



# Minehead Town Council Annual Report 2024/25

Reflecting on a Year of Community  
Progress

# Message from the Mayor

*"It gives me great pleasure to present this year's Annual Report for Minehead Town Council. As we reflect on the past year, we do so with pride in what has been achieved through community partnership, environmental initiatives and service devolution - key steps in taking greater control of our town's future.*

*I'm particularly proud of our Gold Award in Southwest in Bloom and the successful transition of parks management, which will benefit residents for years to come. Looking forward, the Town Council remains committed to ensuring value for money, fostering inclusivity and preserving the character and beauty of Minehead for generations to come."*

*Councillor Craig Palmer*

Mayor of Minehead



# Councillors

## *Working Together to Represent You*

### **Minehead Central**

- Charlotte Beynon
- Ben Hall
- Ben Jewell
- Mimi Palmer
- Craig Palmer
- Marcus Kravis

### **Minehead North**

- Mohamed Sharjeel
- Vacant
- Vacant

### **Alcombe South**

- Tony Bartlett
- John Bonar
- Vacant

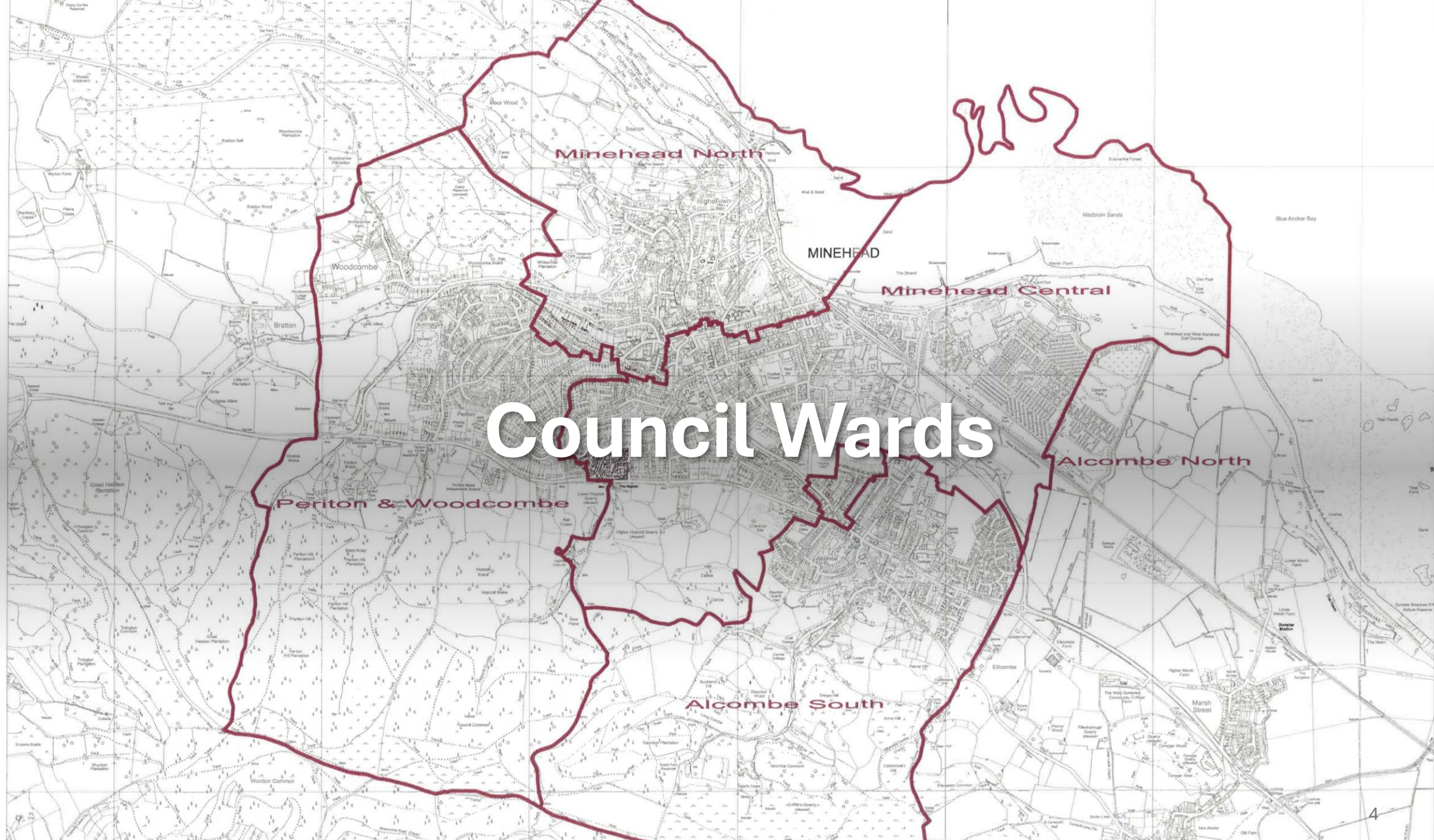
### **Alcombe North**

- Bill Hodson

### **Periton & Woodcombe**

- Anne Lawton
- Vacant
- Vacant





# Council Wards





# Meeting structure



Chair/Mayor: Cllr C Palmer



Deputy Chair/Mayor: Cllr Lawton



Full Council: Cllr C Palmer (Chair) – All councillors – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of Month.



