



## Minutes of the Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

- Present** Sue Isherwood, Chair  
Ros Wyke, Councillor  
Jo Tucker, Councillor  
Peter Bright, Councillor
- In attendance** Chris Harris, Clerk  
Guy Timson, Councillor Applicant  
Wesley Hann, Councillor Applicant

### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Sue Reece  
Cllr Marie Scriven

### 2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllr Wyke, as a Member involved in the consideration and determination of planning applications by Mendip District Council, declares that the views expressed by her at Parish Council meetings on any particular proposal are based on the evidence available to her at the time, and is provisional only. Cllr Wyke will not be bound by any recommendation made by the Parish Council on any proposal, and will consider any matter afresh in connection with any application which comes before her in her capacity as a Member of Mendip District Council, taking all further evidence into account.

Cllr Bright declared an interest in the Parish Grant Application process, as Chair of the Village Hall committee and applicant.

### 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2019

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed and one minor correction to Item 10 Notices, was made, replacing the name of Cllr Bright with that of the Chair. Once this correction was made the minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

### 4. Co-Option for Parish Council Vacancy

The two candidates made presentations to the Council on their interests and suitability for the role. A secret ballot was held and a result arrived at. Council gave permission to the Clerk to destroy the ballot papers subsequent to the vote. The Chair exercised her right to delay the announcement of the result until a later time rather than at this meeting.

Mr Hann left the meeting at this point.

**Update:** subsequent to the meeting, Cllr Scriven offered her resignation which was accepted by the Chair. In view of this and the calibre of both candidates, both were co-opted onto the Council. Acceptance of Declarations of Interest will be completed at the next Council meeting.

As Mr Timson was representing the Robert Glanville Playing Field Trust in his role as Chairman of the committee, for the sake of expediency Item 8 was dealt with next.

### 8. Applications for Parish Council Grants.

All three applications – Robert Glanville Playing Field Trust, Westbury-sub-Mendip Community Shop and The Village Hall Annual Puppet Show - were considered in detail.

**Robert Glanville Playing Field Trust:** Guy Timson, representative. The necessary costs of the Trust to maintain legal and regulatory requirements and insurance cover were accepted. Council recognised that the Trust was a major asset to the village and the wider community and gave unanimous support to and recognition for the sterling efforts of all the volunteers involved. Payment of the requested amount of £1200.00 was proposed by Cllr Wyke, seconded by Cllr Bright and agreed unanimously.

**Westbury-sub-Mendip Community Shop:** again, Council recognised that the shop was a major asset to the village and wider community and gave unanimous support to and recognition for the efforts of all the staff and volunteers involved. Council discussed the requested amount of £830.00, but felt that an increase of £15.00/week to a total of £780.00 would be more in alignment with previous grants. Payment of the sum of £780.00 was proposed by Cllr Bright, seconded by Cllr Wyke and agreed unanimously.

**The Village Hall Annual Puppet Show:** Cllr Bright stepped down for the duration of this discussion, as the Hall's representative. Council recognised that the puppet show was part of the broad range of services offered by the Hall's committee and that it benefitted younger members of the community. Additional marketing was felt to be important in an effort to improve attendance. Payment of the sum of £100.00 was proposed by Cllr Wyke, seconded by the Chair and agreed unanimously.

Mr Timson left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Bright resumed his role as Councillor for the rest of the meeting.

## 5. Reports from the Somerset County Councillor and Mendip District Councillor

In the absence of the Somerset County Councillor, no report was received.

The Mendip District Councillor gave an overview of some of the issues discussed at the recent Parish Council Forum:

- MDC's first response to climate change and the environment, including rewilding of verges and grants for tree planting;
- Glastonbury Living Spaces project to address the needs of travelling communities and rough sleepers;
- free Christmas and New Year's Eve parking in MDC car parts and for the small business day in November;
- the Local Plan Part I green spaces will be revisited in January 2020 and the Local Plan Part II also addressed after Christmas.

## 6. Clerk's Report

### 6a Actions from previous meeting

6a i) A letter to MP James Heappy was drafted, approved and sent by email. A receipt of acknowledgement was received but no formal reply.

6a ii) Dog waste bins: awaiting confirmation of sites. Clerk has identified two possible positions for bins north of the A371 – one in Old Ditch and one in Drappel Lane, along with the suggested sites of Mortar Pits or along Roughmoor Lane south of the A371.

6a iii) Report on condition of Westbury Cross: an email was sent to SW Heritage for the attention of Bob Croft but as yet no reply has been received. Follow up mail to be sent.

**Action: Clerk**

6a iv) AutoSpeedWatch pricing update: information acquired by previous clerk was circulated.

