

MINUTES OF PILTON PARISH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

held at Pilton Village Hall

Wednesday 3 December 2025

Present: Cllrs: R Noble, C Connock, R Woodhouse, K Sumner, T Moulder, L Roberts, O Powell [Part], A Wynn [Part].

In Attendance: 16 members of the public present, Gill Pettitt (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Question regarding abandoned vehicle and Parish Council response. Chair said it would be discussed.
- Heras fencing on disputed land. Clerk to ascertain whether it is contravening planning.

118. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN - Cllr Hall - away from parish. Cllr Powell would be leaving the meeting after the co-option vote - childcare.

RESOLVED: To accept apologies from Cllr Hall and his reason for absence. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved with abstentions from Cllrs Noble, Sumner, Connock, Moulder, Roberts & Powell.

119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

120. DISPENSATIONS

- a. No dispensations requested.

121. ELECTION / CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

a. Somerset Council has given notice that an election was not called for the Casual Vacancy that became open through the resignation of Tom Hollings.

b. Three candidates put themselves forward for co-option to council. Each candidate spoke to the meeting giving an overview of their background and reasons for wishing to become a member of Pilton Parish Council.

Cllrs were asked to propose each candidate to be put to the vote for co-option. Candidate A was proposed by Cllr Noble, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse.

Candidate B was proposed by Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Roberts.

Candidate C did not receive a proposal. Candidate C withdrew.

Voting for Candidate B was taken first. She received 4 votes. Cllr Angela Wynn was welcomed to Pilton Parish Council after signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

[Cllr Powell left the meeting]

122. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. **RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign the minutes of the Pilton Parish Council meeting of 5 November 2025. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved,

123. EXTERNAL REPORTS

- a. Somerset Council - Cllr Sully - Noted
- b. Local Government Boundary Commission - Consultation re-opened. Closing 14 January 2026 <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset> deferred.
- c. Somerset Council Consultation - Charitable Collection Licencing Policy - on how to standardise house-to-house charitable collection regulation across Somerset. Closes 23 January

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/licensing/charitable-collection-licensing-policy/> was not considered by Council

124. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS - The Chair gave thanks to Gill Pettitt who is retiring as Clerk and RFO to Council.

125. APPOINTMENTS

a. Vice Chair

RESOLVED: That Cllr Woodhouse be appointed as Vice Chair to Pilton Parish Council. Proposed Cllr Noble, 2nd Cllr Connock. Approved.

b. Internal Review Officer

RESOLVED: That Cllr Roberts be appointed as the Internal Review Officer. Proposed Cllr Connock, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved with one abstention, Cllr Noble.

c. Affordable Housing Triad

RESOLVED: That Cllr Wynn be appointed to the Affordable Housing Triad. Proposed Cllr Moulder, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

d. Highways Triad

RESOLVED: That Cllr Roberts be appointed to the Highways Triad. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

126. PLANNING AND LICENCING

To consider the Planning Applications below and any that arise before the meeting.

2025/2116/TCA - T1- Norway Spruce - Reduce height by approx. 3m to reduce wind loading on canopy. T2 & T3 - Crack Willow - Remove infected growth & reduce to a height of approx. 2.5m from ground level. T4 - Hazel - Coppice at approx. 2m from ground level. Noted.

2025/1942/HSE - Proposed alterations to the planning approval 2025/1036/HSE. Demolition and rebuilding of the single extension. Demolition of entrance porch. Removal of chimney stack. Alteration of first floor window. Construction of new walled garden. Rebuilding boundary wall. New lean to green house.

RESOLVED: To support 2025/1942/HSE with reference to the last Council response. Proposed Cllr Connock, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved with two abstentions, Cllrs Noble and Woodhouse.

2025/1660/HSE - Proposed single storey extension (amended plans received) 05.11.2025. A member of the public spoke in favour of the application.

