

DONYATT PARISH COUNCIL

DONYATT PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Councillors, you are summoned to the Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 13th January 2026 @7.00pm in the David Willis Room, Donyatt Village Hall.



Clerk to the Council
05th January 2026

1. **Public question time including Somerset County councillor reports**
2. **To receive any apologies for absence**
3. **To receive any declarations of interest and approve any dispensations.**
4. **To approve minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025.**
5. **To approve minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2025**
6. **Review action points and update from meeting held on 11th November 2025**
 - a. **Flood Alleviation Plans/Flooding update**
7. **Review action points and update from meeting held on 26th November 2025**
 - a. **Action Plan for Emergency Planning**
8. **Planning:**

Proposal: Proposed two storey extension to the rear/north of the Property and associated internal alterations.
Location: Dollings Pool Dairy Donyatt Hill Donyatt Ilminster Somerset TA19 0RY
Applicant: Mr And Mrs French
Application Type : Householder Application
Application Number: 25/02949/HOU

ADJACENT PARISH:
Proposal: Conversion of an existing barn into a Carport/Garden Store and the change of use of parts of an existing agricultural farm yard and paddock to domestic use.
Location: Land At Crock Street Donyatt Ilminster Somerset
Applicant: Mssr's M. S. and G White and Issac
Application Type : Full Application
Application Number: 25/02447/FUL
9. **FINANCIAL REPORTS**
 - a) **Approve & sign Bank statements to date.**
 - b) **Current account £1212.85 Instant access Account £13718.12 Total funds held: £14930.97.**
 - c) **To approve and sign bank reconciliations,**
 - d) **Payment requests for authorisation.**

10. To approve final budget for 2026/7 and approve precept request.

11. Consider grant application from DVH – Church & DRAC applications are outstanding and may be received prior to the meeting.

12. Dog Waste Bins: Update – Cllr Wilson

13. Application for Village Green statues - update

05/01/26	CiLCA – course textbook	£50.00	
05/01/26	CiLCA Dec hrs/mileage/pkg	£212.10	
05/01/26	HMRC - CiLCA	£53.02	
REGULAR PAYMENTS TO NOTE			
Salary	SO	28 th monthly	361.55
HMRC	SO	28 th monthly	78.41

Reports to note:

Chapter 8 Training LCN/SC email

LCN Newsletter

Update on election costs

Local electric vehicle infrastructure

DONYATT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025 @ 7pm in the David Willis Room, Donyatt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr D Light, Chairman, Cllrs K Light, S Payne, G Wilson, J McKenzie & J Attlesey. Cllr S Osborne.

25/83 Public question time including Somerset County councillor reports. No members of the public were present. Cllr Osborne emailed her report during the meeting.

25/84 To receive any apologies for absence. None were received.

25/85 To receive any declarations of interest and approve any dispensations. None received.

25/86 Community Emergency Plan. Bel Deering, Community Engagement Officer gave an in-depth presentation outlining the need for a Community Emergency Plan to allow for planning to deal with localised emergencies, not just flooding. Sea already have an outline plan, Donyatt need to evaluate what resources may be available and appropriate. After discussion it was agreed that the PC will hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss this matter in more detail. A future workshop hosted by SRA is planned to be held in Sevington – date TBA. The Somerset Rivers Authority hold board meetings on the first Friday of every month and Cllrs are welcome to attend and raise local matters in that forum.

25/87 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 09th September 2025. Minutes were approved and signed.

25/88 Review action points and update from last meeting held on 09th September 2025

- a. **Update re cycle way Chard-Ilminster** Cllr D Light noted that Ilminster Cyclists, volunteers will monitor the cycleway. Seth has cleared most of the undergrowth around Donyatt Halt. Cllr Osborne noted that the Active Travel Fund currently stands at circa 400K, 81K from Persimmon/Canal Way development. Canal Way will be developed in stages and planning will be applied for accordingly. Funds for the cycleway will be released upon completion of a number of dwellings, possibly after 50 houses, this number TBC.
- b. **Flood Alleviation Plans.** Cllr D Light noted that a flood alleviation plan had been submitted to Somerset Council – no response has been received to date. Cllr Osborne noted that she is pursuing this through County Estates & SC. F.W.A.G have funds ready to implement approved plans.
- c. **Donyatt Halt update** – Cllrs D & K Light have cleaned the shelter and painted the rafters to try and prevent further graffiti. Receipt for expenses provided to Clerk.

25/89 FINANCIAL REPORTS

- a) **Approve & sign Bank statements to date.** Approved and signed.
- b) **Current account £549.63 Instant access Account £16136.50 Total funds held: £16686.13.**
- c) **To approve and sign bank reconciliations,** Approved and signed.
- d) **Payment requests for authorisation.** Approved and signed

25/90 Dog Waste Bins: SC sent a contract and invoice for the emptying of two dogs bins. Costs were originally tabled last July, but SC have been very slow to follow through. Clerk noted that one bin was purchased in November 2011 and is on the DPC asset list. There was general concern that the devolved costs may not be

accurate and the ownership of the bins and land they are located on may not be correct. **Cllr Wilson & Clerk will research the matter and revert. Clerk to send documents to Cllr Wilson.**

25/91 Update re flooding through Sea. Cllr J Mckenzie noted that despite contacting SC no active schedule seems to be in place. Cllr Osborne noted that the current SC appointed operative is Keir, who may subcontract if necessary. Clerk noted that Parishes are not able to engage independent operatives due to concerns if any damage is caused or discovered after works, Parishes will be responsible for repairs, it is therefore not practicable to engage any other operative other than Kier through SC. Noted that some farmland now has cover crops which may reduce run off when heavy rain occurs.

25/92 To consider DPC Budget 2026/7. Clerk tabled budget and noted an inflationary increase of 3.8%. Projected funds c/f circa 12K. Payment for traffic management/speed reduction through Sea will be due when SC signs off the final works. Provision for local elections is now included at a much higher figure than previously due to information from SC. Cllr Osborne noted that the cyclical elections due on 2027 will be funded through SC. This may conflict with advice given to Clerks from SC – final cost attribution remains subject to SC confirmation.

25/93 Parish Matters:

- d. **Pond Farm** - noted
- e. **Sweet Chestnut Tree – Downs Farm-** noted

25/94 Long Rapp plantation clearance - noted

25/95 Traffic data/SID report. Cllr Payne tabled the most recent data download. It is notable that traffic entering or exiting Donyatt from/Ilminster record higher speeds than traffic entering/exiting Donyatt from A358. Vehicle numbers remain high and may be relevant for flood alleviation plans.

