



01/22-23

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs Buffy Fletcher, Guy Timson, Sue Reece, Sue Isherwood (Chair)

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

**1 Welcome by the Chairman**

**2 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received

**3 Absent**

Cllrs Ros Wyke and Joanne Tucker

**4 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**

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

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.

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

No written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests were received. Cllr Sue Reece has a written dispensation in regard to item 10a,02-23

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

No requests for dispensation as appropriate were received.

**5 Public Session**

There were no members of the public in attendance

**6 County and District Councillor Reports**

County Councillor Graham Noel was not in attendance and had sent no monthly report. District Councillor Ros Wyke was not in attendance and due to purdah, no report had been forwarded.

**7 Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator**

Mark Smith was in attendance and had forwarded his monthly report prior to the meeting.

**12 To Be Resolved/Discussed**

**(a) Proposal to accept the maintenance contract from Tickbox Marketing**

The Council **RESOLVED** not to accept the maintenance contract from Tickbox Marketing but would upgrade the website as and when required, looking to check every quarter.

The Council also **RESOLVED** to pay for an upgrade to the Website at a cost of £650 + VAT.

**8 To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 2nd March 2022**

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from 2<sup>nd</sup> March be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

**9 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**

**(a)** The grant application to Mendip District Council has now been signed and agreed by all parties and payment should be released soon.

## **10 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) 2022/0408/HSE** – Erection of side extension for swimming pool and office. Timber Tops, Hollybrook, Westbury-Sub-Mendip. **Update** Westbury Sub Mendip recommended approval but with the condition that automatic light sensitive blinds are installed on the skylights to conform with the Parish Council Dark Skies Policy.
- (b) 2022/0403/HSE** – Replacement sliding windows the south west elevation. Rose Cottage, Perch Hill, Westbury Sub Mendip **Update** Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council recommend approval as although in the conservation area the new windows were sensitively designed.
- (c) 2022/0456/FUL** Demolition of existing dwelling replaced with single storey dwelling. Shamrock Stables, Lynch Lane, Westbury Sub Mendip. **Update** Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council recommended refusal due to the site being within the AONB and no consideration for the lights being shaded as in line with the Parish Council Dark Skies Policy.

## **11 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. **Update** District Councillor Ros Wyke sent an email on the 8<sup>th</sup> February to the Enforcement Department chasing the situation. A reply has been received stating that the site remains in Breach of Notice and an update from the Legal Team has been requested.

## **12 To Be Resolved/Discussed**

### **(b) Update regarding the joint event with Priddy Parish Council regarding the lighting of a Beacon on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Deer Leap.**

Following a meeting between Cllr Sue Isherwood and the Deputy Chair of Priddy Parish Council, it was agreed that Priddy Parish Council would be the main organiser, although Westbury Sub Mendip have been asked to provide up to 8 people to act as stewards on the evening.

### **(c) Proposal for the Parish Council to cover the cost of the hall hire for meetings run by the Steering Committee Group for the Roughmoor Lane Development.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to cover the costs for the three meetings held in the hall in March, but in future the Steering Committee Group will apply for a grant to cover their costs.

### **(d) Discussions for a new metal Parish Council Notice Board.**

Permission is still sought from the landowner. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

### **(e) To establish responsibility of Erlong Lane and who is responsible for the verges.**

Erlong Lane has become unsafe both to vehicle and pedestrian users and emergency vehicles would be unable to access properties. This will be reported to Somerset County Highways.

**(f) Discussion on the recent public consultation regarding the potential Roughmoor Lane development.**

153 people attended the recent public consultation in the Village Hall. There were lots of debate with constructive and productive conversations. The Church Commissioners will now look again at their plans to include the brownfield site behind Court House Farm. This will take several months and then they will consult again with the community.

**(g) Proposal to agree the date for the Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council meeting for May, possible date Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.**

The Council **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**(h) Proposal to contribute to the Proposal – Westbury Beacon – What to do with the Green Shed being put forward by the Somerset and Bristol Branch Committee of Butterfly Conservation.**

This is not covered under the remit of the Parish Council and Butterfly Conservation Group need to consult with the Heritage Officers at Mendip District Council and Somerset County Council.

**(i) Discussion and review of the Monthly Newsletter**

This was deferred to the next meeting but it was agreed to publish the newsletter every two months instead of monthly.

**(j) Discussion on the village's response to the Ukrainian Crisis.**

Cllr Sue Isherwood wrote an article in the recent Newsletter asking what resources are within the village in helping the refugees coming to the area. Information will be collected and shared with the relevant people.

**13 Clerk's Report**

- (a)** Further information has been received concerning the bright lights on the Lodge Hill Industrial Estate. Within the next few weeks, the lights will be angled down so they don't throw light into the upper floor windows of the houses on the other side of the hedge. This will be monitored for the time being.
- (b)** Further to the last meeting when District Councillor Ros Wyke was contacted to raise an issue formally with Mendip District to clarify whether the further building development at Broad Road Farm is an enforcement issue, no further updates have yet been received.
- (c)** SALC was contacted to request whether other Parish Councils would be interested in sharing a SID. The reply was to contact the surrounding Parish Councils which had already been done.
- (d)** Correspondence was received from a resident who regularly walks down the moor roads. They would like to put on record a thanks to the footpaths officer for the hard work put into restoring the steps along the route from the moor over the railway line and back behind the church into the village.
- (e)** Correspondence was received from a resident in regard to a structure being installed at Shamrock Stables. This was forwarded to the enforcement team on 21<sup>st</sup> March asking whether this is an enforcement issue. A local resident has also submitted a request to open an enforcement case and copied the Parish Council into the email.

- (f) Further to a letter sent to Mendip District Council requesting whether outlying areas can be contacted in regard to their views on licence applications. The response received stated that the application is published on the relevant site, advertised in the press local to the area and sent to the local responsible authority such as the police, fire, etc. As a courtesy they will notify the parish council only where the event is taking place and not any outlying areas.

#### **14 Reports from Village Organisations**

There were no reports as they were being given at the Annual Parish Meeting being held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **15 Finance**

##### **Bank Balances as at 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Current Account £6,088.22

Reserve Account £10,545.02

Quarterly Review for information only

##### **Receipts**

(a) Bank Interest - £0.08 received 9.03.22

(b) HMRC – VAT Reclaim - £904.64 – received 29.03.22

##### **Payments**

(c) Village Hall Hire - £58.50

(d) Clerks' salary – March – £335.92

(e) SLCC Training Seminar - £20.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the above payments and receipts and the Council also **RESOLVED** to accept the additional payments listed below.

(f) Monthly Zoom Payments - £14.39

(g) Purchase of Ink - £14.77

#### **16 Correspondence**

(a) Mendip Parish Forum Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – forwarded 03.03.22

(b) LGR Advisory Board Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> March at Stoke St Gregory, Taunton – forwarded 10.03.22

(c) March Report from Somerset County Council – forwarded 15.03.22

(d) Death of a Senior Figure and Protocols – forwarded 21.03.22

#### **17 Matters to report / items for next agenda**

(a) Cllr Sue Reece and Joanne Tucker were thanked for their time, their input and all their hard work as Parish Councillors as they decided not to re-stand in the local elections.

#### **18 Date and time of next meeting –**

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm in the Village Hall.

Annual Council Meeting followed by the monthly Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 9.45pm