

**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs Sue Reece, Sue Isherwood (Chair), Joanne Tucker, Guy Timson, Ros Wyke and Buffy Fletcher

**In attendance:** Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

**21/237 Welcome by the Chairman**

**21/238 Apologies for Absence**

All members of the Parish Council were present

**21/239 Absent**

All members of the Parish Council were present

**21/240 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**

**(a) To receive declaration of interests from Councillors on items on the agenda**

Cllr Ros Wyke declared an interest in item 21/245 (d)

**(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests**

No written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests were received.

**(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**

Cllr Sue Reece requested a dispensation in regard to item 21/246 (a) and (b)

**21/241 Public Session**

There was one member of the public in attendance

**21/242 County and District Councillor Reports**

County Councillor Graham Noel was not in attendance. District Councillor Ros Wyke gave a verbal report to Councillors. Cllr Ros Wyke also drew attention to the September issue of Mendip Monthly

**21/243 Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator – report sent prior to the meeting.**

The website continues to operate as usual

**21/244 To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021, previously circulated.**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**21/245 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**

There were no matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

21/246

**Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered.**

- (a) **2021/2029/TCA** T1 – Holm Oak, carry out a full pollard to the previous pruning points x4m. The lowest limb on the house side will be reduced by a further 2m beyond the previous pollard knuckle. Coombe Hay Farm, Broadway Lane, Westbury Sub Mendip **Update** Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council recommended approval.
- (b) **2021/2118/TCA** T1 – Evergreen Christmas Tree – Fell. Old Ditch, Farm Cottage, Lynch Lane, Westbury Sub Mendip **Update** Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council recommended approval.
- (c) **2021/2190/LBC** Erection of 1no. rear 2 storey annexe, including remodelling of existing retaining wall and rear garden and associated internal alterations to existing farmhouse. Ash Tree Farm, Old Ditch, Westbury Sub Mendip. **Update** Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council recommended approval as it is a smaller footprint and is now further back from the road. A concern is raised that if the road behind Drappel Lane has to be shut whilst building works are carried out, the milk tanker will be unable to get through to Drappel Farm as this is the only access road.

Cllr Ros Wyke left the room

- (d) **2020/1678/REM** Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2020/0364/OTA. Additional phosphate and drainage information received 31.08.21 and evidence of historic use received 23.09.21. Land North East of Tor View, Top Road, Westbury Sub Mendip. The Parish Council were invited to comment on the amendments. **Update** The amendments deal only with issues of drainage. No account has been taken of the strong objections to the proposed building raised by the Parish Council in the first instance. These seem to have been ignored. There are approximate 17 letters of approval from members of the public, most of whom do not live in the village, and they all refer to the original plans which have now changed significantly. The majority of the letters quote that the building fits snugly into the quarry, but this is no longer the case as the design has changed significantly. We are particularly concerned about light pollution within the AONB dark skies area. The suggested decals on the windows will do little to ameliorate this. Holes in the field next door have already been created to install the septic tank and drainage. Properties further down the hill obtain their water from wells and a strong concern is being raised about digging soakaway holes as they could drain into the water table and into the wells themselves. We also note that the soil is described as loamy and so likely to drain well. But limestone rock is very near the surface throughout the land on the north side of Top Road. The phosphate information is both confusing and inconclusive. The Parish Council has not had sufficient time to obtain independent advice on the issues and remains concerned that there is not sufficient evidence that the waste water will not contaminate local water and the wider environment.

Cllr Ros Wyke returned to the room

Cllr Sue Reece left the meeting at 8.20pm

21/247

**Planning Applications currently being monitored****(a) Land at Lynchcombe Lane, and Shepherds Barn, top of Lynchcombe Lane**

The enforcement team have opened a case, reference number ENF/2019/0035 and have requested photographs of the caravans, close up and context shots. They are still a bit limited in terms of site visits because of Covid. This was chased on 3<sup>rd</sup> September and an email was received on 23<sup>rd</sup> September saying they would respond in full shortly.

**(b) Shepherds Barn, top of Lynchcombe Lane.** The enforcement team have opened a case, reference number ENF/2020/0190. A full review of the case is being carried out; additional information has been requested before a site visit can be carried out, particularly a request for photographs of additional facilities.

21/248

**To Be Resolved****(a) Discussion and possible proposal to move the Parish Council website to another provider**

Mark Smith will contact the current provider again in relation to a reduction in costs. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

**(b) Discussion on whether Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council would like to work in conjunction with Westbury Friendly Society and surrounding Parish Councils in organising a beacon event to help celebrate the Queen Platinum Jubilee next year.**

Westbury Friendly Society and the Playing Field Committee will work together to hold a village event maybe followed by a bonfire in the evening. The surrounding Parish Councils will be contacted to say Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council will be happy to support a beacon event at Deer Leap.