25/96 Website accessibility compliance & gov.uk update/Assertion 10 (AGAR) Clerk noted that the new compliant website is up and running. New email addresses will be tested and provided by the Clerk. Cllr Osborne confirmed that this is mandatory due to GDPR and access issues.

25/97 CiLCA training & costs. Costs are within the budget and current year projections. Cllr Osborne noted that this qualification is now the minimum requirements for Clerks. Costs are split between Horton/Donyatt & Ash Parishes.

25/98 Emergency Planning. It was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting on the 24th November to discuss this matter fully.

Meeting closed @ 20.45 hrs.

SALC	CiLCA training	1/3 share	100.00
SC	Dog bin emptying charges	2025/6	811.20 – not agreed.
REGULAR PAYMENTS TO NOTE			
Salary	SO	28 th monthly	361.55
HMRC	SP	28 th monthly	82.26
Payment request from last meeting	Clerk WFH allowance		416.00

DONYATT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26th November 2025 @ 7pm in the David Willis Room,
Donyatt Village Hall.

Present: Cllr D Light, Chair, Cllrs K Light, S Payne, G Wilson, J Attlesey, G Wilson.

To discuss relevance of an Emergency Plan for Donyatt Parish Council

1. Apologies – no apologies were received

2. Emergency Planning / Contingency Planning / application. Cllr Payne outlined a basic plan to deal with any emergency situation that may occur and affect Donyatt parishioners. Noted that although historically flooding has been the major cause of road closures and impact on residents, an emergency situation could involve a fire affecting properties, multi vehicle road traffic collision impacting properties as well as vehicles.

- Establish chain of command
- Establish central command centre
- Establish communication with emergency services/Somerset Council Officials.
- Maintain effective communications

3. Discussion on relevance / need / resource allocation. Noted that Cllr McKenzie currently liaises and meets with Ilminster Area Resilience Group.

4. Any other relevant issues to planning. Consider developing “grab bags” containing immediate emergency resources.

5. Responsibilities to take forward.

Cllr Wilson will draft a flyer to be included in the next Donyatt Despatch.

Clerk will create Whatsapp group, (Donyatt Community Group) to enable effective communication when necessary.

Noted that personal details must be given with written permission and only used in an emergency situation.

6. Next Steps. Encourage residents to identify potentially vulnerable neighbours and develop Whatsapp group.

December 2025- SC Highways re flooding in Donyatt

Dear David,

Thank you for sight of that document.

I did have a brief Teams chat with someone from the Estates team yesterday (p.m 15/12/25) regarding the tenant land uphill of Crow Lane, I am led to understand that they are still discussing matters with FWAG(SW). I would note that from a highway perspective my understanding is that the highway drainage system is in place to manage the water which falls directly onto it, so this extra burden from land runoff is exceptional to that.

I had the opportunity to visit today (a.m 16/12/25) to see the extent of the water that was holding on the carriageway (A358), this has provided information such that;

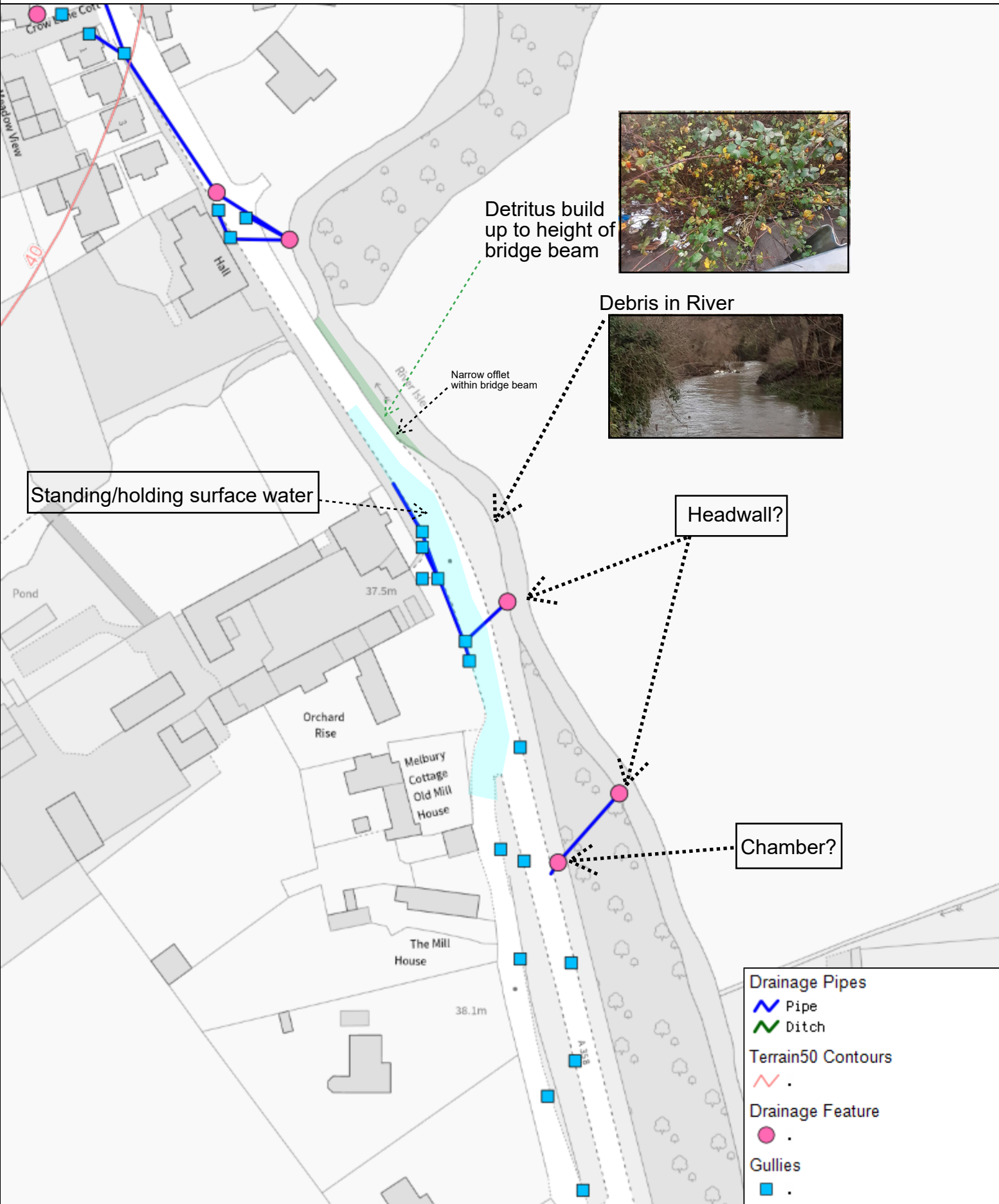
- a) Previous agreed clearing of verge bank adj the River: This build up on that verge does not appear to have any detriment as the carriageway slopes away from this direction and the surface water is holding on the opposite side.
- b) The gullies along here are scheduled for an annual clean with an additional clean funded by the SRA (so x2 cleans per annum), I am awaiting an update on that program to understand when the next clean is due, I do not believe this to be the main issue but would at least provide some assurance that the highway drainage pipes/gullies are functioning,