Cllr Noble proposed to object to application 2025/1660/HSE. Vote not taken.

RESOLVED: To support application 2025/1660/HSE Material Consideration 3 - improved visual amenity and 4 - improved layout & density of building. Proposed Cllr Moulder 2nd Cllr Approved with two abstentions, Cllrs Noble and Wynn.

127. DEFACEMENT OF PROPERTY

a. To consider the recent defacement of a private property in Pilton and to approve any actions arising. A member of the public spoke on the issue - she handed council photographs of the defacement covering the front of the property, using aerosol spray paint and bitumastic paint. Most of the graffiti has now been removed. The police, Cllr Sully and Tessa Munt MP have been informed. The owners now have concerns about their own personal safety. Reaction from parishioners was very supportive, the graffiti sent a shockwave around the village, where there is a palpable feeling of concern and vulnerability.

Cllr Sumner has investigated local ring doorbell footage and contacted the Local Community Police Inspector who was supportive, and fuller response is awaited, and said she would organise police representation at a future Council meeting. However, police support has otherwise been minimal. Council was thanked for the piece in the December Roundabout.

Noted that there is a history of stone / food throwing and other property damage locally.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Sumner represent the Council to Avon & Somerset Police.

To facilitate a CCTV / ring doorbell video share scheme to aid identifying culprits of crime to be reviewed at next meeting, to encourage reviving Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

128. PILTON COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

- a. To note information received on setting up a Pilton Community Car Scheme. To be brought to January Full Council for full consideration. Noted.

129. COUNCIL MEETING DATES

- a. **RESOLVED:** To hold future Council meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

130. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS /TRIADS AND RESOLVE ANY ACTIONS ARISING

- a. Affordable Housing Triad - Survey closes 7th December. Full report will be received in March. Roughly 25% of households have responded so far.
- b. Biodiversity Triad - no report. The group has formerly been serviced by the Clerk - enquiry whether this would continue. Regarding administration of the WhatsApp Biodiversity group, the Clerk said it would be best to let the new Clerk settle in when it will become clearer how she manages her time.
- c. Burial Ground Triad - Refurbishment of the bench on the central reservation should be completed in early January. Cllrs Noble and Woodhouse will assist with the siting of the new bench, probably with paving slabs beneath - will report to January meeting. Cllr Noble has spoken with a contractor to move spare stone in the burial ground. Clerk to email him to ensure that he is aware that it is contaminated waste.
- d. Flooding Triad - no report.
- e. Footpaths Working Group - there has been complications regarding permission to site the new footpath. The LCN does not have the power to approve new footpaths.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Sumner ask Cllr Sully to represent Pilton Parish Council's request to Somerset Council for permission for a new footpath. Proposed Cllr Roberts, 2nd Cllr Moulder. Approved.

- f. Highways Triad - Concern expressed at the continued speed of traffic in Top Street despite 20mph limit. East Town Lane grass verge is gouged out by large vehicles. Cllr Sumner will ask GFEL to move the SID to East Town Lane. Noted that 10 dead ash trees on Somerset Council land need felling between Midsomer Farm and top of Neat Lane. Clerk to inform Highways.
- g. Parish Plan Steering Group - now disbanded - remove from future agendas.
- h. LCN update - no report

131. NOTICEBOARDS

- a. To receive update on noticeboard research. No report.

132. REMEMBRANCE DAY

- a. The wreath laying went well apart from a Co-op lorry blocking road at St Mary's Lane causing one vehicle to attempt to drive up the one-way Shop Lane onto the A361, suggestion that a marshal be placed there next year. Traffic at Westholme to be stopped further back by Highways crew.

133. FINANCE

- a. Pilton Art Society Grant application - representatives presented the application. They thanked Pilton Walks for their support and through participation with that group the idea arose to create a similar organisation for the Arts. It is associated with the National Association for Decorative and Fine Arts Society (The Arts Society). The group have built up web, piltonartsociety.org and social media presence to bring people to Pilton and stimulate interest in the arts. Local artists have agreed to come to give talks and demonstrations to the group monthly at the Village Hall and trips to local venues. The grant would be to subsidise the

first year's growth whilst membership fees built up income and support website costs. In following years it should be self-funding.

