churchyard

In addition to the bird and hedgehog boxes purchased last year, the Magic Grant provided the Churchyard with two maintenance free benches. The remainder of the Magic Grant was spent on several hundred bulbs, the bulk of which was planted in the Churchyard, but also planted around the trees adjacent to the carpark at Jubilee Meadow. Two enthusiastic classes from Enmore School visited the Churchyard in December. Paddon and John from QLPS, supported by Fiona Jackson and Denise Hopkins led each class for outdoor and indoor learning sessions. The Bug houses are now brimming with leaf litter in efforts to attract lots of happy bugs! QLPS also recently donated two beautifully decorated bird boxes from mental health projects supported by a mental health charity and local schools in Bridgwater. There are talks underway for creating a heritage and nature trail around the Churchyard and through the Church for both locals and visitors to appreciate alike.

Jubilee Meadow (Civil Cemetery)

The carpark and seating area were completed just after last year's Assembly and the construction projects came in under estimate. This was in part helped by both separately funded projects being done as one due to weather delays which in the end were fortuitous for the Council finances. The upper area of the Civil Cemetery was named Jubilee Meadow by village consensus. To this end, a wooden sign was commissioned with its new name and with thanks to all the generous funding and donations received by Quantock National Landscapes, QLPS and the village. The D-Day commemorations in June last year, held at the Meadow, also marked the Meadow's inauguration as a Village Green Space. The event was well attended by the village with everyone bringing their own picnic, eaten to the backdrop of WW2 era music and wrapped up with the lighting of our beacon as a part of the National programme. Jubilee Meadow was used again recently to light our now familiar beacon in commemoration of VE Day. A padlock was installed on the field gates with a village known code and the sign adjacent to the road was removed to discourage non-local visitors. A village meet later in the year helped cut and clear the Meadow ready for winter. The hedge to the expansive vista has also been kept trimmed. The carpark was recently used by a BFI film crew who were given permission to use. The carpark may also help with overflow parking needed by the School on certain days. Thanks must go to Councillor Hucker for all his efforts at keeping the Orchard and Meadow in check.

Hedges/Verges

Following the Hedge survey carried out by Ella Bedford, QLPS Wildlife Officer, on Mill Farm, Councillor Jackson worked with Phillip Burge to apply for two grants, one to plant 135m of new hedgerow and the other for hedgerow packs to infill existing hedges. Both grant applications were successful and were of significant financial contribution.

Philip Burge approached several other farmers and landowners in the district regarding the offer of a full farm hedge survey. The objective to encourage practices that maximise hedge wildlife habitat to promote wildlife diversity that will have a positive effect on farming management and income.

Despite there being no costs attached, no impact to the farmer's timetable and with the prospect of getting additional funding, there has been, as yet, no interest. We shall see how Mill Farm progresses and perhaps consider taking a results-based proposition to them in the future.

School

First of all, it is uplifting to note that the Wilder Enmore Initiative is a key performance indicator in Enmore School's Strategic Report for Achievements and Performance.

The School's Wild Area at the back of the school (that is actually another section of the Ancient Packway that traverses across Enmore) was discussed at a meeting with Paddon (QLPS), Duncan MacRae and Fiona Jackson. A working party was scheduled and the dead hedge was built up a bit more, the willow pruned along with the hollies and some sun blocking branches from various trees. The rotten bridge was removed along with a bit more of the wood from in the Packway, then mud and leaves were cleared out the pond which was discovered to be manmade. Paddon is in discussions with The Rivers and Canal Trusts about making a SUDS feature either from the road or using the water from the school roof to rewet the area. Wood was sorted into 3 piles – the stuff to remove, the stuff to use to make the path base and also a pile for making a habitat pile as lots of insects were living in the untreated wood including a peacock butterfly. More work days are in discussion.

It was lovely to know that the "Wild Area" is already a thriving wildlife habitat showing the immense importance of leaving dead wood and leaf litter as insect habitat.

Duncan MacRae, Enmore School's headmaster, is thrilled with the efforts that are being made and is keen that its heritage as part of the Ancient Packway is respected and acknowledged as a part of the notable history of Enmore School.