Based on my observation today (Refer to attached pdf for observations from today);

- i) I am making further enquiries with the SC Bridge dept for details of the construction of the bridge deck/beams to understand if there are any outfall points built into it,
- ii) I believe that the detritus within the river would be an EA responsibility to resolve and I will seek to get a contact name via the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA), the SRA do periodically accept submissions for grant monies for alleviation work but I am unsure how this would be received for clearing along main rivers as it is 'maintenance', I would have to leave that with the Parish to make enquiries,
- iii) I am making enquiries about archive information from the 2007 and 2022 resurfacing schemes carried out in this vicinity as they may also hold information about the highway drainage system (as part of the prep works for that resurfacing) to add to current records for pipes etc,
- iv) I am assessing current budgets/works to understand which jobs would need to be deferred to next year, to allow any investigation works for this location to occur in this finance year.

Regards,

John Nicholson, BEng (Hons) GMICE
Assistant Highway Service Manager (East)
Somerset Council
0300 123 2224



Donyatt Parish Council – November 2025

Emergency Planning

Elements: -

Command & Control

- Management Structure
- Command Suit
- Communications

Contingency Plans

- Incident Types
- Mandatory Actions
- Contact Information
- Options
- Resources
- Support

DPC Emergency Personnel List

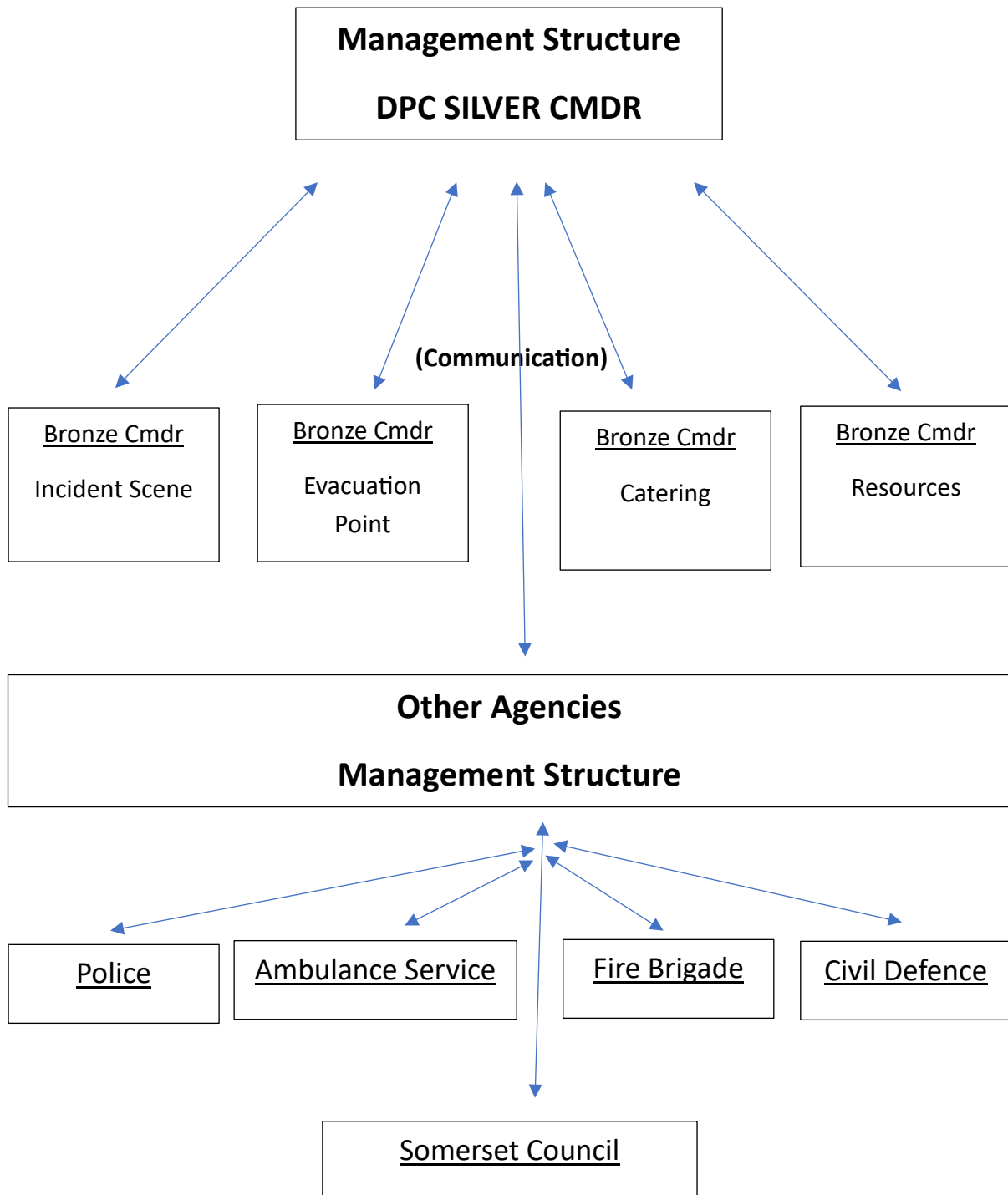
- David & Kay Light
- Jimmy London
- Julie
- Zannette
- Village cat.
- Etc.