RESOLVED: To defer consideration of the Pilton Art Society Grant application to January working with the clerk to complete the application form and advise reapplication in April. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.

- b. To note response from the Roundabout re questions pertaining to their grant approval. "We have received a donation from Croscombe Frolics at a similar level to the council. We have not yet been advised of the outcome from the Pilton Show. I understand that decision is not until later in Nov." Noted.
- c. **RESOLVED:** To approve the revised budget 25/26. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.
- d. Budget 2026/2027 - Noted that there is a proposed 7% increase. Figures are still to be finalised. Cllr Woodhouse suggested meeting again in December to approve.
- e. **RESOLVED:** To note payments & receipts listed. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Roberts. Approved.

134. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: To exclude members of the press and public from items 135 and 136.

135. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

- a. Three candidates were interviewed. All candidates came across well. One CiLCA qualified candidate was recommended to Council by the Staffing Triad.
RESOLVED: To appoint Helen Richardson to the post of Pilton Parish Council Clerk. Proposed Cllr Sumner, 2nd Cllr Woodhouse. Approved.
- b. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Helen Richardson to the post of Pilton Parish Council Responsible Finance Officer. Proposed Cllr Woodhouse, 2nd Cllr Sumner. Approved.

136. NOTICEBOARDS QUOTES

- a. None received.

137. MATTERS OF REPORT

- a. Noted that some gullies have been gulped in Neat Lane, Lower Street and W Compton. Clerk to request list of those cleared so the Parish Council does not duplicate the works.
- b. Cllr Woodhouse reported that the Pilton Youth Football Club grant had been made to a personal account. This is counter to Council policy, which requires that grants are paid to an incorporated body or dedicated bank account. The payment will be accounted for under S137 and the recipient, (Cllr O Powell) will provide evidence of the transfer of the monies to an approved account. Clerk will write to Cllr Powell explaining the process and Council's requirements.
- c. Roundabout - Cllr Sumner will write - call for Neighbourhood Watch volunteers, welcome to Cllr Wynn, and to Helen Richardson. Wishing parishioners a Happy New Year.
- d. Cllr Connock asked Councillors to save toilet roll innards for the school seed growing project.

NEXT MEETINGS: Council Meeting - 17 December 2025, 7 January 2026, 21 January 2026

January 2026

Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully: Serving Mendip South & Somerset

I'm Cllr Claire Sully, and it's a privilege to serve our community through my various roles, including chairing the Lib Dem Group at Somerset Council and my committee work, which you can find detailed below.

In this edition, I've gathered the latest news and important developments impacting our area – from inspiring New Year Honours to crucial Council updates, volunteering opportunities, and more.

You'll also find useful links and contact information for getting in touch with Somerset Council and reporting issues, such as highways problems. It's often easier and quicker to report directly via these dedicated links.

I hope you find this report both informative and engaging! You can contact me via
<https://clairesully.com/>

My roles and committees:

Chair of the ruling Lib Dem Group at Somerset Council

Vice Chair Adults and Health Scrutiny Committee, Somerset Council

Member of Harbour Management Advisory Committee

Somerset Rivers Authority Board Member

Somerset Council Planning Committee (Claire has completed all mandatory training)

New Year Honours Celebrate Remarkable Individuals from Somerset

A number of outstanding individuals from Somerset have been recognised in the New Year Honours list for their significant contributions to the community and their respective fields.

