

CHILTON TRINITY PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Chilton Trinity Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 2nd July 2025 in the Village Hall, Chilton Trinity at 7.30 pm.

In attendance: Parish Councillors Mr P Felton (Chairman), Mrs L Hook, Mrs R Felton and Mr D Hobbs; **Somerset Ward Councillors**, Mr B Bolt and Mr M Caswell; the **Clerk**, Graham Jarvis, **Police Community Support Officers** Finlay Wallace and colleague. No residents were present.

There was a discussion regarding recent incidents of damage to cars and gardens on the Chilton Waters Estate and “boy racers” on Straight Drove. Vehicles travelling at excessive speed on Chilton Road and the repeated refusal for a community speed watch scheme was also raised. The latter topic would be investigated by the PCSO’s.

The PCSO’s were thanked by the Chairman for their visit and an undertaken was given that there would be future visits as and when time allowed.

Public Speaking Time: No topics raised.

(Ward Councillor Mr Bolt left the meeting).

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12. Apologies for absence, disclosures of interest and dispensations.

An apology for absence was received (and accepted) from Parish Councillor Mr D Brown due to work commitments. Dispensations from the Code of Conduct were held by Mr Felton and Mrs Felton regarding support for facilities at Chilton Waters and by Mr Hobbs concerning the river Parrett barrier and associated flood defence works.

13. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2025 were presented, approved and signed as a true and complete record.

14. Matters Arising: –

- a) **5a - Local Community Network, Dowsborough Group** – The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting the previous week, a new chairman and vice chairman for the LCN had been elected. There was request for more frequent police representation and amendments as to the way meetings of the Highway Group were conducted.
- b) **5b - River Parrett Barrier Project** – Members were appreciative of the site visit and presentation received earlier that evening. One of the main issues for residents was dust which was covering local vehicles. Various solutions were being considered including the issue of vouchers for a local car wash or employing someone to wash the vehicles. Mrs Hook mentioned that she had been told that a draft site map detailing the changes to Straight Drove was

almost ready. A copy would be given to her for comment before public display.

- c) **5d – Repairs to Porch and other areas of the Parish Church** - The Chairman reported that notification had been received that the first phase of the works had been completed. The full extent of further work had yet to be established.

15. Planning Matters.

- a) **Application 20/25/00003 – Springwood Fishery (Amendment to previous consent – 20/18/00001).**

Pursuant to Minute 6b - 7th May 2025; the Clerk reported that details of the proposal had been circulated to members and an item displayed on noticeboards. As result of the observations received, the Local Planning Authority were advised that the “Parish Council have no comment to make on the proposal as submitted but, are mindful that since the original consent was granted works have commenced on the nearby river barrier and associated flood defence works which may be a relevant factor in the consideration process.” There was agreement that the situation be noted.

- b) **Decisions notified by the Local Planning Authority – None.**

- c) **Other Planning Matters – None.**

16. Local Government Boundary Commission - Review.

The Commission had published draft recommendations following a review of ward/division boundaries for Somerset Council elections. The proposal was for single member wards with Chilton Trinity being part of a new Bridgwater Victoria division. The proposals were subject to public consultation which would end on 11th August 2025. The Parish Council were opposed to the proposal as the village being a rural settlement had a closer affinity to the Parishes of Wembdon and Cannington rather than being included in an area of a large town. The Clerk to forward the Council’s comments to the Commission. However, should the original proposal be retained the Parish Council recommended that the name of the new division should be known as Bridgwater Victoria and Chilton Trinity.

17. Police Commissioner Forum.

The Chairman reported that an invitation had been received to attend a public forum on 22nd July arranged by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner in Taunton. After a discussion there was agreement that Mrs Hook would represent the Council at the function and give a report at the next Parish Council meeting.

(Ward Councillor Mr Caswell left the meeting).

18. Financial Matters.

- a) **Payment of Creditors.**

The following payments were confirmed/approved:-

- i) SCG Fencing Ltd - £274.54 (£228.78 + £45.76) Cheque No. 302.
- ii) Mr P Felton – Reimbursements (Plants) - £34.90 (£29.08 + £5.82 VAT) – Cheque No. 303.
- iii) Mr P Felton – Travel expenses - £32.40 – Cheque No. 304.

- iv) G Jarvis – Clerk’s salary, expenses etc £907.48 (£906.92 + £0.56 VAT) – Cheque No. 305.
- v) HMRC – Employment Related - £186.80 – Cheque No. 306.
- vi) NSALG Ltd - Membership (Allotments Society) - £84.00 (£70.00 + £14.00 VAT) – Cheque No. 307.
- vii) Lloyds Bank Plc – Account Fees - £8.25 (Deducted direct).
- viii) Lloyds Bank Plc – Account Fees - £5.75 (Deducted direct).

b) Internal Audit.

The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had completed his examination of the Parish Council accounts for 2024/25 and signed the Report (Page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) without qualification. That document together with other statutory information had been published on the Chilton Trinity website. Members were pleased at the satisfactory conclusion of the audit.

19. Roads and Footpaths.

Hedgehog Sign.

Disappointment was expressed that the sign in Chilton Road advising motorists to the presence of hedgehogs had been stolen.

20. Topics for Future Meetings - None.

21. Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 3rd September 2025 in the Village Hall beginning at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman