

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2025

at 6.30 pm in Enmore Memorial Hall

Attendance: Cllr. Hopkins, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Hucker, Cllr Comley, Cllr Fergusson

Clerk: D. McIlroy, RFO: A. Stoye. T. Searle, C. Bowditch, R. Mileham

1. Apologies had been received from Cllr Hubbard.
2. There were no Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items.
3. Cllr Comley requested an amendment to paragraph 5.2 of the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2025. This will be amended to include the words “Cllr Comley stated that it was important for the Council to carry out a risk assessment of installing the mirrors and to ensure that this was recorded in the minutes. Furthermore, the Council will undertake maintenance of the mirrors.”. Following this amendment, the minutes of the 2nd September 2025 meeting were approved and duly signed.
4. R. Mileham asked if statistics from downloaded SID data could be made available to the residents of Enmore so that the effectiveness of the SIDs could be judged. Cllr Comley replied that he downloads the data once every 2 months and thought that providing the information requested would be possible. A. Stoye noted that there is a section on the Parish Council website for traffic management and suggested that the SID data analysis could be published here.

ACTION: Cllr Comley to send A. Stoye latest SID data, which she will put on the website.

5. Actions arising from previous meeting minutes.

5.1 Speed management /SID update.

Cllr Comley had shared email correspondence between himself and Dan Cox with the other councillors prior to the meeting and reported that currently there is no expectation of a police presence in the village to deter speeding and no further equipment is available. It was therefore decided to email Sir Ashley Fox and update him about the situation and the lack of action from the police. However Cllr Jackson noted Sir Ashley would need data from the SIDs and other relevant information in order to take this forward on our behalf. As Cllr Comley noted, lack of police follow up is very frustrating, especially as the SID data shows the date, time and speeds of vehicles and therefore when most speeding occurs. This information could be used to deploy police resources most efficiently to catch the most persistent culprits.

It was also suggested that it would be interesting to contact other villages in the Dowsborough LCN area to find out if they were having similar issues and what measures they had taken, and which measures had proved to be effective.

Mr & Mrs Cromack have now handed back the speed gun the Parish Council had purchased for the Speedwatch. However, if it is to be used again, new Speedwatch volunteers would need training and the watch could only take place by the Enmore Inn. This was not considered practical and there were concerns that the machine may now be outdated.

ACTION: Cllr Comley to write to Sir Ashley Fox with data and apprise him of the situation in Enmore.

D. McIlroy to email Anne Shilton, Lead LCN for Dowsborough, and liaise with other villages.

5.2 Update on Road safety/ horse /wildlife signage.

Wild life/horse rider signs are still to be put in place. One 24 inch mirror is already in place by the Spaxton turning. Additional mirrors are to be placed at the top of Stone Hall Lane and outside the Tynte Arms (the latter to replace the current small mirror).

ACTION: Cllr Comley to organise purchase and positioning of two additional mirrors.

It was noted that there is currently a mirror attached to the Enmore village sign. The Parish Council owns the sign and has not been asked for or given permission. Concern was expressed over the Council's potential liability.

ACTION: D. McIlroy to ascertain who owns the mirror and ask for it to be removed. The sign is to be altered at some point by National Landscapes and the mirror's removal will be needed at that point in any case.

D. McIlroy to email Ian Poulter at National Landscapes and enquire when new signs are to be installed: they were originally expected in the summer.

5.3 Broadband update.

Cllr Comley was waiting for an update from Mark Weston, aide to Sir Ashley Fox, but there was still a lack of connectivity along the Enmore Road.

ACTION: Cllr Comley to contact Openreach for further information.

5.4 Civil cemetery update. Cllr Jackson stated that there was nothing new to report.

5.5 Wilder Enmore update.

Cllr Hucker and Cllr Jackson circulated a report prior to the meeting. This reported on the outcome of a Wilder Enmore planning evening, including a spreadsheet of work/plans in each of the areas in Enmore. Posts for the Wilder Enmore signs presented by SWT are to be made by N. Popham at no charge. Councillors recorded their thanks to Mr Popham and it was suggested that the signs be placed one facing in each direction on the parish land outside the golf course.

