

**Minutes of the Stawley Parish Council Meeting held at Appley Pavilion at
7:30 pm on the 6th January 2026**

Parish Councillors present: Chairman, Paul Musgrove (PM)
Pat Sweet (PS)
Sarah Jones (SJ)
Matt Vellacott (MV)

Others present:- None

Item	Action
<p>1. Apologies for Absence Olga Dawer (OD), Dave Mansell (DM) (Somerset Councillor); Gwil Wren (Somerset Councillor)</p>	
<p>2. Declarations of Interest – None</p>	
<p>3. Minutes of Last meeting The minutes have been published on the Stash website after acceptance as a true record by those present at the last meeting.</p>	
<p>4. Matters Arising not Covered Elsewhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil 	
<p>5. Register of Interests The Parish website at stash.org.uk needs to be updated with a photo and words from each Councillor. This has still not been completed but the photographs have been taken.</p>	<p>SJ MV</p>
<p>6. Emergency Planning PM and PS attended the Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day on the 15th October 2025. An article had been published in the Parish News about Household Resilience and a local WhatsApp group to advertise road closures and other matters that might affect the community has been started. However only 10 households had joined the group which suggests that there is little local support for any emergency planning to be undertaken at the moment.</p>	
<p>7. Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current bank balance is £2,991.49 and the Unity Bank balance is £10,319.39. • Precept. The probable excess for the year 2025/26 is £1,200. One thing learnt at the Resilience Day is that it can cost about £10,000 should an injunction be required to stop illegal occupation of land. The Council may also have to take action in future should more hedges be dug up because of the failure of the statutory bodies to do so. The Council agreed to increase the precept for 2026/27 by 3%. 	

<p>8. Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenham Cottage field. The planning officer has confirmed that the owner is using the field for a business related use concerning the growing of mushrooms. This commercial aspect requires planning permission and the owner has advised that he intends to rectify this breach by way of a retrospective planning application. I have given a timeframe of 3 months to submit such an application due to the various reports/surveys etc. that are needed. • Hedge appeal. This appeal is still outstanding. Somerset Council asked for an update from the Planning Inspectorate on the 2nd December but none has been forthcoming. 	
<p>9. Reports from Members</p> <p>Roads – There is concern about hedges being allowed to grow into the road. The Clerk will investigate the legal responsibility to maintain hedges.</p> <p>Footpaths – The footpath sign by Greenham Cottage has been delivered to the owners but not put up. The Council will arrange for this to be done by a contractor</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>SJ</p>
<p>10. Any Other Business –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
<p>11. Date of Next Meeting TBC when required.</p>	

Meeting closed at 7:53pm