Richard Clothier, managing director of Wyke Farms in Wyke Champflower, received an MBE for his innovative work in sustainable agriculture and food production. In 2025, I organised an important [A371 Road Safety Discussion Forum](#) at the Bath and West Showground, where Richard joined me and Anna Sabine MP to discuss his commitment to reducing environmental impact through sustainable practices. This includes the adoption of electric vehicles and smarter routing, highlighting the vital role that local businesses can play in creating safer roads and reducing congestion.

Sarah Massey, former managing director of the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025, also received an MBE, recognising the collective effort behind organising a successful event that celebrated women's sport.

Ron Homer from Yeovil has been awarded a British Empire Medal for his services to blind and partially sighted people. As treasurer of Yeovil Visually Impaired Bowls Club, he works to encourage participation in the sport and improve the lives of those with visual impairments.

Margaret Maltby from Chard was appointed an MBE for her dedicated service to young people as County President of Girlguiding Somerset, inspiring and supporting youth across the county.

**Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully:
Serving Mendip South & Somerset**

Additionally, Marlie Packer received an OBE for her contributions to Rugby Union Football. Her roots in Yeovil serve as inspiration for young athletes, especially girls, although she currently lives in Surrey.

Others appointed MBE in Somerset include Fiona Bloor, Technical Lead at the UK Hydrographic Office; Martin Hodgson, CEO of YMCA Dulverton Group; Alice Potter, Group President of West Hatch Scout Group; and Jonathan Wheatley for his charity and horticulture work.

Those appointed OBE are Paul Freeston, Chair & CEO of Apetito; Jane Louise Hadfield, Board Member of the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education; and Simon Taylor, a volunteer with the Liberal Democrats.

Joanna Shanmugalingam, Second Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport, received the Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Somerset Council Calls for Fairer Funding Despite Local Government Finance Settlement

Somerset Council's Leader, Bill Revans, cautiously welcomes the three-year Local Government Finance Settlement for 2025/6, which includes a 13% increase in Core Spending Power over three years. However, he emphasises the need for a fairer funding model that doesn't over-rely on Council Tax, as approximately 97% of this increase is expected to come from local taxpayers. Cllr Revans says: "The reliance on Council Tax is unsustainable for essential services".

While the council anticipates being marginally better off next year, it faces significant future funding gaps due to ongoing pressures in children's services, placement costs, and homelessness.

Cllr Revans stated that the current funding model for Local Authorities is inadequate, and Somerset Council is again applying for Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government. He also encourages public participation in the Council's Budget Consultation, which is open until January 14. The online Budget Consultation survey can be accessed here: [Somerset Council Budget Consultation](#). Additionally, paper copies of the survey are available in libraries.

Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) Activated in Somerset

Somerset Council activated its Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) over the festive season to ensure rough sleepers could access emergency accommodation.

Outreach teams contacted rough sleepers to encourage them to accept emergency accommodations and provided additional support for those who remained on the streets.

If you're concerned that someone is rough sleeping in Somerset during the severe weather, please visit [Street Link](#) to refer them, so they can get access to suitable accommodation.

You can also learn more about rough sleeping on the Council's [Help for people who are rough sleeping](#) page.

**Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully:
Serving Mendip South & Somerset**

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Somerset Council supports households with the lowest incomes through its Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme, and next year's Scheme (from April 2026) will include a 3.8% increase in income band thresholds to maintain discount values, based on the September CPI figure used by Dept for Work and Pension.

Councillor concerns were raised about individuals transitioning from legacy benefits to Universal Credit who have lost, or will lose, their automatic 100% Council Tax discount. To address this, Somerset Council will assess those adversely affected through the Exceptional Hardship Fund, where appropriate.

Additionally, a Councillor-led Task and Finish Group will be formed, to fully explore the Government's changes to benefits and how the changes have adversely affected some of Somerset's vulnerable residents. The CTR scheme is reviewed regularly, with a full review scheduled for 2026-27.

Help Expand Electric Vehicle Charging in Somerset

Somerset Council, guided by Liberal Democrat values for a greener county, is investing £3.78 million from the government to enhance electric vehicle (EV) charging. Residents can suggest locations for at least 1,606 new chargepoints (3.5kW and 7kW), focusing on serving those without off-street parking.

