

Clerk's Report 16th November 2026

1. The ICO Subscription has been registered with a new direct debit set up with it's own budget line.
2. The Somerset Parishes 2026 Conference took place on 3rd October which I attended.
3. I attended the SLCC Somerset Branch meeting in Minehead on 18th September. The branch appointed Conor Ogilvie-Davidson as Chair until the December AGM, with the Mentoring Officer role still vacant. Members received an update from the new Empowerment Support Officer, Lorna Muffatt, who is developing national best-practice sharing and themed training sessions. Parish Online delivered an excellent presentation showcasing its extensive mapping tools, green-energy operation, website services and new wellbeing support offer (Quotes have been obtained for Parish Online/current provider website hosting and email services and for gov.uk emails for councillors). SALC CEO Ewan Jones outlined planned growth in training and invited views on mentoring arrangements and clerk-led training. The next branch meeting will be held on 4 December.
4. Parish Precept Requirements and Contact Details Verification; Communication from Somerset Council summarised:
   Confirm **any updated clerk or chair contact details** from 2026/27 to Somerset Council by emailing *Parish.Precepts@somerset.gov.uk*. If nothing has changed, no action is required.
   Note that **bank details must not be updated now** – these are only changed on the precept form itself.
   Plan to set and approve the **2027/28 precept early**, so the final submission deadline of **29 January 2027** can be met.
   Be aware that the **final tax base** will be issued in **early–mid December 2026**; preliminary calculations can use the current 2026/27 tax base.
   If the precept will exceed **£10,000**, ensure the budget reflects the new **two-instalment payment schedule** (April and September) and any cash-flow implications.
5. You may recall that I asked you all to sign the new declaration of interests form (no longer allowed to publish your home address), I have brought some with me this evening for those who have yet to sign.