

CHAFFCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 17th August 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

1. Attendance and Apologies

Those present:	Apologies	In Attendance
Mrs M Butler (Chair)	Mrs S Osborne (Somerset	2 Members of the public
Mr R Bale	Councillor)	
Mr D Bracher	Mr Tony Gray (PPLO)	
Mr S Robinson	Mrs V Keitch (Somerset	
Mrs G Wills	Councillor)	
Mrs S Morley (Clerk	Mr M Otterbeck	

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council held on Mon 18/05/26

The minutes were approved and were signed by the Chair.

3. Planning Applications

2 applications have been considered since the last meeting. The Parish Council had no objections to either application.

3.1 Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree and Carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 2 Trees within a Conservation Area.

T1 - Cedar of Lebanon - Remove the large eastern scaffold limb exhibiting displacement and other works.

T2 - Monterey Pine - Remove the elongated southern scaffold limb back towards its point of origin and other works.

T3 - Chestnut - Fell to near ground level and retain stump as a habitat feature where practicable

Location: St Michaels Church Knapps Lane Chaffcombe Chard Somerset TA20 4BJ

Application Number: 26/01495/TCA

This was a notification only and in line with the Council's Constitution and the adopted scheme of delegation and terms of reference, the decision for this application is delegated to officers. This notification was therefore being provided as a matter of courtesy.

3.2 Proposal: Installation of freestanding solar panels.

Location: Tolleys House Tolleys Lane Lydmarsh Chard Somerset TA20 4AB

Application Type : Householder Application

Application Number: 26/01412/HOU

4. Footpaths

Chaffcombe Parish Council PPLO Footpath Report

6th August 2026

Walks along the parish footpath network have continued as far as the recent excessively hot weather has allowed, with some heavy clearance work required in places due to dense foliage growth. This included two blocked stiles onto Fosse Way, a second session of clearance work to the timber staircase off A30 and track clearance beyond Mill House.

It is likely that clearance work will need to continue as bramble growth is rampant.

I will need to shorten my Chaffcombe Walkers notification list as many people are no longer able to join in the monthly walks so attendance is currently sparse as best.

Anthony Gray Chaffcombe Parish PPLO

5. Reservoir

Report summary from Hannah Stanton, Countryside Ranger at the Reservoir:

I do not have too much to report really - the heat has been a real challenge for both and volunteers alike to get work done in this heat, but we have managed to do a few tasks here and there.

The major news of the summer is that butterfly records have been well and truly broken this year at the reservoir. We had two weeks of surveys that each resulted in over 500 individuals being recorded

on each occasion at the end of June and beginning of July - and since then the numbers have still been very steady. We have seen many of the usual suspects, with Meadow Browns still being the most populous species, yet we have seen quite a lot of Painted Ladies and Clouded Yellows - two migrant species. But the star of the show has to be photographing a Purple Hairstreak up close with thanks to Kevin Harris. These elusive butterflies normally circulate the tops of the canopies of the oak trees, feeding off of the nectar of aphids at those heights, and it is very rare they come down to eye level. Very much a 'right time, right place' opportunity!

With all the dry weather we have had, I think we are lucky to still have seen such a blossom of wildflowers in the meadows and have many of the trees remain lush - yet we could really use some rain. I do wonder how the birds will do in the autumn and winter seasons with the advanced emergence of the fruits on our trees - I hope there will be some resources left for them when summer departs."

6. Highway matters.

6.1 Subsidence at Lydmarsch

200 yards into Tolley's Lane, the road is subsiding causing cars to ground out on the uneven surface. The problem could cause major damage to a car and could also cause a breakdown which would block the only entrance and exit into Lydmarsch. Cllr Bale has tried reporting it to the Highways. The Clerk and Cllr Wills to also report the problem to Highways. Cllr Wills will get the WhatThreeWords co-ordinates.

A question was asked about whether you can claim compensation if you damage your car in a pothole or other road defect which should have been repaired. You can claim against Somerset Council.

6.2 Pothole in Knapps Lane

The large pothole in Knapps Lane has opened up again. The Clerk and Cllr Wills to report this at the same time.

ACTION - Cllr Wills, the Clerk

6.3 Chard Eastern Relief Road

There is currently no information about the relief road. Everyone in the village has had a leaflet. There is a group raising a petition against the relief road.

7. Flooding

There was nothing to report.

Cllr Bracher mentioned that he and the Clerk have booked on to a Somerset Prepared Community Resilience Day on Wednesday 21st October at Millfield School. Tickets are free. The Clerk said that if any councillors would like to go instead of her then please let her know. The day is likely to talk about flooding but also about other things councils should consider when ensuring they are prepared for emergencies.

8. LCN Meetings

Cllr Wills missed the last LCN meeting which was the AGM. She has not received the minutes yet.

9. Website and email address

The Clerk has an email address now. She cannot upload documents onto the website. This is being done by the administrator.

10. Internal Audit - The Internal Audit has been done at a cost of £30.00

11. Payments and receipts

(a) The balance on the account is currently £11,405.97

(b) The following online payments were made:

17/05/2026	I Butler	Website	£ 12.74
07/08/2026	Somerset Council	Dog Bins	£ 101.40
07/08/2026	N Potter	Internal Audit	£ 30.00
17/08/2026	HMRC	Paye	£ 37.60
17/08/2026	S Morley	Salary & Exp.	£ 159.90

12. Matters and Items to Report

- (a) It was noted that as at midnight tonight there is a hosepipe ban in force. This is the first one in this area for 50 years, since the hot summer of 1976.
- (b) Cllr Wills noted that mobile phone signals in the village are getting worse.

13. Date of next ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council

The next Ordinary meeting of Chaffcombe Parish Council will be on Monday 16th November 2026 at 7.30 p.m. at Chaffcombe Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.10 p.m.

Mary Butler - Chair Chaffcombe Parish Council-