Residents are invited to propose sites near homes, local roads, or busy areas through the Council's webpage: Electric vehicle charging.

Proposals will be assessed based on safety and accessibility. Only Council-owned sites will be considered for installation, with further evaluations conducted by the preferred supplier.

Community engagement is essential, and local input will shape the final locations, ensuring that we create a sustainable and accessible charging network. Regular updates will be provided throughout the process. Your suggestions will help ensure chargepoints are effectively placed for community benefit. Residents can submit suggested on-street locations via the Council's website:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/electric-vehicle-charging/>

Wessex Leaders Urged Government for Devolution Deal

Council leaders, including Cllr Nick Ireland (Dorset), Cllr Bill Revans (Somerset), Cllr Ian Thorn (Wiltshire), and Cllr Millie Earl (BCP), urged immediate government action to seize the opportunities their combined region offers, warning that delays could hinder regional progress.

All councils in Wessex are unitary authorities, well-placed to deliver devolution and support the government's growth priorities. The English Devolution White Paper emphasises that enhanced funding is tied to devolution deals; without one, Wessex risks being left behind.

**Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully:
Serving Mendip South & Somerset**

Christine Lawrence Named Honorary Alderwoman

Somerset Council has appointed Christine Lawrence as Honorary Alderwoman, recognising her exceptional service to West Somerset. This announcement came during the Full Council meeting on September 25, 2025, allowing her nomination ahead of the 2027 elections.

With a distinguished career spanning town, district, and county council roles, Mrs Lawrence is celebrated for being the first woman Chair of Somerset County Council and for her leadership in public health and adult social care. Honorary Alderwoman appointments are a lifetime honour, reflecting significant contributions to public service.

Review Urges Stronger Support for Homeless Adults in Somerset

A recent review by the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) calls for urgent measures to enhance support for adults facing homelessness. The review examined safeguarding practices related to three men receiving care and support from statutory and voluntary agencies in Somerset.

Key recommendations include ensuring access to legal literacy training for frontline social workers and housing officers, enhancing the involvement of family and friends in support processes, and conducting a review of safeguarding data concerning the homeless population. The SSAB also recommends collaboration with the Ministry of Housing for a dedicated Homelessness Social Work role and outreach to local Prison Governors for input on safeguarding arrangements.

The findings highlight the need for a multi-agency approach to address gaps in services for those experiencing homelessness and multiple disadvantages. For further details and access to the full report, visit the [Safeguarding Somerset Adults Board website](#).

Somerset Council Committed to Addressing Audit Recommendations

Somerset Council recently met to discuss steps taken regarding statutory recommendations from auditors about budget, governance, and transformation plans for the Council. These recommendations were outlined in the Auditor's Annual Report by Grant Thornton and required public consideration by the Full Council.

The first two recommendations, carried over from 2023/24, focused on the need to develop a sustainable budget and robust transformation plans. In response, the Council highlighted its progress towards financial sustainability, having saved over £50 million in its first two years as a unitary council.

During the same meeting, the Audit Committee addressed a statutory recommendation concerning governance issues in the Glastonbury Town Deal programme, which received £23.6 million from the UK Government's Towns Fund. Somerset Council became the accountable body for this programme in April 2023 and inherited a complex portfolio of externally funded projects. An audit by the South West Audit Partnership revealed governance gaps related to the Red Brick Building Centre Ltd, the parent body for The Life Factory project, prompting the Council to terminate funding for the project and seek repayment of £2.29 million due to financial control concerns.

**Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully:
Serving Mendip South & Somerset**

Ongoing enquiries by Avon and Somerset Police are related to the funding of the Life Factory project, and the Council is committed to protecting public funds while reviewing its governance practices.

