SELWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Selwood Annual Meeting of the Parish held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 6th May 2026 in East Woodlands Village Hall BA11 5LQ.

Present: Cllrs Dowling, J & G Stickley, Marshall & Anderson.

In attendance: S. Millard-Jones – Clerk.

1. Welcome by the Chairman of Selwood Parish Council

Cllr Dowling welcomed all to the Annual Meeting of the Parish and gave the following report:

May I welcome you all to the third annual meeting since the creation of Somerset Council Unitary Authority. Somerset Council is still constrained by its financial difficulties and continues to reduce its staffing levels and services. SPC is mostly affected by the reduced support for enforcement and highways.

During the year, the council received 31 planning applications [4 less than last year] of which 17 were approved,6 refused and 8 undecided.

The Selwood Garden Community outline planning application was called in by the Secretary of State whose Inspector began examination of the application in late July/early August. Despite alterations/improvements to the plans by the developers SPC still had concerns covering highways,access and sewage disposal as well as siting and access to the industrial/commercial park at Blatchbridge. Following the year end, approval of the SCG application was given the go-ahead without many of SPC's concerns being upheld.

As well as the existing ongoing construction at Sandy's Hill Lane there are other applications at Birchill Lane and Old Ford in the pipeline. Birchill Lane is in the parish of Frome while Oldford is in Berkley. However, these developments will have knock-on effects for the residents of Selwood. SPC has and will continue to highlight these problems to the planning authorities. All these developments are going to increase the size and possible character of Frome and surrounding area. It is vital that the views of the town and surrounding parish councils are considered.

The occupiers of Tytherington Copse have applied again for planning permission to develop this site despite illegal felling and ignoring restocking orders and commuting possible breaches of court orders. Following the end of our year,this application was again refused.

Local Community Network meetings continue but seem to achieve little.

Chris Bennett had been active in campaigning to improve road safety on the A361 and a sophisticated camera has been in operation close to the A361/362 junction to monitor traffic activity. An initial report showed that many motorists were ignoring highway code rules. The parish council has continued to highlight this accident hotspot and our MP,Anna Sabine, has also been active in pursuing possible solutions.

The second hand defibrillator has now been installed close to the East Woodlands Village Hall but will be replaced by a new up to date model during the coming year.

The Educational Thynne Trust has now amalgamated with the Keyford Trust to form the "The Thynne and Keyford Educational Foundation" [TKEF]. Application forms for grants can be accessed from the TKEF website.

Our meetings are always open to members of the public and we welcome their input.

Gary Wickes resigned as a councillor as he was moving away from Frome. Many thanks for his work for the Council. We have welcomed 2 new parish Councillors,Sue Marshall and Janet Knight to bring SPC up to full strength.

I would like to thank Sammie, our Clerk, for all her excellent work for the council. She has settled in well to her role and has provided the council with valuable advice and guidance.

My thanks also to our county councillors for all the work they do to present any issues that SPC requires to be considered at county level.

Thank you to all our parish councillors for their time and effort in representing the parish and supporting me throughout the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.40pm.

Chair Signature……Date……..