

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
12th August 2026 7pm held at East Coker Pavilion

Attending Councillors: Cllr Cowen (Chair), Cllr Sugg, Cllr Haigh, Cllr Costello, Cllr Walker, Cllr Mead, Cllr Cater-Uren, Cllr Wintersgill and Cllr Chauveau

Apologies for non-attendance. Cllr Hall and Cllr Hodge

There was one member of the public present.

26/116 The Minutes for the PC meeting which was held on the 8th of July 2026 were approved. **Proposed:** Cllr Walker **Seconded:** Cllr Carter-Uren **Vote:** All Agreed **Action:** Clerk to publish

26/117 Cllr Costello declared an interest on item 26/139.b

26/118 Public Question Time A member of the public spoke about his objection to the proposed Halves Lane development. Cllr Cowen advised that the PC were attending the appeal and would be speaking and urged him to attend as well and speak.

Member of the public left meeting

Unitary Councillors: None present

26/119 Chair's Report. Cllr Cowen advised that there were 5 representatives due to speak at the appeal hearing. They are to talk about heritage, flooding, traffic, road safety and the lack of need. Cllr Hodge had kindly agreed to source some T shirts for the Cllrs and would be organising getting a photo taken of all the Cllrs in front of the pavilion.

26/120 100 Club number draw **1st** 22 **2nd** 33 **3rd** 3 **Action:** Clerk to update winner and pay.

26/121 To discuss and make observations on SC Planning Applications

a 15/01000/OUT Location: Keyford Cllr Walker said there had been no developments to report

Cllr Costello stood down for the next item

b 25/01735/OUT Location: Land East of Yeovil Road Plackett Lane Application: Outline application with all matters reserved save for access, for the erection of up to five dwellings with access, parking, green space, and associated infrastructure. This item was discussed but it was proposed that the PC still object to this application as our previous objections have not been addressed.

Proposal: Reiterate to planning that our previous concerns have not been addressed in the revised application and that we still object to this application. **Proposed:** Cllr Cowen

Seconded: Cllr Walker **Vote:** 8 in favour. **Action:** Clerk to update planning.

Cllr Costello rejoined the meeting

c 26/01616/HOU Location: 32 Helena Road Application: Proposed extension and alterations to existing garage to form a double garage with attached car port. In discussion it was felt by all that we did not object to this application to turn into a garage as it would be unlikely that it would ever be used for future residential use. It was noted that the entrance did not seem to make for easy access by a car.

Proposed: Cllr Mead **Seconded:** Cllr Costello **Vote:** All agreed **Action:** Clerk to update planning

d 26/01606/HDG Location: East Coker Water Recycling Centre Moor Lane Application: To Remove a 15m section of hedgerow as part of improvements. NOTIFICATION ONLY so no comment to make.

26/122 To consider any recent planning applications from Somerset Council (South), received in the days after the agenda has been circulated and prior to this meeting.

Interested public and parish councillors; please refer to (South) Somerset Council planning portal for details of planning items that might be discussed under this item:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-andcomment-on-a-planning-application/> None received

26/123 There were no July Planning Decisions.

26/124 Memorial approvals and cemetery. It was agreed that triple depth plots would be acceptable but there would be a further charge of £100 to add to costs.

26/125 Matters for discussion and resolution:

1. TS Eliot walking trail from Naish Priory to St Michael's Church. Cllr Sugg said that she had not yet had an in-person meeting with as Members of the TS Elliott Trust were away. She said she had spoken to them on the phone, and they thought it was a good idea. Cllr Sugg will hope to meet them in September, to discuss this further and see if they were will to contribute for the costs.

26/126 Discuss Parishioner Correspondence. A thankyou email was received from a parishioner for the way the footpaths are kept. Clerk advised that she had passed this on to the Ranger.

26/127 Clerk advised that she had received correspondence from a gentleman who was hoping to move to the village asking if the PC had considered buying the small piece of woodland near the Carp fishing lakes. Cllrs agreed that this would not be something that they wished or could afford to pursue. Clerk advised the cleaning of the Pavillion windows inside and out (excluding the preschool) would be £100 and Cllrs asked for this to be done prior to the opening.

26/128 Working Groups

A The Pavilion

1. Grand Opening Plans. Various ideas and matters of organisation were discussed. It was agreed to have a final pre-opening meeting on Monday 24th at 6:30pm at the pavilion.

2. Pavilion Hire and Bookings. Clerk and Cllr Chauveau advised that the Yoga Club were using Pavillion every Thursday through August. Bookings were discussed and it was decided that Cllr Carter Uren would oversee all bookings, but would communicate any booking with the Clerk, Cllr Chauveau and Cllr Wintersgill.

3. The security of the Pavillion was discussed and it was decided that the key safe codes would be changed frequently and keys for groups using the Pavillion regularly would be given out.

Cllr Costello will look at installing door stops. Cllr Sugg is to buy a doormat

B Parish Communications

1. Cllr Chauveau reported that the website had been visited 1700 time in July.

C LCN Cllr Haigh said that there had not been another meeting booked for the LCN as yet.

D 2026 Nativity play. The animals have been booked but not a choir as yet.

26/129 Finance

To approve the monthly items of expenditure and those paid under delegated powers.

Clerk advised that there would be a payment for Premier Landscaping for the replacement of the Rec Gate.

Proposed: Cllr Carter-Uren **Seconded:** Cllr Sugg **Vote:** All agreed **Action:** Clerk to pay invoices

26/130 To discuss and identify Highways Issues. Cllr Walker wanted the state of the road at the triangle in North Coker to be taken up with a higher authority as it poses a serious danger and there seems little sign that it will be remedied in the near future. Cllr Cowen said

he would write to the Yeovil MP to see if he could help. Cllr Walker said that the resin path at the paddock had a crack. Cllr Cowen said he would look at the guarantee and contact the contractor accordingly. Cllr Walker is also going to contact the Somerset Highway arborist again to report the tree outside the Village Hall which is leaning dangerously towards the road.

26/131 To discuss and identify items for the Village Ranger. Cllr Walker asked the Clerk to get some new Way Markers for footpath signs. Cllr Wintersgill will speak to the owner of the Sawmills to ask if it could be tidied up as soon as possible.

26/132 Agenda items for the 9th September 2026 meeting. TS Elliott walk, Playground updating, wash up from the Pavilion Opening.

Meeting concluded at 9.20

Approved at 9.9.26 meeting