

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom**

**Wednesday 9th September 2020**

**Present Sue Isherwood, Chair**

**Ros Wyke, Deputy Chair**

**Sue Reece, Councillor**

**John Millbank, Councillor**

**Jo Tucker, Councillor**

**Guy Timson, Councillor**

**Buffy Fletcher, Councillor**

**In attendance Mark Smith, Locum Clerk, Website Administrator**

*In the Public Session before the meeting began no matters were raised.*

**MINUTES**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None.

**2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

**2a Declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.**

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 Reece declared an interest in items 12 c iii and iv as a neighbouring landowner.

**2b Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests or personal and prejudicial interests.**

None

**2c Other requests for dispensation as appropriate**

None

**3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th August 2020 were approved.

At this point the Council formally registered its thanks to Chris Harris, the outgoing Clerk.

**4. Co-option for Parish Council Vacancy**

**4a Presentation by Candidate** Buffy Fletcher made a presentation explaining her interest in becoming a Parish Councillor.

**4b Ballot by Council Members** Buffy Fletcher left the room, and a ballot was held which elected her to the Parish Council.

**4c Approval and acceptance of new Member, to include signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Buffy Fletcher returned to the room and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Clerk will provide Cllr Fletcher with the Register of Interests form for her to complete.

**6. Website Update**

Mark Smith, Website Manager, presented a website report. Website maintenance tasks required 8 hours work in July, 4 hours in August.

Discussion followed concerning the pros and cons of having the www.westbury-sub-mendip.org.uk website remaining live and managed by the Friendly Society, while the Parish Council maintains the [www.westburysubmendip-pc.gov.uk](http://www.westburysubmendip-pc.gov.uk) Cllr Reece will discuss the situation with the Friendly Society.

A recent Newsletter had floated the possibility of further Zoom website workshops, but no requests to attend had been received, so no further workshops are planned for the time being.

**7. Emergency Planning Group Update**

The Emergency Planning Group provided a report on latest developments.

The Council thanked the Emergency Planning Group for the regular newsletter they had produced since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council discussed the ongoing aims and objectives for the Newsletter. It is not intended for it to replicate the PEW in any way. However it may have a role in publicising Parish Council business.

**8. Update on impact of Coronavirus pandemic on Parish Council business**

The Playing Field is being well used, and has recently received a good RoSPA safety report.

The community shop has prospered in recent months. A drive to recruit more shop volunteers will be undertaken.

The village hall has started to re-open, but recently announced restrictions may make larger meetings impossible for the time being.

**9. Reports from the Somerset County Councillor and Mendip District Councillor**

No report was received from the County Councillor.

The District Councillor reported on the ongoing unitisation discussions, emphasising that reform, not just re-organisation, was needed.

**10. Local Government Reorganisation**

The Parish Council will discuss a response to issues raised at the next meeting.

**11. Clerk’s Report**

**11a** There was no Clerk’s report as all matters pertaining are covered under various other Items.

**11b** The Virtual Meeting Protocol for Non-Parish Council Users was agreed.

The Protocol will be published on the website.

**12. Planning**

**12a Planning Applications to be considered:**

**2020/1234/FUL Erection of agricultural building and hard standing, Erlon Lane, WSM**

The Council resolved that it had No Objection to this application, on the condition that there was provision for rainwater run-off from the roof and concrete hard-standing. External lighting should be subject to separate planning approval.

**2020/1646/TCA Tree works, Back Lane, WSM**

The Council resolved that it had No Objection to this application. It was agreed that the Council’s former practice of sending of a letter to applicants encouraging the planting of replacement trees should be revived.

**12b Mendip District Council Decisions:**

2020/1196/TCA Ash Tree Farm Tree Works (unseen by Council), No Objection

M1375 TPO x 6, Westbury House, TPO Applied (24 trees)

**12c For general consideration/monitoring:**

i) 2019/1549/FUL Agricultural Buildings, Top Road, any developments – there were none.

ii) 2019/2336/FUL Shamrock Stables, amended application and Planning Board outcome.

The Chair and villager Chris Langdon had represented the community at the MDC planning board on 26 July. The application was approved but with conditions which were to be negotiated with the ward councillor, Ros Wyke.

iii) Land at Lynchcombe Lane, unauthorised occupancy and any developments. None.

iv) Shepherd’s Barn, top of Lynchcombe Lane.

- In response to the Clerk’s query MDC had said that they would get Planning Enforcement to investigate, but as yet there has been no response.

**12d**  The Chair reported that she had been in correspondence with members of St Cuthberts Out

concerning the NALC/SALC request for formal responses to central government’s proposed changes to planning regulations. The discussions were informative and their text should be available to assist the council in its own responses, both through SALC and directly to government. Councillor Wyke urged the council to make representation individually, which needs to be done by late October.

**13. Finance**

**13a Payments to Note**

The following payment from the coronavirus emergency fund to be noted:

• Chris Harris, Zoom subscription (July and August) £28.72

There are no other payments to note.

**13b Payments to Approve**

• Mark Smith, website admin services for July, £120.17, was approved.

**13c To note and discuss account balances as at 30/08/20:**

• Treasurer’s Account £622.76

• Business Bank Account £24,002.82

**13d Zoom Account**

It was resolved to transfer to an annual payment from the current monthly payment.

**14. Green Policies**

**14a Roughmoor Lane Proposal.**

The land owner is not known to have approached Planners yet, though it is understood that bat and other surveys are being undertaken.

**14b Tree Group Report**

A verbal report from the Tree Group on latest developments including the nursery ground clearance day was presented. Consideration should be given to grant applications and the possible use of a polytunnel.

A corporate sponsor may be invited.

**15. The state of parish roadways**

It was resolved that the Parish Paths Liaison Officer should report to the Council on the state of parish paths. The Parish Council will consider the report, along with feedback from other groups, prior to reporting to Mendip D.C.. Means of educating the public in responsible use of paths will be considered.

**16. Traffic and speeding through the village**

The Chairman will forward the Clerk’s correspondence with Cllr Pullin (SCC councillor responsible for minor road works) to Cllr Wyke.

**17. Footpaths Report**

**17a General Report -** this was deferred to next meeting.

**17b Duck Lane/Lodge Hill Footpath Wall**

Cllrs Wyke, Tucker and Millbank will talk to those who may have information about the ownership of the land in question. There is no ownership recorded in the Land Registry.

**17c Court House Farm Footpath**

Cllr Timson reported that fencing and stile quotes had been requested. He was in discussion with Strutt & Parker.

**18 Collapsed Culvert, The Square**

It was reported that there is significant work outstanding. Cllr Tucker will make enquiries about spoil from the works.

**19. Notices**

None.

**20. Items for Next Agenda**

Local government reorganisation,

Paths

Traffic Speed through village

**21. Date of next meeting** –

Currently scheduled for Wednesday 7th October 2020 @ 7.30 p.m. as a virtual meeting via online conferencing facilities.