
Minutes of an Extraordinary meeting of Mudford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th August 2025 at 12:00, Mudford Village Hall, BA21 5TE

Present – Councillors (Cllrs): Jo Dalton-Leggett (Chair), Robin Bowring, Peter Blackwood and Stephen Bartlett.

Absent – Cllrs: Philip Edgeworth, David Brown and John Snell.

In attendance: Petra Galloway – Parish Clerk/RFO and 1 member of the public.

12:00 – Meeting started.

25/147 To receive and consider apologies for absence and approve the reasons (LGA 1972 s 85(1)).

The Council received apologies from Cllr David Brown that he was away and from Cllr Edgeworth that he had a family matter to attend to and resolved to approve their reasons. Cllr Snell was absent.

25/148 Declarations of interests. Council members to declare any interests, including any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s 33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).
No Declarations of interest were received.

25/149 To receive Public Comments.

This section is at the Chairman's discretion and may last up to 15 minutes.
No Public Comments were received.

25/150 Judicial Review of Up Mudford (Primrose Lane) 14/02554/OUT Planning

Decision: To receive and consider Somerset Council's response to the pre-action protocol letter received by Mudford Parish Council's solicitors on 7th August 2025 and the response of the developers Abbey Manor Group via their solicitors dated 11th August 2025.

RESOLVED: The Council received and considered the responses.

25/151 Exempt Session – Exclusion of the Press & Public.

The Council is recommended to resolve that under section 1, paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to exclude the press and public to discuss legally privileged matters.

25/152 Judicial Review of Up Mudford (Primrose Lane) 14/02554/OUT Planning

Decision:

12:37 Cllr Bartlett arrived at the meeting and apologised for his late arrival.

- i. To receive and consider the advice of the solicitor and barrister regarding the responses to the pre-action protocol letter sent by Mudford Parish Council's solicitors on 29th July 2025, and to receive an estimate of costs for the next steps.

RESOLVED: The Council received and considered the advice and estimated cost of next steps.

- ii. To determine whether in light of the advice of the legal advisors, Mudford Parish Council should initiate judicial review proceedings in relation to planning decision 14/02554/OUT and to consider lodging a claim with the court to seek permission to have the grant of planning permission quashed.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to initiate judicial review proceedings in relation to planning decision 14/02554/OUT and agreed to lodge a claim with the court to seek permission to have the grant of planning permission quashed.

- iii. To agree the budget for commencement of legal proceedings to the permission stage and to set an indicative budget for fees through the conclusion of the case in the High Court, with a set aside of £10,000 for adverse costs in the event the claim is dismissed, and to approve any necessary virements from earmarked reserves.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to instruct Richard Buxton Solicitors to commence legal proceedings to the permission stage at a cost of up to £12,000, plus set aside £10,000 for adverse costs in the event the claim is dismissed. The Council also agreed to set aside a further £10,000 as an indicative budget for fees through to the conclusion of the case in the High Court. The Council agreed to Richard Buxton Solicitors Terms of Business. The Council approved a virement of £12,000 from General reserves to Up Mudford Challenge Budget line.

- iv. To agree any other actions to be taken.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to discuss any necessary re-allocations of earmarked reserves at its meeting in October 2025.

25/153 Date of next meeting – 28th August 2025 at 19:00 at Mudford Village Hall, BA21 5TE, (Cllrs to note – all agenda items to be notified to the Parish Clerk by Monday 18th August 2025).

13:27 – Meeting ended.