

PILL & EASTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Held at Christ Church, Pill on Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Councillors J Hawkins (Chair), J Saunders (Vice Chair), K Al-Hassan, H Derrett, S Iles-Ryan, W Marcombe, N Martin and K Raines.

Parish Clerk T Jay

North Somerset Councillor J Ho Marris was unable to attend.

Public Participation. There were no members of the public present.

21/26 To note the absence of councillors at the meeting.

The absence of Councillor K Kirkby was noted.

22/26 To accept declarations of interest in accordance with the Adopted Code of Conduct September 2024.

There were no declarations of interest.

23/26 To approve the minutes of the council meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

24/26 To agree a final design plan and budget for the renovations to the pavilion.

All councillors confirmed that they had read all documentation reading the designs and the costings for this project, along with the results of the stakeholder consultation.

The following resolutions were passed:

1. The Council is committed to providing an accessible ramp and accessible toilets. The management consultants will be asked to commence the planning application process for the accessible ramp.
2. The management consultants will be asked to report back within six weeks, identifying potential saving costs.
3. A formal tendering process will then commence.

25/26 To consider a request from Pill Pool Committee 2025 regarding an unspent donation of £1000 previously made to them by the Parish Council.

It was resolved to request that these unused funds be returned to the Parish Council.

26/26 To consider advertising for a contractor to carry out mechanical weed and detritus removal on the streets and pavements in the parish.

It was resolved to advertise the position as follows.

Pill and Easton in Gordano invite tenders for a three-year contract, commencing 1st April 2026 and possibly renewable after this period, to carry out mechanical weed and detritus removal on the streets and pavements in the parish. The successful contractor will use their own equipment, supply materials, and hold all appropriate licences for working adjacent to the highway. A current public liability insurance will be required. It is anticipated that approximately eight to ten hours work per month will be required. All tenders should be submitted to the Parish Clerk at clerk@peig-pc.gov.uk by 5pm on Monday 16^h March 2026.

27/26 To consider quotations received for the repairs to the Brookside cableway.

It was resolved to authorise the repair work to go ahead, with a budget limit of £1,085.

29/26 To approve the payment of non-statutory invoices received since the last Parish Council meeting. All statutory payments will be made under the authority given in agenda item 7/26 (January 2026).

Invoice date	Supplier	Description	Amount £	VAT £	Total £
None	Tony Jay	Expenses - February	37.35	0	37.35
None	Nic Rice	Expenses - February	10.05	0	10.05
18/12/25	Glendale	Grass cutting 2025 -19 cuts	646.00	129.20	775.20
18/12/25	Glendale	Grass cutting 2025 - Brookside	490.00	98.00	588.00
	ALCA	14 x invoices re training	551.00	0	551.00

It was resolved to approve the non-statutory payments.

Please note that no decisions can be made under agenda items 30/26 to 34/26.

30/26 To receive the North Somerset Councillor report.

Councillor Ho Marris had provided the report prior to the meeting.

North Somerset Council Budget - Central government granted North Somerset Council Exceptional Financial Support to increase council tax by up to 4%. This means North Somerset Council can potentially raise council tax by a total of 8.99% for this year only, which would raise around £6m. North Somerset Council is one of only 7 councils that were granted council tax flexibility, out of around 70 that have reportedly applied. North Somerset Council Councillors will vote on this tomorrow night.

The increase will be needed because of government has cut £19m over 3 years due to the Fair Funding Review (£6m less each year), as well as due to increasing costs of Adult and Children's Social Care (which is more than 60% of council spending). Therefore, this year while we have had a cut of £6m, we are allowed the flexibility to increase our funding by £6m through increased council tax- not exactly a coincidence. I will send an update on Wednesday.

Pill Library - Option B was approved by Cabinet and this recommendation is being put forward for voting at Council tomorrow. As this was supported by the consultation response, it carries strong weight. The Council papers suggest that £50,000 additional savings are needed, I have had confirmation from the Cabinet member Councillor Solomon that this would not involve closing libraries and that he thinks the savings can be found elsewhere.

Orchard View – This is included in the Clerk's report. Thanks to the parish council for your support.

Bins at Eirene Terrace - Cllr Will Marcombe and I met with North Somerset Council waste last Friday about a plan to reduce fly tipping at this prominent village spot.

Event: There is a public Police Anti Social Behaviour meeting this Thursday. Thank you for supporting / co-organising this meeting, please join and spread the word.

Event: The Police are hosting a women's safety event on Saturday. Thank you for supporting this meeting, please join and spread the word.

Advance notice of A369 Road Closure - 2-11 March, 9:15am - 3pm for 8 working days for North Somerset Council tree officers to manage Ash Dieback and dead elm trees cutting and clearing. FirstBus have confirmed they will serve Pill but then divert via M5/Portway to Bristol.

31/26

To receive a report on recent crime statistics in the parish.

The latest available crime statistics are for December 2025.

Criminal damage / arson	5
Violence / sexual offences	13

Possess offensive weapon	1
Drugs	3
Anti-social behaviour	2
Bicycle theft	1
Public order	1
Other crime	2

32/26

To receive the Chair's report.

Police Liaison Vacancy & Role Clarification

Since Cllr Foley's resignation, I've been covering the police liaison interim, but it's proving time-intensive and unsustainable alongside other commitments. A new councillor liaison will be needed. This will be an agenda item for the next council meeting.

Parish councils have no powers to direct or strategically advise the police – liaison is limited to information exchange, sharing resident feedback (not instructions), and promoting initiatives/events.

Upcoming Neighbourhood Policing Events

There are two key PCSO-organised events this month, supported by the parish council:

Thursday 26th February at 7pm, Pill Memorial Club: Community meeting on anti-social vehicle use in Pill – open to residents, no booking needed.

Saturday 28th February at 4pm, Pill Library: Women's personal safety session – limited spaces, book via PCSO Aisha.

These are great for community safety dialogue – urge as many councillors as possible to attend to demonstrate support and gather resident input.

Council Understaffing & Call for Volunteers

We are severely under-resourced: We currently have only 10 councillors handling the workload of a full 15-member council.

This impacts our ability to respond effectively to community needs, events, projects, etc. – burnout risk is real.

We desperately need more volunteer councillors: Please encourage residents to contact the Clerk about co-option.

Councillors were reminded of their responsibilities regarding the use of social media.

33/26 To receive the Clerk's report.

A multiagency Teams meeting has been held regarding the disused Orchard View building. It was decided that North Somerset Council will write a joint letter from all agencies to the owner of the building reminding him of his responsibilities.

The Transport and Highways Working group needs a new lead councillor. Councillor Al Hassan agreed to take on this role.

34/26 To receive Councillor reports.

Councillor Marcombe outlined his ideas for the recruitment of new Parish Councillors.

35/26 To consider items for the next meeting agenda.

To appoint a councillor to be the liaison contact with the Police.

To consider repairs to the play equipment at Hardwicke Road playground.

36/26 Date of next council meeting – 23rd March 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8.27pm.

End of minutes.