Resources

- DPC Emergency Call-in list
- Personnel
- Equipment
- Budget
- Premises

Command & Control

- Management Structure
- Command Suit
- Communication
- External Agencies



Command Suite

Command Suite Tasks - Requirements

Decision Making / Information collation Point / Inte-agency information sharing - support

Separate Room with Managed Access

Oversight

- Incident location
- Incident log / timings.
- Decisions log.
- Resources Deployed (Personnel / equipment / support stores)
- Resources available – Personnel / Equipment / meals / drinks etc.
- Other Agencies in attendance
- Staff rotation for protracted incidents.
- Budget Control – support items & equipment.

Information

- Location of incident (Plotting Board)
- Maps of Area – Local knowledge.
- Current Situation
- Persons injured / location / status, etc.
- NOK details - DPA Applicable – P.Perm?
- Vulnerable persons list – DPA - PP?
- Contact numbers
- Volunteer List – Local skills, Support offers.
- Victim Support available

Contingency Plans

What are Contingency Plans

- A contingency Plan is a check list / guide / prompt to carry out an action to manage an incident.
- Drafted beforehand to cover all perceived actions when the pressure is off.
- Always Plan for the worst and then scale back according to requirements of the incident.
- There is no limit to the number of Contingency Plans you can draft. The more the better.
- Contingency Plans can be used in conjunction with others to support one another.
- They should contain all that's necessary to manage an incident effectively.
- Should contain Contact information relevant to the incident management. Contact information, mandatory required actions and they should provide options.
- Should hold check lists to record decisions made, justification and timings.

Types of Contingency Plans

1. Fire.
2. Loss of electricity.
3. Road Traffic Accident / Road closures.
4. Floods.
5. Evacuation.
6. Etc.....

Mandatory Actions

- Incident Location.
- Persons suspected present.
- Contact Emergency Services
- Location of victims and suspected injuries. (Fatalities, unconscious, walking wounded, etc).
- Contact DPC Emergency response personal.
- Decide if Command Suite needs to be opened.

Options (Consider)

- Deployment of Bronze Cmdrs.
- Does the incident require isolating – Road closures, traffic diversions etc
- Evacuation Contingency Plan. (CP-5)
- Support / Assembly Point / location.
- Resources available / refreshments. (Include refreshments for deployed staff).
- Identify Minor Treatment room for Ambulance Service.
- Etc.

CP example

C. Plan 5 – Evacuation (Place of Safety)

Contact Numbers

- The George PH: Tel: 01460 - _____
- etc

Mandatory Actions

- Open Command Suite.
- DPC Emergency call list: Call for assistance.
- Identify and deploy Bronze Cmdr.
- Emergency Volunteer Staff List. Call-in Vols FA trained, Staff for kitchen, etc.
- Etc.

Options (Consider)

Available Locations

- Neighbour's / Private residency. – Privacy, personal support, refreshments.
- Donyatt Village Hall – Available rooms for Cmd Suite, Assembly Hall & kitchen.
- The George Public House – Available rooms for Cmd Suite, Assembly Hall & kitchen.
- The Village Church. – Available rooms for Cmd Suite & Assembly Hall.
- Etc.

Zannette Bougourd (Donyatt P.C.)

Clerk.donyattpc@gmail.com

Date: 11 December 2025

Our Ref: **25/02949/HOU**

Sarah Beckett (Planning Officer)

Email: sarah.beckett@somerset.gov.uk
(01935) 462461

PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL CONSULTATION
Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Dear Zannette Bougourd (Donyatt P.C.)

Proposal: Proposed two storey extension to the rear/north of the Property and associated internal alterations.

Location: Dollings Pool Dairy Donyatt Hill Donyatt Ilminster Somerset TA19 0RY

Applicant: Mr And Mrs French

Application Type : Householder Application

Application Number: 25/02949/HOU

The Council has received the above application and the documents are available on the website, [Planning Search \(sometsouth.gov.uk\)](http://somerset.gov.uk/planning-search)

Comments are welcome by **1 January 2026**. If you need more time to consider this application, please contact the Planning Officer as early as possible to agree an extension.

The application is being dealt with by Sarah Beckett (Planning Officer) who can be contacted by email at sarah.beckett@somerset.gov.uk or by telephone on Tel No: (01935) 462461

You can Comment, Support or Object to the proposal but material planning reasons must be provided. Please use the response template issued to the Clerk to submit your comments. Any comments made will be taken into account in any Officer recommendation. Please do not submit them via the public comment facility on the Council's website above, this facility is currently only for use for members of the public and your comments may not be logged correctly.

Your response should be returned by email to PlanningSouth@somerset.gov.uk Please do not send direct to the Case Officer or include signatures or any other personal information that may need redacting.

Sarah Beckett (Planning Officer)
Planning Team South
Somerset Council

Zannette Bougourd (Donyatt P.C.)

Date: 23 December 2025

Our Ref: **25/02447/FUL**

Stanley Norris (Planning Officer)

Email: stanley.norris@somerset.gov.uk

01935 462462

Clerk.donyattpc@gmail.com

PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL CONSULTATION (ADJACENT PARISH)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal: Conversion of an existing barn into a Carport/Garden Store and the change of use of parts of an existing agricultural farm yard and paddock to domestic use.

Location: Land At Crock Street Donyatt Ilminster Somerset

Applicant: Mssr's M. S. and G White and Issac

Application Type : Full Application

Application Number: 25/02447/FUL

The Council has received the above application it is not in your parish it is for an adjoining parish and the documents are available on the website, [View and comment on a planning application \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://www.somerset.gov.uk)

Comments are welcome by **13 January 2026** if you need more time to consider this application please contact the Planning Officer as early as possible to agree an extension.

The application is being dealt with by Stanley Norris (Planning Officer) who can be contacted by email at stanley.norris@somerset.gov.uk or by telephone on Tel No: 01935 462462

You can Comment, Support or Object to the proposal but material planning reasons must be provided. Please use the response template recently circulated to your clerk to submit your comments. Any comments made will be taken into account in any Officer recommendation. Please do not submit them via the public comment facility on the Council's website above, this facility is currently only for use for members of the public and your comments may not be logged correctly.

Your response should be returned by email to PlanningSouth@somerset.gov.uk Please do not send direct to the Case Officer or include signatures or any other personal information that may need redacting.