Councillors Defer Sunday Parking Charges Rollout in Somerset

Councillors have deferred the proposal to introduce Sunday parking charges across Somerset following public consultation. The aim was to harmonise charges to ensure consistency, but community and councillor feedback led the Council's Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee to recommend against implementation.

Somerset Council's Executive Committee agreed on the need to develop a comprehensive parking policy that addresses all aspects of parking, including on and off-street options, tariff structures, and accessibility. This policy will be reviewed in early 2026, as different charging principles currently exist across the county's 200 council-run car parks.

Somerset's Coastal Challenge Encourages Outdoor Learning

Somerset's Coastal Challenge in September and April's Watchet Walking Week have helped equip two primary schools with Waterproof and Wellies kits to promote outdoor learning regardless of the weather. Knights Templar Community Church School in Watchet and St Andrew's Church of England Junior School in Burnham-on-Sea each received 10 sets from The Outdoor Guide Foundation, funded by the Somerset Trail Partnership of the King Charles III England Coast Path.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters—specifically walkers participating in these events—this initiative has provided a total of 20 pairs of waterproofs and wellies this year. Gina Bradbury Fox from The Outdoor Guide Foundation emphasised that every child deserves the chance to embrace the outdoors, regardless of the weather.

These donations ensure that more children in Somerset can enjoy outdoor activities year-round. Schools interested in receiving Waterproof and Wellies kits can register on The Outdoor Guide Foundation's [Waterproof and Wellie Kits for Schools page](#). For more information about walking on Somerset's coast, visit [somersetcoastfestival.co.uk](#).

Somerset Libraries Premiere Short Films

Somerset Libraries will host a premiere of short films showcasing their services at the Bridgwater Arts Centre on January 16. Open to the public, the event features four 90-second films created under the #LoveYourLibrary initiative with funding from Arts Council England.

The films highlight health and well-being, employment support, services for teens, and resources for parents. Free tickets are available via the [Bridgwater Arts Centre website](#) or by calling 01278 422700. The event will also include discussions with authors Chris Evans, CL Taylor, and Tim Weaver. The films will be displayed on digital screens across Somerset.

Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully: Serving Mendip South & Somerset

Octagon Theatre Revamp Plans Submitted

Plans for a £15 million redevelopment of Yeovil's Octagon Theatre have been submitted for Planning Permission, aiming to establish it as a premier cultural venue in the South West. This initiative by Yeovil Town Council and Somerset Council will secure the building's integrity while improving access and facilities both front of house and backstage.

Key improvements include upgraded equipment for productions, increased accessibility, a renewed auditorium, and enhanced front-of-house areas. Funding sources include £10 million from the Department of Media, Culture and Sport, £3.75 million from Yeovil Town Council, and over £1.25 million from ticket levies and fundraising.

The project will enhance the theatre's community role and offerings for audiences and local groups. [Visit here to see and comment on the plans which have been submitted for planning consideration.](#)

Somerset Council Celebrated Volunteers; New Year Opportunities Await

Somerset Council celebrated International Volunteer Day 2025, acknowledging the vital contributions of over 1,400 volunteers supporting 20 different services across the county. The day highlighted the theme "Every Contribution Matters," underscoring the crucial role Somerset volunteers played in strengthening communities and driving positive change.

For those interested in starting their volunteering journey please e-mail volunteer@somerset.gov.uk. Here are places where you can get involved:

- Library volunteers: Roles for under-18s, digital support, and activity/event helpers.
- Ham Hill Visitor Centre: Welcoming visitors.
- Wedding ceremony ushers: Making special days memorable.
- Countryside and Rights of Way: Surveys and conservation work.
- Volunteer drivers: Helping people get to appointments.
- Arts and culture: Supporting events at Octagon and Westlands.
- Youth services: Route1 Advocacy and independent visitors.

