

**MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT BROMPTON RALPH VILLAGE HALL AT 5.00pm**

Attendees: Councillors S Baker (Vice Chair), J Elliott (Chairman), P Heard

P Bainbridge (Clerk)

Members of the Public: 3

1. **Apologies Received and Approved:** Cllrs D Holmes, S Merritt, C Mowat, A Sellick
2. **Declarations of interest:** None. To note: J Elliott is the Parish Council's Village Hall Representative.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings:**
  - i. 30th October 2025 – with a typographical error corrected it was agreed the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 30th of October 2025 were a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman at the meeting.
  - ii. 11th December 2025 – it was agreed the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on the 11th of December 2025 were a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman at the meeting.
4. **Open Forum:** no questions received from the public.
5. **Planning**

**Applications for Comment – none**

**Applications Decided - none**

**Applications Awaiting Decision**

  - a. **3/02/21/001** Erection of 1 No. agricultural workers dwelling and garage Sandpit Meadows, Brompton Ralph to Gandstone Cross, Brompton Ralph, TA4 2RT
  - b. **3/02/25/001** Erection of 1 No. single storey dwelling, Land off Parish Quarry Road, Brompton Ralph
6. **Finance**
  - a. **Bank Reconciliation** – Bank Reconciliation to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 was presented and checked against the bank statement by Cllr P Heard. Balance at bank was £10,081.31, adjusted balance after unrepresented payments £9,705.71  
The Cashbook Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 was discussed and noted.
  - b. **Payments Already Made**
    - i. HugoFox Ltd Nov/Dec/Jan @ £11.99 = £35.97 (inc. VAT)
    - ii. Lloyds Banking Charges November £6.75 & December £5.75 = £12.50
  - c. **Payments for Approval** – S Baker proposed, P Heard seconded, and the payments were approved.
    - i. Clerk's Wages January & February 2026 @ £175.60 (includes HMRC PAYE)
    - ii. Community First Insurance Renewal LTA 3<sup>rd</sup> Year - £204.41
  - c. **Brompton Ralph Village Hall Christmas Events** – It was reported that two successful and well supported events were held in December. These included a meal with live music entertainment. At a separate children's event each child was gifted a book sourced from a local independent bookshop. A request for support of £250 had been received from the Village Hall and P Heard proposed, seconded by S Baker which was agreed. A cheque for £250 to Brompton Ralph Village Hall was written at the meeting.  
Power used: Local Government Act 1972, Section 145(1)
  - d. **Reissue of Lost Cheque** – A replacement of lost cheque for St Mary's Church Brompton Ralph for £200 was written at the meeting.
  - e. **Appointment of the Internal Auditor** – S Baker proposed, P Heard seconded and it was agreed to appoint Mr T Payne as the internal auditor for 2025/26 at a cost of £100.00.
  - f. **Budget** – The draft budget for the 2026/27 financial year was discussed. P Heard proposed, S Baker seconded, and the budget was adopted with no amendments. The budget makes provision for earmarked reserves, including the future maintenance of the telephone box and continuance of support for community events. The basic cost of running the Council has increased due to additional spending requirements, including the need to have a gov.uk email address.
  - g. **Precept** – There has been a small increase in the tax base for next year. After discussion it was thought the precept rate could remain the same. For a Band D property, currently at £46.46, the amount will for 2026-27 will be unchanged. This will result in an increase of approximately £70 (£69.85) in the precept received by the Council. P Heard proposed, seconded by S Baker to request a precept of nearly £5,128 and this was agreed. The balance of funds required to meet the budget will be met from the reserves. The Clerk will submit the Precept Request to Somerset Council.

## **7. Matters Outstanding**

- a. Parish Council Noticeboard – the noticeboard relocated by volunteers has received positive feedback from the community. A request to have a sign reading ‘Brompton Ralph’ on the noticeboard was made. It was also thought the noticeboard should be treated with wood preserver. The Clerk will research and present options at the next meeting.
- b. Local Community Network (LCN) Exmoor – The LCN meeting was being held immediately after the Parish Council meeting with the Clerk attending on behalf of the Council.
- c. Roads & Traffic Issues – A large pothole near Battens was reported. Comments were also made as to whether some potholes are on the actual maintained highway or adjacent. Reporting of potholes can be made via Somerset Council’s website. A report is now being provided to Councils within the Exmoor LCN area of all the items completed in each calendar month.

## **8. Somerset Councillor Reports – none**

## **9. Clerk’s Report & Correspondence –** The completion report had been submitted to the War Memorials Trust to enable the receipt of the £1,080 grant offer. The National Grid Wayleave has been received. The new email address for the Parish Council is now set up at a cost of £2.99 (inc. VAT) a month which will be used going forwards. The new email address is [clerk@bromptonralphparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bromptonralphparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## **10. Councillors’ Reports and Items for Future Agendas – none**

## **11. Date of next meeting** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6.00pm at Brompton Ralph Village Hall.

Chair Cllr J Elliott declared the meeting closed at 5.58 pm.

Chair:

Signed as a true and correct record