Finance and General Purposes Committee: Cllr Hodson (Chair) – All Councillors. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month.

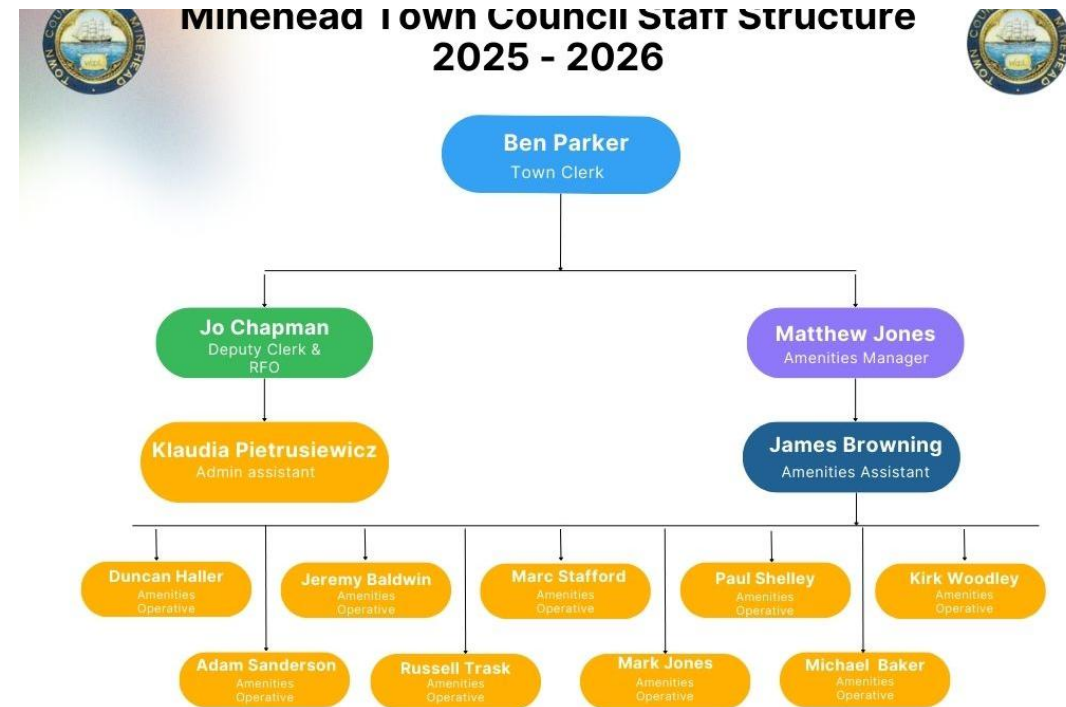


Planning Committee: Cllr M Palmer (Chair) – Cllrs Lawton, Hodson, C Palmer, Bartlett and Kravis. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of month.

# Staff Structure

## *Behind the Scenes – Supporting the Town*

Our council's work is supported by a dedicated team who ensure day to day operations run smoothly. From grounds maintenance and events coordination to financial management and governance, this structure underpins our ability to serve the community effectively.



# Financial Overview

## *Your Money at Work*

For the 2025/26 financial year:

- 2025/26 precept: £1,011,635
- Band D equivalent annual precept: £228.47
- Annual budget: £1,100,110
- Total increase (Band D) from 2024/25: £13.95 (6.5%)

*We remain committed to financial transparency and delivering maximum value for every pound. Detailed financial information is available on our website at <https://mineheadtowncouncil.co.uk/your-council/council-finances>*



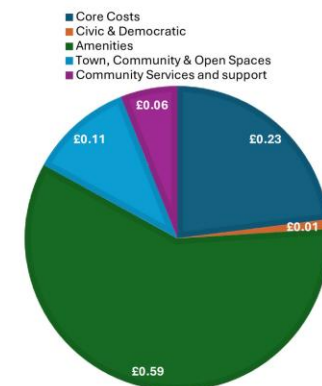
# How your money is being spent



## Your Council Tax: Where Every Pound Goes

The 2025/26 Minehead Town Council precept is £1,011,635.

