

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

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

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

Items were taken out of order from the agenda

**21/276 Welcome by the Chairman**

**21/277 Apologies for Absence**

All Councillors were present

**21/278 Absent**

All Councillors were present

**21/279 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**

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

Cllrs Sue Isherwood and Buffy Fletcher declared an interest in item 21/290 (h)

**(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**

No requests for dispensation as appropriate were received.

**21/280 Public Session**

There was one member of the public in attendance

**21/281 County and District Councillor Reports**

County Councillor Graham Noel was not in attendance and had sent no report. District Councillor Ros Wyke gave a verbal report to Councillors. Main points covered were - elections will take place in May 2022 to select unitary members, the District Council will continue to work alongside until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Other issues mentioned were the greener and fairer priorities will still be continuing, cycle paths are being installed and trees are being planted for the Queens Green canopy. There are also funds available for warmer homes

**21/282 Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator**

The monthly report was issued prior to the meeting and is on the website for viewing. Mark will do a regular article in the Parish Newsletter titled "Website Tips".

- 21/283 To Be Resolved**  
**(f) Agreeing next year's budget and the annual precept**  
Following a discussion, the Council **RESOLVED** to increase annual precept by 20% to £11,995.
- The Council also **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2022/2023, but with the larger expenses it is the intention of the council to seek external funds.
- Cllr Ros Wyke left the meeting at 8.40pm
- 21/284 To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, previously circulated.**  
The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 3<sup>rd</sup> November be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.
- 21/285 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**  
**(a)** The overgrown vegetation around the electricity sub-station on the Square have been cleared.  
**(b)** The notice boards are still being refurbished, but they may need to be relocated.
- 21/286 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) 2021/2572/TCA T1 – Hornbeam Tree – Removal – Spring Cottage, Old Ditch, Westbury Sub Mendip**  
Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council recommended approval.
- 21/287 Planning Applications currently being monitored**  
**(a) Land at 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. Response was received on 22<sup>nd</sup> October saying as soon as something significant happens, the enforcement team will let the council know.  
**(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. As this only tends to happen in the summer, this item will be removed on the next agenda, but will be revisited in the Spring next year.
- 21/288 Policies**  
**(a) Asset List**  
The council **RESOLVED** to accept the Asset List; this will be reviewed annually.
- 21/289 To Be Resolved Continued**  
**(a) Proposal for the Parish Council to organise a talk, (possibly virtually) on the latest fraud scams and how to stay safe.**  
This was discussed and it was considered a possibility for the Annual Parish Meeting in April next year. The speaker will be contacted to see if they would be available.

**(b) Proposal to extend the contract for the village defibrillator**

This was discussed and research on other options will be carried out, this will be brought back to the next meeting.

**(c) Further discussion and possible transfer of the Parish Council Website to a different hosting company.**

This was deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Guy Timson will produce a report on the website.

**(d) Discussion and possible appointment of a solicitor to deal with the legal aspects of receiving a gift of a piece of land within the village.**

The current owner has contacted their solicitors informing them of the gift to the Parish Council. Parish Council solicitors will be appointed once correspondence has been received.

**(e) Discussion and proposal on restarting the Neighbourhood Plan**

The Council **RESOLVED** to set up a steering group to restart the Neighbourhood Plan. Residents within the village will be approached to ask if they are interested in managing the steering group.

21/290

**Clerk's Report**

**(a)** Somerset County Council (Traffic Management) have been contacted with the possible location for a SID within the village, once confirmation has been received the Council will proceed to the next step. Information on the process has been forwarded to Councillors prior to the meeting. **Update** Further locations were discussed and these will be sent to Somerset County Council for approval.

**(b)** Mendip Environmental Services have agreed to add the litter bin situated in the Playing Fields to the schedule where it will be emptied on a regular basis.

**(c)** The Church Commissioners will be holding a public consultation regarding the housing proposals for Roughmoor Lane Field in early January. An exhibition will take place in the village followed by a public meeting. Dates will be published once they have been confirmed. **Update** The public consultation will take place the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022, information will be published once received.

**(d)** Update for Cllr Guy Timson on the Scarecrow competition. **Update** A winner has been chosen and a prize will be delivered in the New Year.

**(e)** An email has been received from a resident regarding the mud left on Moor Lane when the cows are moved and the diabolical state it is being left in. The lane has now become dangerous especially for older folk and people are discouraged from walking the route due to the state of the lane. The request is whether the Parish Council can contact the farmer or whether to report it to Somerset Highways or Mendip District Council. **Update** This will be reported to Somerset Highways as pot holes have appeared making the road dangerous, reference number 595547.

**(f)** A defibrillator awareness course has been arranged for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10am, this will run for about an hour and a half. This is being advertised in the PEW and further details will be published at the beginning of January 2022.

- (g) An email has been received from a resident regarding the significant increase in light emanating from the Lodge Hill Industrial Estate. The older sodium lights have been replaced with extremely bright lighting and is causing some disturbance as the lights are badly angled and are shining into the rear of properties nearby. **Update** Cllr Guy Timson will speak to the company concerned as an initial approach.
- (h) Quarry Farm, Broad Road – An application for prior notification of agricultural development for a proposed extension to an existing agricultural building. The decision dated 30<sup>th</sup> September 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 says that Planning Permission is required. **Update** Cllr Sue Isherwood will speak to the Planning Officer at the AONB for further advice as excavations are being carried out.

**21/291 Reports from Village Organisations**

- (a) **Westbury Community Tree Group** Trees have been planted and are planned to be planted in various places, trees have also been sent to the AONB.

**21/292 Finance**

**Bank Balances as at 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Current Account £1,469.97

Reserve Account £18,544.53

**Receipts**

- (a) Bank Interest £0.15 received 09.11.21

**Payments**

- (b) Zoom Invoice - £14.39 – paid by DD 03.11.21  
 (c) Clerks' salary – November - £330.98  
 (d) Transfer from the Reserve Account - £3,000

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

**21/293 Correspondence**

- (a) Mendip Mid-monthly update for November – forwarded 19.11.21  
 (b) Service cuts on South Western Railway – forwarded 20.22.21

**21/294 Matters to report / items for next agenda**

- (a) Review of Parish Council Newsletter  
 (b) Update on the public consultation regarding the proposed housing development off Roughmoor Lane.

**21/295 Date and time of next meeting – Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm**

Meeting Closed 10.10pm