Litter Pick

Quarterly Litter Picks have continued to take place throughout the year, finished with the now traditional refreshments and social gathering afterwards. The Parish Council wishes to express their thanks to all the willing volunteers who turn up regularly and would encourage others to take part once in a while to show support and appreciation of the efforts made to keep Enmore a Green and Pleasant Village.

Wilder Group Meetings

There have been several catch-up sessions in the last year – in fact, there is one currently overdue. The Wilder Enmore and Goathurst Whatsapp Group continues to provide a space for people to share their wildlife points of interest. Councillors Riches and Jackson have been asked by QLPS to present at the Quantock Wildlife Symposium on 5th July on Community Action, Wilder Enmore & Goathurst.

Appendix II

Neighbourhood Watch report

Cllr Graham Fergusson

I have very little to report about neighbourhood watch this year and the only incident I was directly involved in was to inform the police that a couple of cannabis plants had been found growing in a field owned by the golf club! I continue to get countywide alerts from the Avon and Somerset constabulary, and put any information that seems relevant onto the village broadcast. Speeding through the village continues to be an issue. I have had no direct contact with our community policing team and don't consider it necessary at the present time.

Appendix III
Traffic Management
report by Cllr Fiona Jackson

The Speed Management Project is now complete. New 30 mph with speed camera signs have been replaced/installed the length of the village and there has been a total of 52 new signs and an additional 7 new poles. There have been new road markings and roundels and old 40 mph road markings erased. The 20mph flashing signs have been installed with road markings operative during term time. The total cost to the Parish Council was £5000, quite less than a third of the total cost to Highways. It had long been a village issue that there were four changes of speed limit within the village boundary. The document supporting the application to Highways can be viewed on the Enmore Parish Council website. The £5000 bill to the Parish Council was largely taken up by the £3,300 cost of the TRO, the Traffic Regulation Order, which was needed by law as the changes in speed limit were at the request of Enmore Parish Council and were not evidenced by previous recorded accidents or deaths. One new pole and 30 mph sign before the golf club coming from Bridgwater was displaced shortly after installation and will be replaced. The double bend sign before the school has also been replaced at no cost. The SIDs will continue to monitor speeds through the village and stats shared with the police. Highways have said there will need to be a bedding in period of the new speed limits and signage before the police will take an interest in any excess speeding.

In consultation with the Horseriding Road Safety group It has recently been agreed with Highways, after some discussion, the installation of four horserider signs and two nature signs which will be placed on existing poles. The horserider signs will be placed, one facing Bridgwater above the turning to Barford Park, a double-sided sign near Mill Farm warning traffic coming from both directions of horseriders and in particular going into the bends from Taunton and one on the pole that is to be replaced before the golf club warning traffic coming from Bridgwater. SLOW road markings will also be in place. In addition, there will be two Nature small mammal signs (a hedgehog sign), one in Lower Enmore and one in Upper, both facing into the Village to incoming traffic. The cost to PCC will be £300 for the six signs. In addition, the Parish Council has also agreed the purchase of three mirrors to be placed opposite the turning to Barford Park, one opposite Frog Lane and one opposite Stonehall Lane.

Appendix IV

Somerset and Avon Constabulary

We cannot get the information just for Enmore but here is the information for March 2025 for the beat AW040 that covers that side of Bridgwater

103 crimes were recorded in Sedgemoor South West during this period:

Category	Crimes recorded
Anti-social behaviour	16
Bicycle theft	1
Burglary	6
Criminal damage arson	5
Drugs	2
Other theft	5
Public order	9
Robbery	1
Shoplifting	3
Vehicle crime	2
Violent crime	50
Other crime	3

Appendix V

Enmore Church of England Primary School

Report from Duncan MacRae, Headmaster

I apologise for not being at this assembly in person, but I am currently on a residential with year 5 and 6 pupils on the Isle of Wight.

The school has had a good year.

The school roll has remained stable and we have a full complement of new entrants for next September. This is very important in order to maintain funding as the bulk of this is pupil-led. The new Ofsted framework may have an impact on pupil numbers. We have been an “Outstanding” school since 2009 but this categorisation will soon no longer exist.

We have recently celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a day of dancing, singing, old- fashioned games and partying.

We have maintained strong links with the church and regular visits from the Open the Book team for our assemblies continue to be appreciated.

Mrs Nash, who has been a member of staff for over 20 years, will be retiring at the end of this term.