FOR EVERY £1 SPENT IN 2025/26.



Every penny of your council tax paid to Minehead Town Council stays in Minehead and helps maintain essential services and improve community spaces within our town. We're committed to transparent spending that benefits all residents.

### 59p funds Amenities

- Public toilets
- Depot team
- Cemetery costs
- Vehicles
- Machinery

### 11p maintains Town & Community Spaces

- Waste Management
- Street Weeds
- Allotments
- Community centre
- Floral Displays

### 1p covers Civic & Democratic functions

- Mayors Allowance
- Councillor Travel & Training
- Elections
- Hospitality

### 23p supports Core Costs

- Governance
- Phones & IT
- Website
- Insurance
- Office Team
- Offices

### 6p provides Community Services & Support

- Grants
- Community initiatives
- Events
- Christmas Lights

# Our 2024/25 Highlights

## *A Year of Proud Achievements*

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This year we:

- Won a Gold Award in Southwest in Bloom, recognising our efforts in beautifying public spaces
- Funded community bleed kits for use in emergency situations across the town
- Celebrated the Blenheim Gardens Centenary by planting a commemorative tree.
- Provided ongoing support for town-wide floral displays, contributing to community pride and aesthetics.
- Obtained a £35,000 grant fund from SALCs health and wellbeing fund to provide enhanced youth services in the town focusing on health and wellbeing. Delivered in partnership with Minehead Eye





# Celebrating Our Community

## *Events That Brought Us Together*

- **EAT Festivals:** We committed funding for three events over the next three years, promoting local food and businesses
- **Victorian Christmas:** A joyful celebration of our heritage and local talent
- **VE Day Community Picnic:** Brought families and generations together in remembrance and unity
- **Minehead Bay Festival:** A vibrant, inclusive celebration of coastal culture
- **Blenheim Gardens Band Concerts:** A cherished summer tradition showcasing live music in a beautiful setting





## Caring for Our Environment

### *Green Actions with Long-Term Impact*

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- **Rewilding Project:** Now in its third year, this initiative has expanded into the cemetery and churchyard, improving biodiversity and creating natural habitats for local wildlife
- **Weed Control Strategy:** Following community feedback, we've adopted a balanced approach that addresses both environmental concerns and community aesthetics
- **Sustainable Floral Displays:** We continue the transition towards drought-resistant and perennial planting without compromising on visual appeal
- **Recycling Points:** More bins introduced across key open spaces make it easier for residents and visitors to recycle while enjoying our town"



# Supporting Our Community

## *Partnerships and Grants That Make a Difference*

- **Community Grants:** £5,000 was distributed to local groups driving positive change
- **Minehead Youth Services:** £6,000 annual support to Minehead Eye, helping keep vital services accessible for young people
- **Citizens Advice West Somerset:** £5,000 contribution to sustain free, local advice services for residents in need

*These partnerships are central to our mission of fostering a compassionate, connected town.*

