



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN
BANWELL YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE (YCC)
AT 7:30pm ON MONDAY 16th MARCH 2026**

PRESENT: Councillors: Steve Voller (Chairman), Simon Arlidge, Mike Bailey, Steve Davies, Mike Dolling, Paul Harding (Vice Chairman), Kelly Smith and Matthew Thompson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Liz Shayler (Clerk)
WARD COUNCILLOR: None
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: One

Cllr Voller welcomed everybody.

Before the meeting was convened, members of the public were invited to speak.

i) Members of the public.

No members of the public wished to speak.

ii) Community Beat Manager's report.

No report was received however, the next "Coffee & Chat" drop-in session will be Wednesday 18th March, 11am until midday. Otherwise, residents are encouraged to stay informed via the Avon & Somerset Police website or by following their Facebook page: North Somerset Neighbourhood Policing.

iii) Leader of North Somerset Council report.

Cllr Bell was unable to join the meeting.

The meeting was convened.

036/26 To receive apologies for absence (agenda item 1)

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrew Base & Tara Wright and District Councillor Tristram.

037/26 To receive members' declarations of interest on any agenda item (agenda item 2)

No interests were declared.

038/26 To approve as a correct record the following Parish Council minutes (agenda item 3)

i) 14th April 2025

The Council was informed that due to the incorrect date being recorded at the meeting in May for approval of the April minutes they needed to be approved.

Resolved – That the April minutes of the Parish Council Meeting be approved as a correct record.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous with three abstentions due to absence)

The minutes of the meetings were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

ii) 16th February 2026

Resolved – That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting be approved as a correct record.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous with three abstentions due to absence)

The minutes of the meetings were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

039/26 To note the minutes of the Planning Committee on the 2nd of March (agenda item 4)

The minutes of the Planning Committee on the 2nd of March were noted.

040/26 To note the training and events available and agree any attendance (agenda item 5)

- i) **ALCA e-learning on Nimble**
- ii) **Breakthrough Communications Training via ALCA**
- iii) **Various Finance Training via ALCA**
- iv) **Various 'Scribe' Finance Training**
- v) **Various NALC training from £30**

The training above was noted.

041/26 To receive the Clerk's report/Exchange of information (agenda item 6)

i) **Banwell Bypass update**

Traffic management in the village continues to be driven by ongoing utility works. Wessex Water and Bristol Water have begun works at the Eastermead end of the village. Traffic lights installed by Wales & West on Castle Hill have also resulted in the temporary closure of Wint Hill and Rhodyate by North Somerset Highways for safety reasons.

The reopening of Wolvershill Road has been slightly delayed due to the current works. This will also delay the planned closure of Riverside. A Facebook update will be issued to inform residents.

An initial discussion has taken place regarding the possibility of introducing a village-wide 20mph zone. Mitigation proposals are expected to be presented for consultation in the summer/autumn.

ii) **Mead Fields Stakeholder Meeting**

The Clerk and Cllr Bailey attended. They reported on the following:

- Play Area 1 due to open this month.
- Play Area 2 equipment ordered (10–12 weeks delivery); expected to be installed and opened quicker than Play Area 1 due to improved site preparation.
- Pedestrian walkway (2nd application) approved, awaiting legal sign-off but construction due to start imminently.
- Hub Wi-Fi agreed; installation pending by Centric (new management company).
- Link road likely to open within the year; access to be via new roundabout closer to Morrisons.
- Retail development remains under consideration by North Somerset Council.

iii) **Bus Forum**

The Clerk attended the recent Bus Forum. There will be no service changes affecting Banwell in April, however, the WestLink service will no longer be available in the area. Possible changes to the 126 / 126A services are being considered for September, but no confirmed details have been provided at this stage.

iv) **Crop Swap Table**

Launching in April, the crop swap table will be expanding to include a seed and seedlings swap.

v) **Bat and Swift Boxes**

The bat boxes and swift boxes are up at the Youth and Community Centre ready for the swift arrivals and bats coming out of hibernation in April.

vi) **Physical Activity Fund**

The Physical Activity Fund rejected the Parish Councils application for gym equipment stating that outdoor gym equipment within North Somerset is severely underused in a structured way to benefit people's health.

042/26 To approve the following expenditure (agenda item 7)

- i) **Up to £800 for a week's hire of a walk behind sweeper.**

Resolved – To approve the cost of up to £800 for a week's hire of a walk behind sweeper.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

ii) **£472 for annual weed spray.**

Resolved – To approve the cost of £472 for annual weed spray.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

043/26 To move electricity suppliers for the streetlights unmetered supply (agenda item 8).

The Clerk reported that an additional contract price had been received from Clear Utility. Electricity prices remain highly volatile, with daily fluctuations.

Resolved – That the Clerk contacts Utility Aid and Clear Utility on the same day to obtain like-for-like daily quotes for a green energy tariff with a three-year contract and proceeds with the most competitive option.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

044/26 To discuss the installation of gym equipment by the Parish Council and agree a way forward (agenda item 9).

Resolved – To agree in principle to proceed with Contractor 2, Kompan UK, for the installation of outdoor gym equipment on the Recreation Ground at a cost of £19,866.97, subject to positive feedback from other parish councils and the outcome of grant applications. A delay of up to four weeks was agreed to allow this further work to be undertaken.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (7 in favour, 1 against)

045/26 To note the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Assertion 10 report and agree that Banwell Parish Council has appropriate arrangements in place to comply with AGAR Assertion 10 (agenda item 10).

Resolved – That having reviewed the Parish Councils policies, procedures and governance arrangements against the requirements of the JPAG Practitioners' Guide (paragraphs 5.117–5.125), we are satisfied that appropriate arrangements are in place to manage information, data protection and transparency requirements and are therefore compliant with AGAR Assertion 10.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

046/26 To note the Consultation 'Expanding the West of England Combined Authority into North Somerset' and agree a response (agenda item 11).

Resolved – To agree the following response.

Banwell Parish Council notes the consultation regarding the proposed expansion of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to include North Somerset. The Parish Council recognises that membership of WECA may offer opportunities for stronger regional collaboration, improved strategic coordination, and potential access to additional investment in areas such as transport, infrastructure, and economic development.

However, the Parish Council would wish to highlight several areas of concern. In particular, members are mindful that Bristol's limited capacity for new housing development may place increasing pressure on neighbouring authorities, including North Somerset, to accommodate additional housing growth. It is important that any regional strategic planning arrangements do not disproportionately shift housing pressures onto surrounding rural communities without appropriate infrastructure and local consideration.

Members also note concerns that combined authorities can add an additional layer of governance, which may feel remote from local communities. Parish and town councils currently have no formal representation within the WECA governance structure, and the Parish Council would encourage

consideration of mechanisms to ensure that the voices of local communities and parish councils are effectively heard within regional decision-making.

Banwell Parish Council therefore supports the proposal for North Somerset to join WECA but asks that these concerns are considered as the process progresses.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

047/26 To note the Parish Council's end of February net position, bank balances, bank reconciliation and reserves (agenda item 12).

The Parish Council's end of February net position, bank balances, bank reconciliation and reserves were noted.

048/26 To authorise bills for payment for March (agenda item 13).

Resolved – To authorise the March payments totalling £10,008.96, together with an additional payment of £2,800 to Banwell Garden Centre (previously approved with January's payments) now that the work has been completed. Cllrs Harding and Bailey to authorise the BACS payments on behalf of the Council.

The resolution was correctly proposed and seconded (unanimous)

049/26 Dates of the next meetings (agenda item 14)

Monday 13th April 2026, 7pm Planning Committee at the Youth & Community Centre (YCC).

Monday 20th April 2026, 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting at the YCC.

Monday 27th April 2026, 7:30pm Annual Parish Assembly at the YCC.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:10

.....Chairman

.....Date

Bills for Payment - 20th February to the 10th March 2026
Banwell Parish Council

Method	Payee	Details	Gross Amount	Comments	Minute agreed	Power	
Already Paid							
DD	YU	Streetlight Power	£ 259.77		089/25	The Parish Council	
DD	Octopus Energy	YCC energy use	£ 74.66		089/25		
DD	Mainstream	Phone and Broadband	£ 57.14		089/25		
DD	XCS	Printer costs	£ 39.48		089/25		
To Pay							
BACS	J K Gardening	Grass cutting & Village Orderly contract	£ 1,043.34		089/25		
BACS	J K Gardening	Emptying NSC bins	£ 15.00	Total: £1058.34	198/24 (ii)		
BACS	Corporate Cleaning Services	Dog Bin Emptying	£ 478.40		089/25		
BACS	Insight Cleaning	YCC Cleaning	£ 240.00		089/25		
BACS	YMCA	January Youth Club Provision	£ 540.00		089/25		
BACS	YMCA	February Youth Club Provision	£ 405.00		089/25		
BACS	Webglu	Quarterly Website hosting costs	£ 161.46		089/25		
BACS	Glasdon	New West Garston footpath Dog Bin	£ 306.13		023/26 (iii)		
BACS	SLCC	Regional Training Seminar	£ 102.00		021/26 (v)		
BACS	ALCA	Assertion 10 training for Clerk	£ 3.00	£32 refund for cancelled course	021/26 (ii)		
BACS	ALCA	Assertion 10 for Councillors	£ 15.00		021/26 (iii)		
BACS	Scribe	Civic.ly monthly cost	£ 63.60		172/24		
BACS	GB Sport	Service cableways and replace traveller	£ 750.00		176/25		
BACS	GB Sport	Quartely operation inspection	£ 132.00	Total: £882	089/25		
BACS	Parish Magazine	Quarterly newsletter	£ 150.00		089/25		
BACS	Rob Cox	YCC repairs to tap and toilet	£ 188.40		H & S		
BACS	Officer overtime + Expenses	Overtime, expenses (keys, postage, milk, butter & rolls)	£ 274.76		contractual & 037/25		
DD	Lloyds Bank PLC	Multipay charge & costs (Open AI, microsoft business, YCC toilet & hand rolls)	£ 94.65		Admin, YCC cleaning		
SO	Officer Salaries	Officer Salaries	£ 3,203.67		089/25 & E29/25		
DD	Nest	Pension contibutions	£ 213.76		089/25		
DD	Unity Trust	Bank Charges	£ 12.85		089/25		
DD	North Somerset	YCC Waste Collection	£ 9.77		089/25		
BACS	HMRC	PAYE and NI	£ 1,175.12		089/25		
Totals			£ 10,008.96				

The Parish Council have resolved to use the General Power of Competence as of the 15th May 2023