Stanley Norris (Planning Officer)
Planning Team South
Somerset Council

DONYATT PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2026/2027					
Expenditure	2025/6 BUDGET	Year to date	To YE	Variance	2026/7 Budget
Hall hire	160.00	80	48.00	32.00	150
Insurance	300.00	359.84	0.00	-59.84	425
Audit	150.00	165	0.00	-15.00	200
Admin expenses	150.00	36.33	75.00	38.67	200
Clerk equipment reserve	135.00	0		135.00	350
Clerk salary	4040.00	4598.7	1350.00	-1908.70	5500
Bank charges - Unity Bank	75.00	54	36.00	-15.00	100
Training	165.00	351	800.00	-986.00	1450
SLCC & CRPP & CCS	125.00		0.00	125.00	200
Salc subs	140.00	196.68	0.00	-56.68	250
Election	500.00		0.00	500.00	2000
SC Devolved services	1500.00		812.00	688.00	1500
Website hosting	50.00	258	0.00	-208.00	400
Village events	1500.00	646.5	250.00	603.50	1000
DVH Grant	2000.00	2000	0.00	0.00	2000
DRAC Grant	1500.00	1600	0.00	-100.00	1500
St Mary's Church grant	1250.00	1250	0.00	0.00	1250
SIDS installation 2025	3250.00	3000	0.00	250.00	0
Transfer to reserves	3000.00		0.00	3000.00	3000
2025/6 Total Budget	19990.00	14596.05	3371.00	17967.05	21475
Precept inflationary increase@ 3.8% plus election provision					21475
Opening balance 31/03/2025 Current /ac	3543.03				
Income/precept	2990				
Transfer from reserves	7250				
CIL payment	1220.4				
Vat refund	805.47				
	1212.85				
Reserves 31/03/2025	3709.78				
Precept	17000				
Interest	258.34				
Transfer to c/a	7250				
	13718.12				
Unity Bank balances December 2025					
Current a/c	1212.85				
Reserves	13718.12				
Total held	14930.97				
Less YE predictions	3371.00				
Total reserves carried forward	11559.97				
Reserves breakdown					
Admin/running costs	1500				
Equipment/asset replacement reserve	244.57				
Election costs	4500				
Parish projects	575				
SC devolved services provision	2000				
CIL funds	1220.4				
CIL funds - c/f from 2022	1519.61				
	11559.58				

CiLCA training	
2hrs per week @	
15.82x 50 weeks	1582
Text book 1/3 share	50

In person study days	
8hrs@15.82 1/3	
share(allowed 6 days)	253.12
Course fees	266.67
Total cost	2151.79
Cost per month	179.32

The Tax Base

A tax base has to be set by the billing authority (Somerset Council) every year.

The tax base is the equivalent number of band D properties in a parish or town etc.

For example, if a town had 100 band B properties, 100 band C properties and 100 b

We then make an allowance for void properties, exemptions, disabled reductions, r

This tax base is for your information. You can use it to work out how much your pre

For example, if you ask for a precept of £6,000 and your adjusted tax base is 500 ba

Parish precept calculator Band D

Donyatt

Type in the precept per band D required and it will work out the %

	25/26	26/27	Increase/(decrease)		Cost Per Week (f 25/26
			amount	%	
Precept per band D	116.32	124.45	8.13	6.99%	
Tax Base	171.85	172.56	0.71	0.41%	
Total Precept	19,990.00	21,475.09	1,485.09	7.43%	
A 6 / 9	77.55	82.97	5.42	6.99%	1.49
B 7 / 9	90.47	96.79	6.32	6.99%	1.74
C 8 / 9	103.40	110.62	7.22	6.99%	1.99
D 9 / 9	116.32	124.45	8.13	6.99%	2.24
E 11 / 9	142.17	152.11	9.93	6.99%	2.73
F 13 / 9	168.02	179.76	11.74	6.99%	3.23
G 15 / 9	193.87	207.42	13.55	6.99%	3.73
H 18 / 9	232.64	248.90	16.26	6.99%	4.47

Parish precept calculator Total Precept

Donyatt

Type in the total precept required and it will work out the % increase/decrease

	25/26	26/27	Increase/(decrease)		Cost Per Week (I	
			amount	%	25/26	
Tax Base	171.85	172.56	0.71	0.41%		
Precept	19,990.00	21,475.00	1,485.00	7.43%		
Band D amount	116.32	124.45	8.13	6.99%		
A	6 / 9	77.55	82.97	5.42	6.99%	1.49
B	7 / 9	90.47	96.79	6.32	6.99%	1.74
C	8 / 9	103.40	110.62	7.22	6.99%	1.99
D	9 / 9	116.32	124.45	8.13	6.99%	2.24
E	11 / 9	142.17	152.10	9.93	6.99%	2.73
F	13 / 9	168.02	179.76	11.74	6.99%	3.23
G	15 / 9	193.87	207.42	13.55	6.99%	3.73
H	18 / 9	232.64	248.90	16.25	6.99%	4.47

DONYATT PARISH COUNCIL

**GRANT APPLICATION FORM
for Voluntary organisations in the parish**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	Donyatt Village Hall
CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS & PHONE NO:	Mike Toop - Chairman 20 Donyatt Hill, Donyatt, TA19 0RZ 01460 258745 / 07597 902587
ORGANISATION ACTIVITIES	Operation and servicing of Village Hall for the benefit of local residents and users
NUMBER IN ORGANISATION	8
DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR PURCHASE AND REASON FOR GRANT	Entering it's 100th year, a decision has been made to carry out a number of improvements to the hall. The various projects include but are not limited to: Lighting – review of current lighting with the aim of reducing running cost whilst improving our carbon footprint. Kitchen – Complete redecoration including new splashbacks where required Main Hall – Complete redecoration, improvements to the audio visual equipment which has regular use. Redecoration as required to rest of hall interior Repainting of exterior walls Replacement of main gates
TOTAL COST	Estimate of costs for the above with a contingency amount added to cover additional works or unforeseen costs £ 6150.00
AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED	£2,500.00
HOW MUCH IS TO BE RAISED BY THE ORGANISATION TOWARDS THIS PROJECT	All required funding over and above that granted to us by DPC

DESCRIBE HOW YOU WILL RAISE FURTHER MONEY TOWARDS THIS PROJECT	Various social events , Hirings and current funds available
HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS TOWARDS THIS PROJECT	No
WHAT ARE YOUR BANK BALANCES AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION	£ xxxxxxx (Bill to advise)
HAVE YOU RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THIS COUNCIL IN THE LAST 5 YEARS	Yes
PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR LAST 1 YEAR CERTIFIED FULL YEAR ACCOUNTS: NEW GROUPS NOT COMPLETED ONE YEAR WILL BE ACCESSED ON THEIR BANK BALANCE	(Bill to submit)
PLEASE USE THIS REMAINING SPACE TO GIVE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATING TO YOUR APPLICATION	The committee strive to keep hire costs to a minimum given the current economic climate. With ever rising operational costs grants are a welcome and appreciated contribution to meet our goals.
SIGNED	<i>Mike Toop</i>
POSITION	DVHC - Chairman

Chris Booth <chris.booth@somerset.gov.uk>

to

Happy New Year and I hope you had a wonderful Christmas.

