CLERK'S REPORT – 12th May 2026

7. General Parish Matters

- **Village Hall** – Future utilisation for Parish Council office. – This has been agreed in principle. Revised quotes are awaited for the refurbishment work. Liaison with the Village Hall Chairman Ceri Idris-Evans and the Future Chairman (Nick Ericson) are on-going.

- **Allotments –** 13 of the 16 plots are under cultivation. The Clerk has issued Tenancy renewal notices and awaits payments. It is felt that some clearance of the allotment site is required. To this end the provision of a skip was proposed. Cllr Ward will seek quotes for this, with an anticipated cost of approximately £300.

- **Noticeboard for Sulis Down** – The Noticeboard has been installed and is being used by the Parish Council, the Sulis Down Neighbourhood Watch, and Residents.

- **Churchyard fund and Replacement England Flag.** At a request from Robert Hellard the Clerk has purchased a new ENGLAND (St. Georges) Flag for the Church at a cost of £136.80. The Clerk has taken this from the Churchyard Ring-Fenced Budget. Please can the Council agree they are happy to do this, or if they wish the PCC to reimburse the Parish Council the cost excl. VAT of £114.00. This has been agreed by the council.

- **Church Fete** – A request has been received to support the South Stoke Church Fete will take place on Saturday 26th June at Brantwood. The Parish Council are requested to provide circa £200 to support the printing costs for this community event.

- **HSE Complaint against VISTRY** - The 2nd children's playground at Sulis Down has been opened without a safety certificate as far as we can tell. The perimeter fencing is incomplete & residents have been picking up barbed wire & pallet boards with nails in around the playground. The builders compound on Admiral Way isn't secure, fencing is open & children have been seen in there amongst pallets of blocks.
  This issue is being taken forward under the direction of – Ms Elizabeth Heggett – Chair of the Sulis Down Residents Association in conjunction with: Cllr Gorley, Cllr McCabe, HSE and B&NES Planning Enforcement.

Footpaths and Open Spaces

- **Millenium Viewpoint –** The viewpoint and seat have been repaired and refurbished very well

- **Signage (Boundary Stone) for the Cotswold National Landscape** – The Boundary Stone has now been installed.

9. Highway Matters

Midford Road/Village

RADAR Speed Signs progress report - The grant from the Ward Councillors Empowerment Fund (WCEF) of £350 has been received. The Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust grant was for £5,0000. So a total of £5,350. The RADAR signs cost £4,242, and additional mounting brackets are £100. A total cost of £4,342, leaving a balance of £1,008.
The signs have yet to be installed and this will be done in the next financial year, April/May 2026, when B&NES Highways have the resource and budget so to do. It is not expected that there will be any cost to the Parish Council for this installation.
So the balance might therefore be spent on Village Gates. 3 at £415 each has been proposed. A total of £1,245, plus the cost of a Advertising Consent applications (3 x £85), plus any installation costs, plus Section 171 applications, potentially 3 at £244.65 each.
So, there are some significant further costs for the Parish Council to meet in order to complete this project.

11. **Other Matters to Report**

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12 Correspondence Received

Bus plan engagement – request for support in advertisement (30 March–10 May)

The West of England Combined Authority will shortly be launching a six-week public engagement exercise on the Bus Plan, running from 30 March to 10 May. The purpose of this engagement is to hear directly from both bus users and non-bus users across the region about their experiences, expectations, and needs. The engagement will run under the heading "Next stop, better buses".

We are seeking feedback on all aspects of the network, including:

- Accessibility of services
- Safety at bus stops and on buses
- Service frequency and reliability
- Ticketing – from ease of purchase to ease of use

General perceptions of the current bus service provision

Your lead and influence is an important part of the local community, so helping residents find out about this engagement would make a real difference - once formal announcement of the engagement has taken place on the 30 March.

13. Dates for Future Meetings – To agree Council meeting dates for the forthcoming year