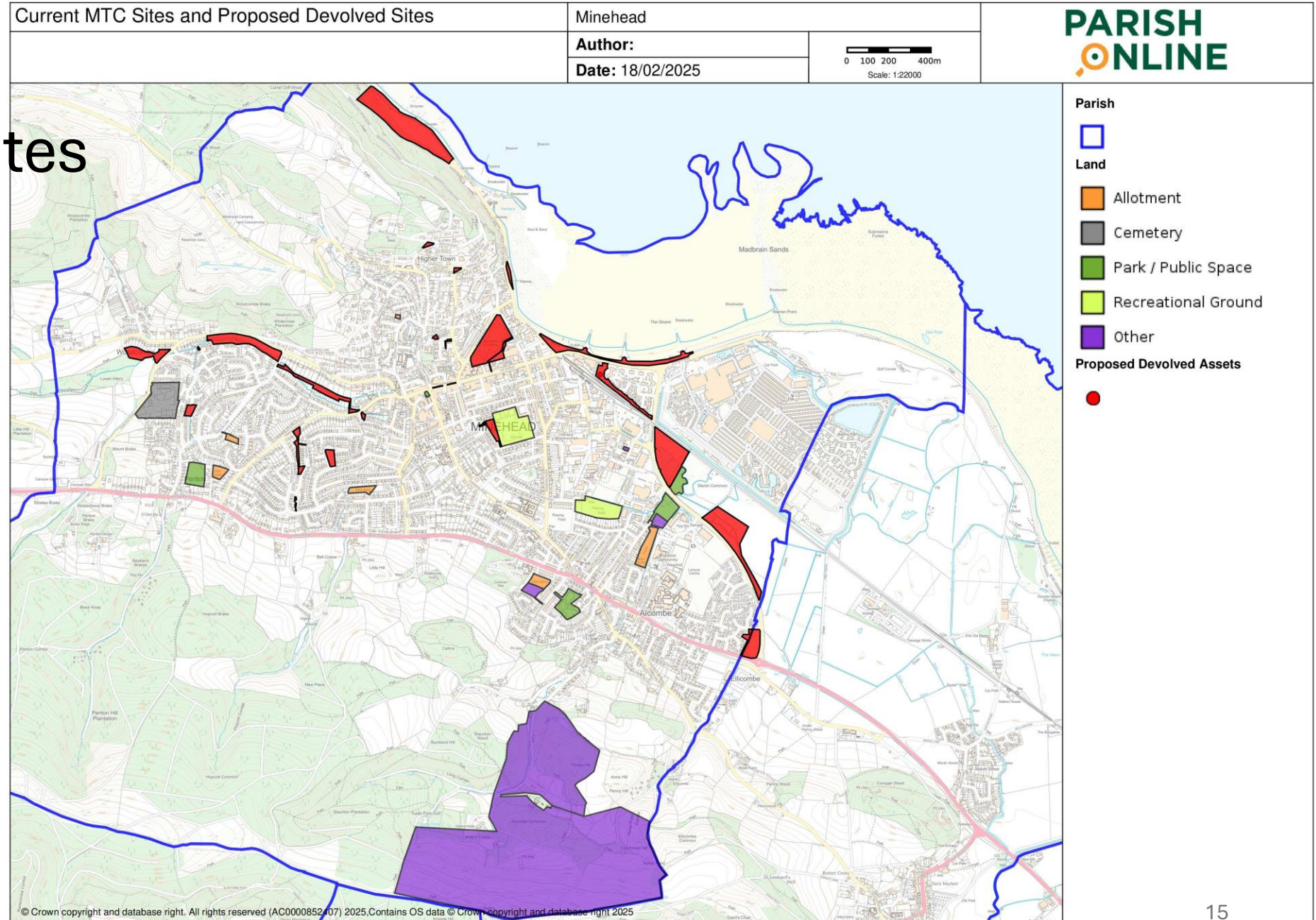
# Shaping Our Future

## *Asset & Service Devolution*

- On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, Minehead Town Council proudly assumed management of our town's parks and open spaces.
- This transition brought experienced grounds staff from Somerset Council to our team, creating a unified workforce dedicated to Minehead's needs and ensuring consistent standards across all green spaces.
- With decision-making now at town level, residents benefit from faster response times, locally-tailored services and direct accountability - ensuring these valued spaces are managed with local knowledge and community interests at heart.



# Devolved Sites





# Providing clarity Council Responsibilities

Residents often face confusion about which council handles specific concerns, leading to frustration and delays. Through our recent devolution process, Minehead Town Council now manages nearly all town green spaces, simplifying this particular service area. However, clear distinctions remain between Town and Somerset Council responsibilities. For your convenience, the next page outlines exactly who handles what in our community, helping you direct your questions to the right place first time.





# Listening to You

## *Community Engagement Grows*

- Hosted monthly community engagement events to hear directly from residents.
- Increased use of social media and press releases to keep you informed.
- Trialled the introduction of a quarterly newsletter.
- Introduced the Town Council Events Tent as a visible and welcoming space at community gatherings.



# Make a Difference in Minehead Become a Town Councillor!

Passionate about Minehead? As a Town Councillor, you can directly shape our community's future. Your decisions will visibly improve the parks where children play, support events that bring neighbours together and guide development for generations to come.

Town Councils uniquely connect to their communities - you'll see the real impact of your work every day. People from all backgrounds make excellent Councillors - what matters most is enthusiasm and commitment to Minehead.

As a Councillor, you'll:

- Represent residents and advocate for improvements
- Make key decisions about local services
- Develop community initiatives
- Connect with local organisations
- Gain valuable leadership experience

We currently have ward vacancies. Training and support available.

# Looking Ahead

## *Our Vision for 2025/26*

- Fully integrate grounds maintenance under council management
- Produce a long term maintenance and investment strategy for our current and devolved open spaces
- Expanding sustainable practices and green spaces
- Deepening community partnerships and ensuring services reflect evolving needs
- Continue to advocate for Minehead's needs to Somerset Council
- Strengthening civic pride through inclusive events and resident involvement

*Together, we'll continue building a town we can all be proud of.*



# Contact Us

- Minehead Town Council Offices, 3 Summerland Road, Minehead TA24 5BP
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- Email: [info@mineheadtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@mineheadtowncouncil.co.uk)
- Website: [www.mineheadtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.mineheadtowncouncil.co.uk)
- Facebook