I am writing in relation to one of the actions from last month's Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN meeting.

The action was for me to find out how much interest there would be for me to try and book a joint-training session for those of you who wish to have staff and/or councillors undertake **Chapter 8 training**. I would like to see that if I can book a joint-session for multiple councils within this LCN area and investigate if this could mean less cost for yourself.

Before I can do this however, I need to gauge what interest there is to do this and what numbers I'm dealing with.

Could I please receive any expressions of interest from your respective council and how many from your council would want to undertake training by **Wednesday 14th January**.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Chris Booth

LCN Link Officer

- Crewkerne & Ilminster

- Levels & Moors

Somerset Council

07956 607829



Local Community Networks Newsletter

Crewkerne & Ilminster Levels & Moors

Hello, as promised, here is my first monthly newsletter as the new LCN Officer for Crewkerne & Ilminster and Levels & Moors. As I get a handle on more of the issues and information available, the newsletter will improve. For now, I hope there is some useful information below.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

December Round-Up

Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN

LCN Main meeting – 10th December

The Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN met online on Wednesday 10th December. Subjects that were covered included Chapter 8 training, updates on highways and active travel and funding opportunities from SALC. The minutes from the meeting with more information will be sent out in due course.

Somerset Council Newsroom – Highlights

Council Tax Support for Residents Impacted by Benefit Changes

Council Tax Support for Residents Impacted by Benefit Changes
Somerset Council is committed to supporting low-income households affected by national benefit changes.

The Council has agreed to recommend a Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme for 2026–27, including a 3.8% uplift in income band thresholds to keep discounts in line with inflation.

For those transitioning to Universal Credit who may lose automatic entitlement to a full discount, help is available through the Exceptional Hardship Fund.

A major review of the CTR scheme is planned for 2026–27, with a final decision on next year's scheme due on 17th December.

Council Delays Sunday Parking Charges Rollout

Somerset Council has **deferred plans to introduce Sunday parking charges** in currently free car parks across the county. This decision follows strong opposition during a public consultation and a recommendation from the Climate & Place Scrutiny Committee.

Rather than moving forward, the Council will **develop a comprehensive county-wide parking policy**, covering tariff structures, payment methods, accessibility, and more. This framework is expected to be reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee in **January 2026**.

Councillor Richard Wilkins, Lead Member for Transport and Waste Services, stated the Council has listened and aims to ensure consistency and fairness in parking management across all Somerset towns

To keep up to date with news and events, please subscribe to receive press releases by visiting the Somerset Council [Newsroom](#).

Somerset Council Highways

Reporting a problem on the road

Alerting SC to potholes or a host of other problems on the road is now easier and quicker – and you can track its progress after you've reported it.

Gone is the need to make phone calls or send emails - thanks to a upgraded online system with an improved interactive map, members of the public can report a problem 24/7 and the Highways team will get on the case. From potholes, blocked drains and broken manhole covers, to overgrown vegetation, damaged pavements or cycle paths, faulty traffic lights or missing markings - they can all be reported in just minutes from a smartphone, tablet or computer.

The full range and how to report is available here www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem-on-the-road/.

The new development means that if you're reporting a fault, you can now track its progress. If it's safe to pull over, all you need to do is take a quick picture of the fault, then visit the Report It site on your phone, answer a few simple questions and upload your picture. You'll be sent a link which enables you to track its progress. You don't have to take a picture if you don't want to/can't.

Somerset Libraries - Winter Coat exchange



Libraries across Somerset collect thousands of donated coats to help residents stay warm and reduce waste this winter

Somerset Council's [Libraries service](#) is relaunching its Winter Coat Exchange scheme, designed to support the community by providing access to warm coats for anyone in need.

Now in its third year, the scheme has been increasingly successful with 2,470 coats donated and 2,086 taken last winter. The excess donations were given to the charity [RAFT – Refugee Aid From Taunton](#).

The organisation supports displaced people locally and further afield and works with other local charities / groups supporting a variety of different causes.

The initiative was launched to help people stretch tight budgets that little bit further. The scheme is simple:

- You can take a coat without making a donation
- You can donate a coat without taking one
- All donations must be of good quality and in a clean condition
- Coats of any shape or size, for adults or children are accepted
- Donors are asked to hand items directly to a member of staff at one of the participating libraries

For more information or to participate in the Coat Exchange scheme, visit:

- your nearest participating library,
- [Somerset Libraries UK Facebook](#) page or
- email librariesmail@somerset.gov.uk.

Somerset Electric Vehicle Chargepoints Roll Out

You might have previously seen earlier this year that Somerset Council has been allocated £3,783,000 in capital funding from the Government's [Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(LEVI\) Fund](#) to support the installation of electric vehicle chargepoints in urban and rural areas in Somerset. The Council has now almost completed appointing a contractor.

The LEVI Fund is designed to help local authorities in England with planning and delivering predominantly low-powered charging infrastructure, particularly for residents without access to off-street parking.

In Somerset, more than a quarter – around 27% – of properties lack off-street parking, making this funding a real chance to help many more people move from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric alternatives.

To ensure community involvement, the Council will soon be communicating to local councils and residents to ask where best these chargepoint locations should be.

You can make a start here: [Suggest a chargepoint location - Somerset Council](#)

Please note that Somerset Council will only consider public highways or their own land.

Health and Wellbeing

Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC)



The Community Health & Wellbeing Team are still here to support City, Town and Parish Councils to develop and deliver health and wellbeing projects. The team have expertise in a number of fields, including:

There is a small amount of funding available to help support your projects. This will be available initially for parishes with a population of under 1000 who haven't previously received a grant.

