



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom
Wednesday 7th October 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: Sam Peake, temporary clerk
Colin Booth, footpaths until after item 20/5
Mark Smith, Website administrator until after 20/7

20/1. Apologies for Absence

None

Cllr Isherwood welcomed the interim clerk, Sam Peake.

20/2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

20/2a 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 Wyke on planning application 2020/1678

Cllr Reece in the item 11 c (iii), the Shepherds Barn

20/2b Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests or personal and prejudicial interests.

None

20/2c Other requests for dispensation as appropriate

None

20/3. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th September 2020 were approved to be signed by the Chairman

20/4. Website update

Mark Smith, Website Manager, presented a website report.

The old PC computer will be cleaned of data and offered to local schools in the first instance.

20/5. Footpaths report

The following points were made by the Parish Footpaths Liaison Officer.....

a. General Report

WS13/10 maize crop is about to be harvested and a path was established through it by walkers

WS13/3 and 13/2 has now been harvested

Waymarking on WS 13/10 has been improved and others will be.

Investigations will be made to improve WS13/2 as it is currently difficult and potentially dangerous to access across the old railway line.

13/1 has an illegal fence across it and has been reported to the footpaths officer at SCC

b. Duck Lane/Lodge Hill footpath Wall

This has been made safe but there are some stones needing to be removed. Cllr Isherwood will contact a local farmer for help in removing the stones with volunteers.

c. Court House Farm footpath

There is an illegal fence put up across this path and has been reported to SCC and is due to be inspected

The meeting thanked Mr Booth for all his work on the parish paths

20/6. Emergency Planning Group Update

Cllr Reece provided a report on latest developments. The Friendly Society has helped with funds for printed out updates for those who request them. The majority of the "Eyes and Ears" volunteers are happy to continue. Although the Covid 19 infection rate has doubled, it was extremely low to begin with. It can be difficult verifying information with Mendip. Meeting thanked Cllr Reece and Mick Fletcher for their hard work

20/7. Update on impact of Coronavirus pandemic on Parish Council business

PC continuing to meet remotely

20/8. Reports from the Somerset County Councillor and Mendip District Councillor

SCC Councillor Noel had previously circulated a report.

Cllr Wyke outlined current MDC business including Climate Change Emergency, Consultation on Walking and Cycling, green energy grants, social housing, help with businesses and apprenticeships. Meeting noted that Mendip had the highest percentage of furloughed workers in the County and the highest increase in Universal Credit applications.

20/9. To consider a response to the One Somerset survey and to consider Local Government Reorganisation

a. Presentation from District Councillor Cllr Wyke

Cllr Wyke presented the Stronger Somerset Case which proposed to split the county into 2 Unitary authorities and has been submitted to Central Government

b. Response to SCC consultation

Meeting felt this would not be possible to complete as a council, so each councillor undertook to fill in the questionnaire separately.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes

20/10. Clerk's Report

Nothing to report

20/11. Planning

a Planning Applications to be considered:

2020/1747/TCA Works/Felling trees in a Conservation Area at Bella Vista, Back Lane

Resolved: Members had no objections to this application

2020/1737/FUL Erection of building used as stables and storage at 349142 149302 Wells Road Rodney Stoke

Resolved: Members objected to this application on the grounds that it closes the green gap between Rodney Stoke and Westbury-sub-Mendip, unsafe access off main road and it is a substantial building in open countryside. A proposal for a temporary structure would be more appropriate

2020/1678/REM Reserved matters application following outline approval 2020/0364 the erection of a single storey 2 bedroom dwelling with subterranean garage and ancillary accommodation reserved matter of site/layout/access appearance landscaping scale submitted for approval on land North East of Tor View Top Road

A member of the public spoke against this application.

Resolved: Members objected to this application on the grounds that it was too large, would have a detrimental visual impact in the AONB, inappropriate materials, much larger than the original outline proposal and increased light pollution.

2020/1820/Ful: Change of use from outbuilding to holiday let (C3) and retrospective installation of boiler flue pipe to roof at Westbury House, Church Lane

2020/1621/LBC: Listed building consent as above

Resolved: Members had no objection to this application

b Mendip District Council Decisions:

2020/1700/APP Quarry house granted outline permission

2020/1387/HSE: Hollybrook Bungalow granted permission with conditions

c For general consideration/monitoring:

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

ii) 2019/2336/FUL Shamrock Stables

Ongoing noise nuisance at this property. Cllr Wyke attempted to have conditions imposed on the planning application but with little success. Those affected should fill in diaries and continue to contact Mendip with the details. The Chair's article for the weekly emergency plan parish update will contain this information.

iii) Land at Lynchcombe Lane, unauthorised occupancy and any developments.

Clerk to contact enforcement to advise that unauthorised occupant remains in situ in breach of planning conditions.

iv) Shepherd's Hut and other camping installations in field at top of Lynchcombe Lane.

Mendip enforcement have been contacted regarding this issue, but have not responded so need chasing up.

20/12. Finance

a Payments to Note

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

- Chris Harris, Zoom subscription (September) £14.39

b Payments to Approve

- Mark Smith, website admin services for July, August and September £508.17, was approved.

c To note and discuss account balances as at 31/09/20:

- Treasurer's Account £622.76
- Business Bank Account £24,002.82

20/13. Green Policies

a. Ash dieback and the need to consult landowners on their responsibilities

Deferred to next meeting

20/14. The state of parish roadways

Deferred to next meeting

20/15. Traffic and speeding through the village

Deferred to next meeting

20/16. Collapsed Culvert , The Square

Works are slowly working up the hill.

20/17. To approve the request for a grant from Westbury-sub-Mendip Community Shop

All grant applications to be discussed at the next meeting

20/18. To consider items for the budget for 2021-22

To be discussed at the next meeting

20/19. To consider the Climate Emergency Fund

Resolved: to support the Somerset Wildlife Trust in their bid for this fund

20/20. To consider a response to the Government white paper on proposed planning changes

CLlr Wyke will formulate a response to be circulated

The council also agreed that the response to the NALC consultation on the planning white Paper by St Cuthberts Out PC was very thorough and so it would support it. CLlr Wyke urged the council to also make its own response as otherwise its opinion would not be separately counted. The clerk to write to St Cuthbert's Out.

20/21. Notices

None.

20/22. Items for Next Agenda

Traffic issues

Budget consideration

Green policies – Tree group proposals

Grant applications

20/23. Date of next meeting –

Wednesday 4th November 2020 @ 7.30 p.m. as a virtual meeting via online conferencing facilities.