6. **Planning application number: 27/25/00003/LE**

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use for the purpose of this application is to prove within the balance of probabilities that the dwelling known as Little Lovedere, being a 7 bedroom dormer bungalow, was built without the benefit of planning permission more than 10 years prior to the date of this application.

Location: Little Lovedere, Enmore Road, Enmore, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2AJ

Mrs. Bowditch had received notification of this as she had been the previous occupant of the property and had records of planning and permitted development. She has instructed her agent Mr Venton on this matter and he is dealing with the planning department on her behalf. It was felt no action was necessary by the Parish Council at this point.

7. Correspondence. No correspondence had been received

8. Finance report and approval of payments.

A. Stoye had circulated a finance report and year-to-date accounts prior to the meeting and reported orally on the interest credited for October, noting that, as there was now less money in the deposit account and the rate of interest had reduced, the monthly interest payments received by the Council were now lower.

She sought approval to make payments of £388 to A. Hucker for ground maintenance in the past year, the insurance premium to Zurich of £241 (no change since last year), and also for permission to reimburse Cllr Comley for the purchase of the mirror already installed (£29.99 plus £6.00 reclaimable VAT). She also asked for approval to reimburse the cost of purchase of two further mirrors at similar prices. The Parish Council approved all these payments.

A. Stoye reported on actual vs budget for the year to date, noting that the ground maintenance and insurance costs were less than budget and that, with the Clerk undertaking the role as a volunteer, the financial position of the council remained good. She reminded all present that the budget and precept for 2026/27 must be set at the January 2026 Council meeting and that she would appreciate input from the parish councillors as to what they would like included in the budget. A Stoye undertook to circulate figures for consideration and discussion well in advance of the January meeting. Initial indications, based on similar expenditure to this year, were that the precept could remain the same as last year or even be reduced.

Cllr Fergusson wondered whether the purchase of another two SIDs would be of benefit in deterring speeding through the village as drivers could see the signs flashing on approach but not when they have passed the SID. Cllr Comley suggested that they would need extra posts and solar panels as well as the SIDs themselves but he would look into the costings for them. He also noted that his successor will need a Windows laptop to download and analyse data from the SIDs and this should be borne in mind when setting next year's budget.

ACTION: Cllr Comley to investigate costings for extra SIDs and report to next council meeting.

A. Stoye to do further work on next year's budget and precept requirement after input from councillors.

9. Discuss policies including Finance& IT.

A. Stoye reported that all government organisations should have an IT policy in place and that this should be reviewed annually. A proposed IT policy for Enmore Parish Council was circulated before the meeting. This was adapted from a template on the SALC website, which was evidently intended for use by bigger councils and therefore included sections not currently relevant to us. Following a short discussion Cllr Hopkins was happy to sign it on behalf of Enmore Parish Council.

A draft Statement of Internal Control was also discussed briefly but there was an amendment to be added regarding provision for delegated approval of payments under £100. The review and sign-off of this policy was therefore postponed.

10. Report from Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Fergusson noted that, whilst he was still getting updates from the police about incidents in Somerset, there was currently nothing to report for Enmore.

11. Report from Footpaths Officer.

Cllr Hubbard had circulated a report as she was unable to attend.

Cllr Fergusson queried whether, now that the golf club were not pursuing their planning application, the route of the footpath through the golf course could now be fully settled and have improved signage (clarity would be beneficial to both golfers and walkers). Cllr Hubbard will be informed.

ACTION: Cllr Hubbard to investigate footpaths on golf course and their signposting.

As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 7.35 pm.

Signed:Date:
Chairman of Council

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 6th January 2026 starting at 6.30 pm.