Grants will be up to a maximum of £1000. Start a conversation with Fodo or Lilly to discuss your ideas chwinfo@somerset-alc.org.uk

You can see SALC's December Newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/ba1f42dea426/salc-community-health-wellbeing-programme-newsletter-december-2025>

Winter Support Funding and Community Assistance:



Thrive website: [Home - Thrive](#)
Email: info@thrivesomerset.org.uk
Phone: 01823 33122

Village Agent Services website:
[Village Agents | Somerset Village & Community Agents](#)

Talking Café

Talking Cafes provide a local place residents can pop into, for advice and support from their local Village Agent on anything that is worrying them, or if they just want a friendly chat.

Local locations:

- Ilminster Library – Every Friday, 11am – 1pm
- Langport, The Angel Café – Every Wednesday, 11:30am
- North Curry Village Hall, 3rd Friday of the month, 2pm – 4pm
- South Petherton Library – Every Thursday, 10am – 12pm
- Stoke St Gregory, The Village Shop and Café @ The Royal Oak – 2nd Thursday of the month, 10am – 12pm

Grants and Funding Advice



Funding information:

Navigating the ever-changing funding landscape can be challenging, but you are not alone! Spark's experienced team is here to support you and your organisation.

[Funding - Spark Somerset](#)

Funding opportunities for community conversations and health-focussed initiatives.

[Funding available for community research - Spark Somerset](#)



[Grants & Funding For Groups - Somerset Community Foundation](#)

[Grants & Funding For Individuals - Somerset Community Foundation](#)



SCF fund community projects that help people connect, grow and build a better future. SCF focus on supporting people facing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination. By 2030, we will share over £4 billion to create stronger, fairer communities across the UK.

Website: [Funding programmes | The National Lottery Community Fund](#)

Employment and Skills



Your front door to Employment, Skills and Community Learning

Get information, advice and guidance for work and skills, below are a few of the opportunities and information offered, click on the images below to follow a link for more details.

Follow the link to see all information that is available: [Step Up Somerset – Skills, Training & Employment Support in Somerset](#)

Avon and Somerset Police

For Neighbourhood Policing Updates...

For regular updates on events/campaigns and what is happening in your area, please keep an eye on the relevant policing Facebook page detailed below:

[South Somerset Neighbourhood Policing | Facebook](#)

[West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing | Taunton | Facebook](#)

You can also find out who your local neighbourhood team is here: [Your area | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

Upcoming Meetings

Somerset Council Meetings

The meeting calendar including agenda items and minutes can be viewed on this link: [Monthly meetings calendar - January 2026 - Modern Council](#)

LCN Meetings

I will send more details on these and other meetings out in the new year, but the confirmed upcoming dates are:

- Levels & Moors LCN – Thursday 15th January, 7pm – Online (due to likely poor weather)
- Crewkerne & Ilminster Active Working Group, Monday 19th January, 4pm - Online
- Crewkerne & Ilminster Highways Working Group, Thursday 22nd January, 10am – Online
- Levels & Moors Highways Working Group, Wednesday 11th March, 10am - Curry Rivel Village Hall

- Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN – Wednesday 11th March, 6:30pm – venue to be confirmed
- Levels & Moors LCN – Thursday 26th March, 7:00pm – Edgar Hall, Somerton

Somerset Rivers Authority



SRA Website: [Meetings - Somerset Rivers Authority](#)


Other


Wessex Water Drop-in

Wessex Water is holding sessions across our supply area to give customers the opportunity to speak with them face to face about anything water-related - whether it's bills, supply, wastewater, or support for those struggling with payments. I'll be on hand to offer advice and explain the help available.

They'll be hosting a community drop-in session on:

 Wednesday 11 February

 10am-12pm

 Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne TA18 7LN

Parish Information Sheet



Ref: 11/2025

For use by Somerset Council

From:	Jonathan Doyle
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Date:	19 th December 2025
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To:	All clerks
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Further information regarding election costs

For more information contact:

Name: Jonathan Doyle

Email: jonathan.doyle@somerset.gov.uk

Further to information provided to you a number of weeks ago regarding election costs, the Electoral Services team have been asked to clarify a number of issues with regard to costs incurred by town and parish councils during ordinary and national elections.

Town and Parish Councils will only contribute to the running of a combined poll where there is a town and parish level poll being held at the same time, at the same location i.e. local councils will not need to contribute to the costs of the running of the Unitary Council election if a contested poll is not being held at the town or parish council.

There will, however, be a small charge to all town and parish councils for preparatory work on the election where the poll was due to be held but is not being contested. This is to cover the preparation and publication of notices, the processing of nominations and other

costs incurred before it is known whether there will be a contested poll. Just to clarify, the costs of staffing, venue hire etc will be covered by the Unitary Authority in its entirety where there is not a town and parish level poll also being held.

There will be no cost to the town and parish councils at a national or Somerset Council election if there is no election at a town or parish level due to be held on the same day. For example, if there were a snap General Election and there was neither an ordinary nor by election due to be held on the same day at the town or parish level, there would be no charge to the town or parish council.

City, Town and Parish Councils only pay for their own elections and do not contribute to any other elections.

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)

Clerks Meeting: 17 December 2025



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

What is LEVI?

Somerset Council has received £3.78 million of capital funding from Government to significantly expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the county.

- Minimum of 1,606 low powered (3.5kW and 7kW) public chargepoint sockets.
- On-street and car park locations, designed for overnight and long stay charging.
- Benefit residents without off street parking, therefore unable to install their own chargepoint.



