

Camerton Parish Council

BATHAVON SOUTH WARD, BATH & NORTH-EAST SOMERSET



camertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

[MINUTES] ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on

Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 6:30pm

in **Camerton Community Hall.**

Camerton Clerk, 29 Jun. 2026

Councillors present: L.Randal (Chair), H.Edwards, B.Edwards, B.Hawkins

In attendance: W.Shepherd (Clerk).

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS (All)

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE LAST FINANCIAL YEAR & 4) PLANS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The Parish Council has continued to maintain a sound and prudent financial position during the 2025/26 financial year. At 31 March 2026, the Council held total balances (excluding the Coombs Charity) of approximately £33,000, with expenditure remaining broadly in line with the approved budget. A small underspend arose during the year due to a £4,320 invoice for work at the Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve (CBLNR) being deferred into the 2026/27 financial year.

The Council received total income of £28,653, principally from the parish precept, together with grants, VAT recovery and other income. Expenditure totalled £19,255, with the largest proportion continuing to be staff costs (61%), followed by investment in the CBLNR, which accounted for around 22% of annual expenditure.

The Council has maintained appropriate reserves, including funds earmarked for ongoing woodland management at CBLNR, general maintenance, village entrance signs and the Speed Indicator Device (SID) project.

The Camerton Batch Local Nature Reserve remains one of the Council's highest priorities. Following storm damage and the continuing effects of ash dieback, the Council will continue to invest in managing the reserve to ensure it remains safe, accessible and environmentally valuable for residents and visitors. During the coming year, the Council will also progress planned improvements including road safety initiatives, village re-branding/signage, while continuing to investigate opportunities such as carbon credit funding to help support the long-term management of the reserve. Overall, the Council enters 2026/27 in a strong financial position, with adequate reserves and a sustainable budget to continue delivering services and projects for the benefit of the parish.

3. RESIDENTS WELCOME TO RAISE ANY LOCAL ISSUES OR ASK QUESTIONS.

Although, there was no public participation at this meeting, council members raised and discussed a number of topics:

- **Speeding** – An ongoing issue. Parishioners have experienced examples of speeding and dangerous driving with a number of accidents particularly on Tunley Hill / Meadgate East. A speed count undertaken earlier this year confirmed that speeding was an issue and enforcement was therefore required. The Council is looking at introducing two speed indication devices (SIDs) in Meadgate East and at the entrance to the village on Skinners Hill. Although sites have been identified with BANES Highways in May 2026, the council is currently seeking a funding route to support this initiative.

We always encourage all residence to report any illegal road traffic behaviors directly to the police, via the online reporting form on Avon & Somerset Police website, preferably with vehicle registration and description to help the police follow up on each incident. The key links are:

- Avon & Somerset Police Website: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/>
- Speeding: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/forms/rsr>
- Antisocial driving or riding: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/anti-social-driving/anti-social-driving-form/>
- **Increase interest and awareness of the council activities** and attract new councilors – there are several ideas being looked at in 2026/27 including:
 - a) Camerton Rebranding launch – Last year the council ran a competition to create a new Camerton Village ‘brand log’ for use on the Website, Newsletter, public documents. We are delighted to announce the winner, Ray Campbell, was unanimously selected from a strong field of entries. The concept beautifully captures Camerton’s landscape, heritage and future. Ray’s logo presents a modern yet timeless identity for the parish.
 - b) Camerton Website – has been re-vamped and is now compliant with the latest government data access and local parish policies. The new website can be found via the following link: <https://camertonparishcouncil.gov.uk/>
 - c) Hard copy Camerton newsletter – Camerton has started to trial an all color edition of the newsletter which will be distributed June/July – we welcome your input and articles.
 - d) Camerton welcome pack - for new home owners / businesses in the community, the plan is to refresh this in the ongoing 2026/27 year.
 - e) Councilor co-opting information on notice boards and Camerton web site.

The Local plan and The Somerset Coal Canal local plan option HD/SCCW. There has been ongoing and wide ranging representation from a group in Camerton. Camerton submitted comments on the initial local plan draft discussing both the lack of joined up infrastructure planning for the Somer Valley as well as the Somersetshire Coal Canal.

Camerton together with a number of parishes along the canal route have formed a wider action group (Somersetshire Coal Canal Communities Alliance) focused on conserving the existing assets along the route rather than returning the canal to a waterway, and therefore ensuring that diversions are not included in the next iteration of the local plan (presently likely to get to the next stage of public consultation in the Autumn of 2026). Representation was made at two key events by ‘the Alliance’:

- 19th Feb 2016- Anna Sabine MP Local Residents meeting related to Local Plan. This was a great opportunity to speak in public about issues affecting residence with wide attendance.
- 26th March 2016 Meeting of Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel at the Guildhall, Bath. The Local Plan was discussed and key elements reviewed for the next draft. This was great opportunity to input all residence who live along the canal route with the best evidence, Paul Wotner (Combe Hay Chair) spoke on behalf of the Somersetshire Coal Canal Communities Alliance.

There were three areas that Camerton Council will continue to focus regarding the local plan:

- 1) Ensure any relevant information that the council has on this topic, is made available to the community via the Website.
- 2) As the latest iteration of the planning document becomes available – socialize this information via the website / council meetings and understand main changes from the last local plan iteration.
- 3) Continue to check and publish the process going forward by which parishioners can engage with BANES local planning and input their observations about the local plans.

Parishioners can sign-up to receive information regarding the local planning policy updates via this link. <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/sign-planning-policy-email-updates>.

Camerton Valley Bus Services: Following sustained lobbying by local parish councils, the Forgotten Valley Bus Campaign and local residents over a number of years, following a survey in 2026, WECA have announced improved bus services for the Cam Valley starting from the summer of 2026. While not fully meeting the original request to reinstate the 179 service, the new arrangements are expected to deliver significant improvements for most parishes. However, further details of routes, stops and timetables are awaited, and residents will be encouraged to make use of the enhanced services and provide feedback to help shape future improvements.

4. KEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES (Lloyd Randall)

The Key dates for your diary are:

Month	Meeting Date	Meeting
July	08 July 2026	Parish Council meeting
Sept.	16 Sept 2026	Parish Council meeting
Nov.	11 Nov 2026	Parish Council meeting
Meeting Start time 6:30 pm Venue: Camerton Community Hall		

End