South West Heritage Trust Secures National Lottery Grant for Chew Valley Hoard

South West Heritage Trust has secured a £993,345 grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to celebrate the Chew Valley Hoard over the next two years. Comprising 2,584 silver coins, the hoard represents the highest-value treasure acquisition on record from the Norman Conquest period.

The grant will fund a new gallery at The Museum of Somerset and a dynamic community engagement programme, including events and exhibitions to enhance public access. This project coincides with the 1,000th anniversary of William the Conqueror's birth in 2027. A touring exhibition at the Roman Baths Museum will run from January to March 2027, followed by a special exhibition at The Museum of Somerset.

Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully: Serving Mendip South & Somerset

New Visitor Centre Opens at Ham Hill

Somerset Council has unveiled a new Visitor Centre at [Ham Hill](#), located within the Lime Kiln Car Park. This development is part of the Uncovering Ham Hill's Past for its Future project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Wolfson Foundation.

The Visitor Centre features interactive exhibits, a retail space for local products, and the Limekiln Café, which is dog-friendly. It aims to enhance the visitor experience by offering a fully accessible Changing Places facility and modern amenities.

The Visitor Centre will host fresh activities, exhibitions, and enhancements in the coming years, including new footpaths and archaeological restoration efforts.

Two Shops Closed for Illegal Tobacco and Vapes in Taunton

Two shops in Taunton have closed following the discovery of illegal tobacco and vapes by Trading Standards and police. Taunton Market and Top Market faced three-month closure orders after test purchases revealed significant quantities of illegal products, including over 35,000 cigarettes, 6.5 kg of tobacco, and nearly 1,000 vapes.

The seized items had a combined street value exceeding £50,000. The closures were deemed necessary to prevent further criminal activity related to illegal tobacco sales.

Residents Urged to Check Tumble Dryers Due to Fire Risk

Residents in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset, and Torbay are being warned to stop using certain integrated heat pump tumble dryers after a national safety alert revealed a serious fire risk. The warning affects models produced by Haier sold under brands such as Baumatic, Candy, and Hoover, with around 85,000 affected appliances still in homes across the UK.

An internal short circuit during normal use can potentially cause a fire. While Haier initially began repairs earlier this year, the fixes were found to be inadequate, and they are now arranging enhanced repairs. Residents are advised to check their dryer model on the manufacturer's website and stop using affected appliances immediately.

Vital Resurfacing Work Completed on Scenic Cheddar Gorge

Cheddar Gorge, one of the most scenic roads in the country, has undergone vital resurfacing work, completed on time and on budget. Somerset Council's contractors, Heidelberg Materials, recycled 1,300 tonnes of worn-out asphalt during the two-mile project, which involved night-time working to minimise disruption and faced challenges such as steep gradients and local wildlife.

The team reduced carbon emissions by using the same lorries for transporting materials to and from the asphalt plant.

Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully: Serving Mendip South & Somerset

Somerset Business Spreads Christmas Cheer to Children in Care

A C Mole, an independent accountancy firm in Somerset, has spread festive joy by donating over 170 chocolate boxes to children in care across the county. This initiative is part of the firm's ACM Community scheme, which supports charitable efforts in the area.

The donations are directed to young people living with Somerset Council foster carers and in children's homes, highlighting the urgent need for more local foster carers. With over 650 children and young people in care in Somerset, this generous gesture not only provides a sweet surprise for the holidays but also raises awareness about the importance of fostering.

To find out more about fostering or other ways to support children in care, visit the Fostering in Somerset website or call 0800 587 9900.