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Delivery Contract:

- We have selected our preferred supplier (not in contract yet)
- Responsible for supply, installation, operation, and maintenance of chargepoints
- They will invest at least 60% of total cost (in addition to LEVI funding)
- 17-year concession contract with installations completed within the first 2 years
- Somerset Council to receive an annual income to cover contract management costs
- Traffic regulation orders will be applied only when usage levels justify the need

End of Contract Term:

- Chargepoints will be decommissioned or transferred to Somerset Council at no cost
- Council likely to procure new supplier due to ongoing revenue costs

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Location Categories:

75% of all locations

- Higher demand area
- More commercially viable locations
- Chargepoint operators choice
- Subject to Somerset Council approval

25% of all locations

- Lower demand / more rural areas
- Less commercially viable locations
- Council's choice
- Ensuring equitable access

Where will chargepoints be installed:

- Residential on-street and public car park locations across Somerset
- Land owned by Somerset Council or adopted by the Highways Authority only
- On-street locations will use existing unmetered lamp column power supplies
- In permitted parking areas only – new parking areas will not be created

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Triage Criteria:

- ✓ Pavement width after installation: ideally 2m clear zone, minimum 1m
- ✓ Road width and safety considerations:
 - 10m from junction
 - Injury collision data
 - Bus routes/stops, cycle lanes, zebra and signal-controlled crossings
- ✓ Alignment with fire safety guidance
- ✓ Not in a conservation area
- ✓ No significant tree root or canopy constraints
- ✓ No significant flood zone constraints
- ✓ No conflicts with statutory requirements for street furniture or underground utilities
- ✓ Review of future planned developments
- ✓ Power supply availability (unmetered lamp column network or nearby low voltage cable)
- ✓ Local knowledge of area

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Example of a location that would pass the initial triage:



College Way, Taunton

1. Vehicles currently park at this location
2. Wide road, away from junction
3. Double yellows on other side of road



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Example of a location that would pass the initial triage:



Lower Innox, Frome

1. Vehicles currently park at this location
2. Wide pavement and wide road
3. Not directly in front of a property



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Example of a location that would pass the initial triage:



Mantle Street, Wellington

1. Vehicles currently park at this location
2. Existing buildout creating safe parking
3. Wide pavement and wide road



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Example of a location that would not pass the initial triage:



Crimchard, Chard

1. Many properties have driveways
2. Height of grass verge
3. Possibly require a buildout



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Example of a location that would not pass the initial triage:



Priorswood Road, Taunton

1. Properties have driveways
2. Located in a bus stop
3. Side service road is narrow



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Example of a location that would not pass the initial triage:



Hilly Park, Taunton

1. On a bend
2. On a junction
3. On a hill



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Example of a location where fire safety guidance is required:



Provident Place, Bridgwater

1. Properties do not have front gardens
2. Vehicles parked near escape routes
3. Consider end of road locations



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

What will the chargepoints and bollards look like?

The proposal is to install 1,185 chargepoints (1,606 sockets) across the county comprising of the following:

- 619 single socket 3.5kW and 145 single socket 7kW satellite bollard chargepoints
- 421 dual socket 7kW chargepoints (842 sockets)



Satellite Bollard



Dual Socket Chargepoint*

*will require a feeder pillar



Lamp Column Connection**

**Unlikely due to lamp columns within Somerset being located to the rear of the pavement

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Rapid Chargepoints:

In addition to the LEVI funded low powered chargepoints the chargepoint operator will also fully fund the installation of up to 20 rapid (50kW) chargepoints in Council owned car park locations.

These are designed for faster top-up charging.



Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

Resident Engagement and Location Requests:

- Comms and engagement is critical to the success of this programme.
- Residents are invited to actively participate in identifying preferred on-street chargepoint locations via our new webpage: [Electric vehicle charging](#)

Why engagement matters: Resident input helps prioritise locations based on real need.

Approval process:

1. All suggested locations will be reviewed against the initial triage criteria.
2. Successful sites will be passed to our preferred supplier for due diligence, including a site visit.
3. Final approval from the Council project team will be required before installation.

Address validation: Ensures requests are confirmed and enables follow-up discussions.

Managing expectations: Not all requests will result in installations.

- Press release from Somerset Council and our preferred supplier will be published in the new year.

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

How you can help:

Promote the new webpage:

Share the 'Suggest a Chargepoint Location' link with residents through newsletters, websites, and social media.

Encourage participation:

Explain that resident input helps prioritise locations based on real need.

Manage expectations:

Remind residents that not all requests will result in installations.

Include in agendas:

Add electric vehicle charging updates to meeting agendas to keep the topic visible.

Provide feedback:

Let us know if you receive questions or concerns so we can address them promptly.

Cross Pavement Channel Solutions

What are cross pavement solutions? They allow residents without off-street parking to charge electric vehicles at home without trailing cables across pavements.

Current position: Somerset Council has no policy or process for residents to apply for a licence to install a cross-pavement channel.

Legal requirement: Any solution must comply with the Highways Act 1980, which governs public highway use and modification.

Action taken: A Cross Pavement Solution Task and Finish Group has been set up to explore feasibility following a scrutiny recommendation.

Next steps: A report on the proposed way forward will go to the Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee in May 2026.



Cross pavement channel solutions are not included within our LEVI programme.
This slide is for information only.

Any Questions?

LEVI Programme Team: Sue Tomlinson and Chris Beswick

Email: evcharging@somerset.gov.uk



Somerset
Council

Crewkerne & Ilminster LCN meeting – 10 December 2025

Annex A

Summary of Actions

Action	Responsibility	Comments	Status / date
Service contact: Collate feedback from parishes regarding difficulties contacting Somerset Council services, especially specific issues with service access, e.g. litter bin emptying.	Chris Booth – LCN Link Officer		ongoing
Gullies: Chris Booth to follow up on unresolved highways issues, particularly the blocked gullies in Clapton up to Hewish crossroads.	Chris Booth		Resolved – Highways have been emptying gullies in the area
Chapter 8 Training: Chris Booth to coordinate interest and logistics for a joint Chapter 8 training session for parish volunteers.	Chris Booth	Work with Michelle Brooks and speak to Cllr Steve Ashton	ongoing
Section 106 money for active travel infrastructure: Active Travel Working Group to focus on lobbying for developer-funded drop curb and improved pavements in Crewkerne, and to increase feedback into planning processes.	Chris Booth	Work with Matt Day	ongoing

Local Movement Plan: Explore the development of a local movement plan for the LCN area, taking inspiration from other LCNs.	Kate Hellard	Work with Chris Booth and Matt Day	ongoing
Feedback: Parish representatives to inform Chris Booth of any specific training or support needs for small parishes, especially for health and wellbeing projects. Chris Booth to visit parishes.	Chris Booth		ongoing
Monthly Clerks' Meeting Notes: Ensure notes from monthly clerks' meetings are distributed to all, especially those unable to attend.	Kate Hellard		ongoing
Elections and Costs: Planning and elections to be included as agenda items for the next meeting, with requests for relevant officers to provide updates or briefings.	Chris Booth	Work with Kate Hellard and Kate Plumber	ongoing
Partnership Working: Chris Booth to contact voluntary sector partners and other local organisations to identify further opportunities for collaboration and joint planning.	Chris Booth		ongoing