6a v) Road Safety Issues:

6a v) a) Road safety issues around Westbury Cross: clerk has discovered previous correspondence on the same matter from 2018 which went into abeyance. Clerk to send email to the head teacher of St Lawrence School to remind parents and staff about safe parking. **Update:** a mail was sent to the head teacher who concurred with the comments therein and agreed to send reminders parents and staff.

6a v) b) The Rodney Stoke speed reduction survey was circulated. At a recent clerk's meeting it was noted that in another parish, signs put up by private residents on their own property did have an effect. This was discussed by Council but was considered unlikely to be effective. Cllr Wyke will discuss further with the Police Commissioner.

**Action: Cllr Wyke**

6a vi) Footpaths report has been received and will be discussed at the next meeting.

6a vii) Bus shelter proposal: there is unlikely to be any change to the structure of the existing shelter in the foreseeable future. The viability and safety of other sites seems to be very limited, as there is nothing else suitable along the A371 and a change of bus route into the square is likely to require buses reversing into Old Ditch in order to go back along School Hill, which in itself is a safety issue.

6a viii) Clerk training has been commenced.

6a ix) New laptop has been acquired: in the process of uploading and updating emails and files.

6a x) A letter was sent to MDC Planning regarding the Parish Council's profound disapproval of their decision to approve developments at Shamrock Stables Animal Shelter.

### **6b Feedback from Parish Council Forum Planning Meeting**

In view of the Mendip District Councillor's comprehensive report, nothing additional was added.

### **6c Other matters arising**

6c i) Updating Neighbourhood Planning Group list: remains in progress.

**Action: Chair, Cllr Wyke**

6c ii) Extra parking at Stoneleigh: remains in progress.

**Action: Cllr Bright, Cllr Scriven**

6c iii) Interpretation Panel Refurbishment: remains in progress.

**Action: Chair, Cllr Wyke**

6c iv) 2019/1240/FUL Stancombe Lane development: the previous clerk had in fact responded to this application, noting the Parish Council's objection.

## **7. Planning**

### **7a Neighbourhood Plan Update**

The Chair confirmed that Phil Harvey of Burnham District Council is willing to make a presentation to Council on the process undertaken by Burnham. Dates to be confirmed.

**Action: Chair**

### **7b Planning Applications**

i) Applications considered:

The following applications were considered by Council in advance of the meeting due to the deadline set by MDC:

2019/2131/TCA	Felling and height reduction, Leyland Cypress, Little Orchard, Lynch Lane, WSM (deadline 17/09/19)	No objection
2019/2228/TCA	Crown reduction, conifer, Highbank, Lynch Lane (deadline 02/10/19)	No objection

ii) Application to be considered

No new applications were considered at this meeting.

### 7c Mendip District Council Decisions

Council noted the following MDC decisions:

2019/1036/HSE	Conversion and single storey extension, Hillview, Lynch Lane	Approved with conditions (materials, soft landscaping, etc)
2019/1542/APP	External facing stonework, Windmill Hill Lane	Approved
2019/1481/TCA	Height reduction, Lawson Cypress, Coombe Hay Farm	Approved
2019/1485/TCA	Crown reduction and making safe, horse chestnuts, Coombe Hay Farm	Approved

## 9. Finance

9a Council noted that the following payments had been received:

- Marquee hire (private hire) 05/06/19 £25.00
- Marquee hire (private hire) (date) £50.00

9b Council unanimously approved the following payments:

- Purchase of 'Local Council Administration' (plus p&p) £108.79
- Purchase of new Clerk's laptop £404.00
- Hall hire, Village Hall 28/08/19 £48.00
- Hall hire, Stoneleigh Community Hall 02/10/19 £15.16
- Honoraria for additional clerking work: Council unanimously agreed honoraria for the Clerk and for Mr Mark Smith for additional work undertaken during the handover period, the sum of £200 for Mr Smith and £240 for the Clerk.

9c An updated bank mandate to remove the previous Clerk and Chair and add the current Clerk and Chair was unanimously agreed and signed.

## 10. Monthly Correspondence

The following monthly correspondence was noted:

- Rural Services Network Rural Bulletin (weekly)
- MDC's Parish Information Bulletin (monthly)
- RSN Rural Funding Digest (monthly)
- Somerset CCG Engagement Bulletin (monthly)
- Mendip Society Newsletter (quarterly)
- Mendip Hills AONB press release (occasional)

## 11. Notices

No additional notices were raised.

## 12. Any Other Business/ Items for Next Agenda

12a Footpaths review

12b Marquee hire process

**13. Date of next meeting** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 @ 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.