**(c) Acceptance of quotes regarding the legal paperwork in reference to the offer of a gift of a field within the Parish**

This will be deferred until a response to the letter to the potential donor has been received.

**(d) Proposal to refurbish the two notice boards that were removed temporarily from Stoneleigh**

The Council **RESOLVED** to refurbish the two notice boards that were removed temporarily from Stoneleigh. Cllr Sue Reece to peruse and organise, there may be a small cost involved.

**(e) Proposal to consider replacing the village gazebos and marquees**

Following a discussion, it was agreed that they were in fairly good condition although a couple of small items needed replacing such as guy ropes. This will be reviewed again in the Spring.

**(f) Review of the annual Grant Policy and to approve the Changes.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the changes and approve the grant policy.

**(g) Proposal for Westbury Community Tree Group to become either a sub-committee of the council or a working group**

This was deferred until the next meeting.

**(h) Discussion on the amount of rubbish being left on the Playing Fields and disposal of the rubbish.**

Neighbourhood Services at Mendip District Council will be contacted to ask whether the emptying of the bin can be added to the route.

21/249

**Clerk's Report**

- (a) Two areas of Westbury Sub Mendip were missed when the white lines were repainted, this has been reported to Somerset Traffic Management and has been put on the 'to do' list.
- (b) Truespeed in the village – The trench work for the connection for the village hall is scheduled to commence before the end of the month. The school's connection is now fully working and synched with Priddy.
- (c) A 20mph zone around the school is being implemented by the Somerset Traffic Department, this has been programmed into the works schedule to be carried out in quarter three of the financial years (between October and December 2021)
- (d) Posters have gone up on the noticeboard and website inviting residents to apply for a position of Parish Councillor, if anyone is interested, please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.
- (e) A couple more Police beat surgeries will be taking place in the Square on 5<sup>th</sup> November between 5-6pm and 8<sup>th</sup> December between 11-12am.
- (f) Report from the Unitary Meeting held at Wells Town Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> September attended by the Chair and Clerk.
- (g) The grant application for Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund on behalf of the Robert Glanville Playing Field Trust was submitted on 27<sup>th</sup> September.
- (h) The two grant applications for Climate and Ecological Emergency Funds and Communities Funds were both submitted on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

21/250

**Reports from Village Organisations****(a) Robert Glanville Playing Fields**

No damage has been received from the recent storms or winds. Remedial work as recommended in the annual Rospa report will be completed over the winter months ready for the spring. The tennis club is still meeting although it slows down over the winter months. There was a little vandalism to the signs, these are being replaced. The quiz night scheduled for November has been cancelled.

**(b) Westbury Sub Mendip Village Hall**

Bookings are slowly increasing. A film night took place with a limited audience.

**(c) Footpaths**

No reports were received

**(d) Westbury Community Tree Group**

No reports were received

21/251

**Finance****Bank Balances as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

Current Account £4,884.61

Reserve Account £18,544.22

Budget review July to September 2021

**Receipts**

(a) Hire of a gazebo for one night - £25.00 received 14.09.21

(b) Bank Interest - £0.19 – received 09.09.21

**Payments**

- (c) Hire of the Village Hall by the Parish Council - £18.00
- (d) SLCC Conference Contribution - £75.00
- (e) Clerks Salary – September - £330.98
- (f) Zoom Invoice – August - £14.39
- (g) Mark Smith – Website Administration - £87.51

The Council **RESOLVED** the above payments and receipts

**21/252****Correspondence**

- (a) Councillor Training Courses run by SALC – forwarded 03.09.21
- (b) Virtual Parish Forums hosted by Mendip District Council – forwarded 03.09.21
- (c) Mendip District Council Mendip Monthly – August 2021 – forwarded 09.09.21
- (d) Mendip District Council Member and Parish Bulletin Mendip Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Policies – forwarded 09.09.21
- (e) Invitation to Carbon Literacy Training Events – forwarded 17.09.21
- (f) Link to the next virtual Parish Forum on 12<sup>th</sup> October – forwarded 17.09.21
- (g) Nature Recovery Plan initial consultation by Mendip AONB – forwarded 17.09.21
- (h) Levels Climate Forum SCOP26 – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November – forwarded 20.09.21

**21/253****Matters to report / Items for next agenda**

- (a) Grant Applications
- (b) Traffic Calming
- (c) Removal of overgrown vegetation from areas in the village
- (d) Neighbourhood Plan

**21/254**

**Date and time of next meeting** – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 to be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 9.30pm