I would like to thank all those who have worked hard in order to simplify the speed limits through the village and arrange the installation of the flashing 20 mph signs.

Appendix VI

Enmore & Goathurst Magazine report by Sally Tottle, Chair

Last year I reported we were introducing new digitisation technology and procedures for our editorial and printing teams, led by Tony Eggar, our excellent Technical Advisor, to improve the quality of presentation and printing.

To achieve this radical change full training and guidance has been given to all editors and printers and a new Technical Support Team of four was created last October for editors giving ongoing technical advice, hands-on support, and back-up if necessary or required when completing the new digital editorial process. This new technology has streamlined the printing process for both the magazine editorial contents and the Yellow Pages, making printing much easier, more efficient and less time consuming than the previous hard-copy method.

The new design template used by editors, allows the welcome inclusion of photographs, improved imaginative artwork and graphics meaning also that the finished magazine content can be displayed on our two parish council websites and read on-line in a vertical and continuous order with the added benefit of colour. Thank-you to Anne Stoye and Nicki Ingleby, who on behalf of their parish councils monthly transfer the new magazine template onto their websites for us and to the parish councils for their co-operation and support.

Our Yellow Pages adverts have also been refreshed and updated with new versions in digital format by Steve Gormley, our Advertising Manager, giving a more attractive and precise presentation. These can be displayed on our parish council websites for reference and customer services as well as giving our advertisers the added bonus of a wider customer catchment area on-line. Adverts for our two village halls continue to be inserted free of charge on a temporary basis when vacant space occurs as a gesture of the magazine's grateful appreciation and goodwill especially to the Enmore Memorial Hall committee who are the generous hosts to our printing teams.

Overall, I hope you will agree with me that we have been very successful with implementing this new innovation which has given the magazine a much-needed facelift, and enabled us to reach a far wider readership than before whilst retaining our core values and motivation to inform and communicate, and to promote our communities, our news, our activities and all that brings us together.

Financially we are still in a good place thanks to the brilliant work of our Advertising Manager, Steve Gormley, who is responsible for filling the spaces in our Yellow Pages and generating our only income through advertising. Our advertisers, all local businesses, are key to our financial stability. So please return their investment in us by checking their adverts first when needing a trade or service and use them if possible.

Our income this past financial year ending 31st March, 2025 was £1,929.93, our expenditure was £1,837.02, which gave us a small surplus of £92.91. Our bank balances including savings deposit stood at £5,965.24.

Although we are non-profit-making organisation we will be reviewing our financial position at our next meeting in October with the probability that advertising rates will be increased from January 2026 as this year's surplus has dropped by £682.00, our expenditure has increased by £393.00 and our income reduced by £289.00 on year 23/24.

We are very proud to continue supporting our halls and churches through the magazine's Christmas Card Appeal and this past Christmas £4,676.75 was raised including Gift Aid for the benefit of these organisations, bringing the grand total of donations raised over eighteen years to nearly £44,000.

Finally, another date for your diary – Wednesday, 28th May, here at Enmore's Memorial Hall at 7.30pm for our AGM. You are all invited and would be most welcome! Coffee and cake afterwards.

Appendix VII
Enmore Memorial Hall
report from Doug Cole, Chairman

I apologise for not being here in person to make this report on behalf of Enmore Memorial Hall.

The last twelve months have been very busy for the committee of the hall with a number of substantial tasks carried out.

The floor has been stripped and repolished and looks really good.. The former Ladies', now combined,,toilet has had a makeover with new units fitted.. The chairs in the hall have been replaced with much more comfortable seats.

The above tasks have been carried out with the help of a grant from Somerset Community Foundation (Hinkley Point C) for which we are very grateful. . These tasks also have needed work from our members and I thank them for their efforts.

There are still further repairs to be carried out on the North side of the hall,, that is the roof over the men's toilet area and the storage area.. The roof is made of asbestos and has developed leaks and will need to be replaced.. The treatment room also needs a new external door. The heating in the main hall needs to be replaced as it is very old and expensive to run. We are actively seeking grants for the above works, which we will need, to carry out the works, as the funds in the hall's accounts are not sufficient..

There is a good core of bookings each month from regular groups. There is also a steady number of one-off bookings for the hall.