Report it first: useful Links to share with your communities

Visit - Report a Problem on the Road: - A list of all reporting pages to do with roads, pavements, lighting:
[Report a problem on the road](#)

Potholes and road damage - Somerset Council repair potholes and other road defects, and maintain our roads, for the safe access of all road users:

[Potholes, road damage and edge loss](#)

Report a problem with a street light - We maintain and repair street lights to national standards to provide safe access to all road users:

[Report a problem with a street light](#)

Roads, travel and parking, road signs, markings and lighting - Includes information about non-illuminated bollards, pedestrian crossings, requesting a village nameplate or a new road sign:
[Road signs, bollards and road markings](#)

Speed limits - Request information about new or existing traffic calming measures:
[Speed limits](#)

Traffic lights - We maintain over 200 traffic light locations throughout the County:
[Traffic lights](#)

Street and roadworks - We maintain the roads and pavements that are managed at public expense in Somerset:
[Street and roadworks problems](#)

Traffic - updates and roadworks follow:
[Travel Somerset on X](#) and [Travel Somerset on Facebook](#).

All ongoing roadworks - available on the Somerset Council website interactive map
[Roadworks and travel information](#)

Somerset Waste - collection days, replacement bins or recycling bags and missed collection reporting:
[Bins, recycling and waste](#)

January 2026

**Monthly Somerset News from Cllr Claire Sully:
Serving Mendip South & Somerset**

Travel and Tourist Information

[Travel Somerset - Art, Culture, Events, History & More](#)

Sign-up for the latest climate news from across Somerset:

[Climate newsletter sign-up](#)

Open Somerset Council Consultations - which anyone can complete and take part in shaping the future of Somerset

[Somerset Council - Citizen Space - Consultations](#)

SOMERSET COUNCIL TELEPHONE NO - 0300 123 2224

PRECEPT REQUEST 2026/27
(Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Section 41) - Parish/Town/City Council Precepts)

Please complete the shaded boxes

From Precepting body

Pilton

The Council of the above-mentioned Parish/Town/City HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that in respect of the financial year 2026/27 they will require from you the sum of (fill in below) to meet the budget requirement of the Council as calculated under Section 50 of the above Act, and they do accordingly HEREBY REQUIRE you to pay the same.

	2025/26	2026/27	Difference	Difference %
Tax Base	511.01	518.00	6.99	1.37%
Precept	32,488.00	35,750.00	3,262.00	10.04%
Band D Precept	63.58	69.02	5.44	8.56%

Payment Date

Precept requests will be paid in two instalments in April 2026 & September 2026 for all demands over £10,000

Precepts over £140,000

If the Precept requirement is greater than £140,000.00 please provide details below or send in a separate spreadsheet.

Expenditure Item/Service

Amount

BACS payment details

1. BANK DETAILS

Bank Name					
Sort Code	-	-	-		
Account Number					
Account Ref/Name					
Branch Address					

NB: Please mark the box (X) if the above bank details have changed since the previous year's submission and provide evidence of the new account details for audit purposes

1

2. REMITTANCE ADVICE OF PAYMENT TO

Official's name	
e-mail	
address	

Authorisation

Authorised at the meeting of the council Held on

date

Authorised by

designation

E-Mail Address for future correspondence if preferred:

Return Form

Please return form to:

parish-prevents@somerset.gov.uk

Please return form to
No later than (noon):

Pilton Parish Council

Payments

January 7th

Voucher	Code	Date	Ref	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
78	Staff Costs	07/01/2026	Month 9	Gill Perrett (Final)	Pilton Parish Council	X	£352.80		£352.80
79	Office Costs	07/01/2026		Scribe	Starboard Systems Ltd t/a	S	£31.00	£6.20	£37.20
80	Working from Home allowance	07/01/2026	Month 9	Gill Perrett (Final)	Pilton Parish Council	X	£16.00		£16.00
	Working from Home allowance	07/01/2026	Month 9	H Richardson	Pilton Parish Council	X	£26.00		£26.00
	Staff Costs	07/01/2026	Month 9	Burial Groundsman	Pilton Parish Council	X		£0	£0
	Staff Costs	07/01/2026	Month 9	H Richardson	Pilton Parish Council	X			tbc
	Staff Costs	07/01/2026	Month 9	HMRC	Pilton Parish Council	X			tbc
						Total	£425.80	£6.20	£432.00