

MINUTES OF THE FIRE ENGINE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Held on the 20th August 2026 @ 7.30 in the Dorothy Granger Room, Community Hall, Silverton

Present: Cllr Ruth Harrison (Chair) & Cllrs Olivia Kennard and Sarah Gooding

The Clerk attended to take the Minutes of the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Simon Hedges

2. Meeting open to any questions from members of the public – 10 mins

No members of the public were present

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2026

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th July 2026 be accepted as a true record. Propose by Cllr Kennard and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

4. Consider update re terms/clauses of proposed Lease

The Clerk updating in relation to a quotation received from Richard Pugsley @ Hole & Pugsley Solicitors in Tiverton to undertake the legal work to prepare a Lease of the Fire Engine House in favour of Ellen Cocking. It was agreed this would be presented to the full Parish Council meeting on the 7th September but the Committee would recommend acceptance.

Cllr Kennard apologised she had only recently requested an informal valuation of the property from Strutt and Creber and she would chase for this.

Electrical proposals: the email providing detailed information and received from Cllr Hedges prior to the meeting was considered. Questions remained as to whether or not the various electrical sockets around the Little Rec was a formal request from the Street Market. A general discussion arose in relation to the need for the various electricity sockets in Cllr Hedges' email although it was agreed 2 external lockable sockets (3 pin) would be required. RSOLVED: the request for 2 external lockable sockets (3 pin) would be passed on to Ellen Cocking for her to include these in her discussions with National Grid on Monday. Agreed the Parish Council would cover the cost of the socket extension. Proposed by Cllr Gooding and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Ellen Cocking had asked for the key to be made available to her in order she could arrange a meeting with National Grid on Monday 24th August.

Cllr Kennard confirmed she had spoken to the Richard's Educational Charity who were not agreeable for tables and chairs to be placed on the Little Rec at this stage. She will ask the Charity's Secretary to email confirmation of this direct to the Clerk.

5. Consider Fire Engine House storage and removal costs

Scouts - it was noted that any equipment used by the Scouts would need to be of a certain standard and it was felt those in storage would not be up to standard. A suggestion was put forward as to whether or not Springwater Farm would be interested in the tents for their forrest

farm days. Agreed the Clerk would make enquires and point out the old canvas scout tents may be well worn and need repair. Tent poles were available together with old barrels and paddles.

A Quotation had been received from the Handyman to clear the Fire Engine House and take to new storage. RESOLVED the quotation be accepted. Proposed by Cllr Kennard and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

With regard to the new storage units, it was agreed a site visit as needed to look at the storage containers. Cllrs Kennard and Harrison will arrange to meet next week.

Meeting closed at 08.15