At present the Memorial Hall has only five committee members to carry out all the tasks necessary to keep the hall functioning. . It would be really good if we could have a few more members to lighten the load of the existing committee members... We only meet once a month for about an hour.. Please consider joining and help to keep the hall going.. We have had a number of compliments about how good the hall looks.

Finally, I would personally like to thank the committee for all the work they have put in over the last twelve months - it is greatly appreciated.

Appendix VII
Enmore School PTA
report from Lucie Brailsford, Chair, Enmore School Parent Teacher Association

On behalf of the Enmore School PTA, I would like to thank the community for their support for our fundraising campaign. We are making reasonable progress and have added various new events to our annual calendar to raise money including a bingo night and, potentially, a ball in September. Our usual events – the Christmas Fair, Summer fete and in-term activities have also raised more money than previously.

PTA monies are typically used to support extra-curricular and enrichment activities at the school such as trips, music and the library, all of which have become significantly more expensive in recent years. We are also hoping to be able to support a refresh of IT equipment (specifically iPads) which are so important to learning these days. We plan to continue with our events and will supplement this with grant and donation seeking from external parties and local businesses.

Appendix IX
St Michael's Church, Enmore
report from Revd Eleanor King, Rector

Firstly, thank you for inviting us to share what has been happening in the life of Enmore Church during 2024 and it is good to hear from other groups, too, as there is so much to appreciate in our village community.

During year 2024, we appointed a new Church Architect, and we have been looking at areas where repairs are need. Two headstones have been repaired, and we have considered the roof and the possibility of an internal toilet. We have also looked into some work on the organ which will take place in the summer. We are so grateful to Michael Hopkins for playing the organ Sunday by Sunday and for running the *Enmore Angel* choir, who have sung at a concert and cream tea which raised much needed funds for the church. We are grateful to Colin Chalmers for playing on the 3rd Sunday of the month afternoon for the *In style of Taizé Service*.

The children and staff from Enmore School have visited the church for their usual services at Harvest, Christmas and Easter as well as at other times which includes visiting the Wilding Project. This project has been steered by Fiona Jackson, and it gives the children an opportunity to look at and learnt about creation around us in the churchyard. Thank you to Fiona and all who have supported this work.

Throughout the year the book swop has continued on the 1st Sunday of the month. Folk are encouraged to come along and exchange books and having a coffee as they ponder new books to take and read. Thank you to Denise Hopkins for masterminding this venture. All are welcome to come along.

We are immensely grateful to all those who support the church in so many ways, financially, through being members of the PCC, through the giving of their time in so many, often unseen, ways and for just being there. My thanks go also to Churchwarden, Rosalie Burge and her family, who have supported me so much as Rector over this last year.

We are also very grateful to Fiona Jackson and Marie Vassalli-Collard for their support of the church through fundraising at the Village Hall events.

Looking ahead, the repair of the church roof above the pews – the Chancel roof - and also above the Altar – the Nave roof - are very much in mind following the damage they received from the recent winter storms. We are currently in the process of seeking permission and funding; hopefully the work can begin in 2025.

The church is there for all of us, and all are assured of a warm welcome. Furthermore, we would be delighted to hear any thoughts and ideas about how we might serve the parish more effectively, whether it be through changing service times or types, or any other initiatives.

Appendix X
Enmore Gardening Club
report by Jenifer Clarke

We meet on the last Tuesday of every month.

Our current membership is approximately 35. As numbers are falling we as a committee are trying a new approach. This year we have introduced workshops, the latest being 'Making Hedgehog boxes for the Garden'. This was organised through Secret World.

We were invited by The Nether Stowey Gardening Club to share a coach going to the Malvern Flower Show, which was a success.

New this year we are sharing our ideas and speakers with the Kingston St Mary Gardening Club and in return they share their ideas and speakers, therefore beneficial to both clubs.

Earlier this year we organised a trip to Forde Abbey to see the spring flowers. Our Summer party will involve a visit to a garden and back to the village hall for afternoon tea with cake and scones.

Also new this year, we have introduced live of music at our parties. Optional fancy Dress together with live music at our Christmas party.

Our speakers and subjects are varied: No Dig, Care of plants and Flowers, Gardeners Question time, vegetables, Care of Bonsai trees, climate change how it affects our gardens and many other interesting talks.

Visitors are always welcome.