



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom
Wednesday 4 November 2020**

Present Sue Isherwood, Chair Ros Wyke, Deputy Chair
Sue Reece, Councillor Jo Tucker, Councillor Guy Timson, Councillor
Buffy Fletcher, Councillor

In attendance: Sam Peake, temporary clerk

Mark Smith, Website administrator

20/24. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Millbank

20/25 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Reece on item 20/38

20/25a 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

20/25b Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests or personal and prejudicial interests.

None

20/25c Other requests for dispensation as appropriate

None

20/26 Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7th October 2020 were approved to be signed by the Chairman

20/25. Website update

Mark Smith, Website Manager, presented a website report summarising work carried out. Asset register to be looked at and updated.

Cllr Timson will be happy to become an administrator on the website if appropriate. Other administrators to be contacted to confirm they wish to stay on as admins.

Confirmed that the PC zoom account is available to other organisations and this will be advertised on the website with the protocol

20/26 Footpaths report

a. General Report

Cllr Isherwood, Rachel Hewson and Mick Fletcher met with Kelly Knight from Mendip and reiterated the importance of pathways and highlighted the danger of A371. Note circulated to members.

b. Duck Lane/Lodge Hill footpath Wall

This has been resolved. Thanks to Mick Fletcher, John Millbank, John Finch and Colin Booth for their efforts

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. No further developments.

20/27. Emergency Planning Group Update

Cllr Reece provided a report on latest developments.

Reports sent out on Monday and today. EPG are monitoring situation and update as necessary. Rubbish collection has been erratic. Cllr Wyke will give numbers out.

Cllr Wyke will give a report for the update as to the current situation.

20/28 Update on impact of Coronavirus pandemic on Parish Council business

PC continuing to meet remotely. Shop have reviewed strategy and will continue as before, 2 staff and 2 customers in the shop and encourage people to order and collect.

The Playing field will remain open and the tennis courts locked. It was noted that teenagers are not social distancing. Notices will be put as to the situation in the weekly update.

20/29. Reports from the Somerset County Councillor and Mendip District Councillor

Cllr Wyke provided a report highlighting the Climate Change Emergency Strategy driving green ecology activity, Mendip about to build social housing on the first site. MDC councillors have been briefed regarding the current coronavirus situation. Brexit will be an issue for local businesses. Environmental Agency have identified areas of concern for phosphates running into water. Planning has been effectively halted in these sites until repercussions of the phosphates are determined.

20/30 Clerk Report

Mendip community transport sent a letter thanking WSM for their support.

20/31. Planning

a Planning Applications to be considered:

2020/1646/TCA Fell holly at the Palace, The Square

Cllr Reece declared an interest in this application

Resolved: Members had no objections to this application but with the suggestion of replacing with a native tree on their land if possible

2020/1898/HSE Erection of car port including replacement of greenhouse and garden store

Resolved: Members had no objection to this application

2020/2142/TCA Works to plum cherries at Players House, Wells Road, BA5 1HA

Resolved: Members had no objection to this application with the condition that the tree is replaced with a similar tree elsewhere on the site.

b Mendip District Council Decisions:

2020/1648/TCA: Elm Fell, 27 Back Lane granted permission

c For general consideration/monitoring:

i) 2019/1549/FUL Agricultural Buildings, Top Road, no developments but to monitor

ii) 2019/2336/FUL Shamrock Stables. Records are being kept regarding problems and MDC has been contacted.

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

No further action to be taken on this given the current circumstances for the occupant in the pandemic.

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

Mendip enforcement have been contacted regarding this issue but no action has been taken. It was noted that it was originally a hikers' barn but has now got regular car parking, toilet and shower blocks which appear to be permanent. This is an example of planning creep and members should be mindful of this for future plans in the Parish. Planning training to be undertaken when possible.

(v) Felling of Holm Oaks contrary to refusal of planning permission. There was a lack of information from MDC in this case and the oaks had been felled.

20/32. Finance

a Payments to Note

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

- Chris Harris, Zoom subscription (October) £14.39

Mark and Clerk to try and sort out payment

It was noted that it would be best practice for councillors to have a stand alone e-mail account for parish council business.

b Payments to Approve

- Mark Smith, website admin services will invoice quarterly

As the clerk is only temporary she will invoice the council for payment

c To note and discuss account balances as at 31/10/20:

- Treasurer's Account £1071.48
- Business Bank Account £24,003.22

20/33 To agree Financial Regulations

Clerk to check financial regulations on the website and circulate any changes.

20/34. Green Policies

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

There are dangerous ash trees in the parish and the tree group are putting together something to circulate to landowners. Cllr Dyke will send e-mail to the tree officer at Mendip for advice. Highways may also be contacted. The Parish Council are not responsible as it stands but it is difficult to ascertain responsibilities

b. To consider submitting a grant to the Tree Council on behalf of the Westbury-sub-Mendip tree group

Resolved: to submit a request for a grant to the Tree Council

Clerk expressed concern as to how this is to be paid. The sub-committee need to be regularised and to decide how it is to be organised with relation to the Parish Council. Cllr Isherwood will speak to SALC.

20/35 Traffic and speeding through the village

Mendip Highways have advised that there will be a 20 mph speed limit through the centre of the village. A request has been made for 20 mph on the side roads but this apparently this is unenforceable. Mike Pullin (SCC transport portfolio holder) has promised a letter outlining reasons why the speed limit cannot be extended.

20/36. To consider providing a Speed Indicator Device

Deferred to next meeting

20/37. Collapsed Culvert , The Square

Works have been completed

20/38. To approve the requests for grants for the following:

Cllr Timson declared an interest being chair of the Playing Field Trust and took no part in the discussion and vote.

Robert Glanville Playing Field Trust	£1040.00
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Community Shop	£1500.00
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Resolved: For the grants to be paid

A further grant has been put forward from the Playing Field Trust which will be considered at the next meeting

The Village Shop volunteers were thanked for all their hard work.

20/39. To consider items for the budget for 2021-22

To be discussed at the next meeting

20/40. To consider bids for the Climate Emergency Fund

Some suggestions were put forward for the January bid including a poly tunnel for the tree nursery, solar panels, allotments, electric car charging points.

Meeting agreed to obtain costings.

20/41. Notices

None

20/42. Items for Next Agenda

Grant

Budget consideration

Climate Emergency Fund

SID

20/43. Date of next meeting –

Wednesday 2nd December 2020 @ 7.30 p.m. as a virtual meeting via online conferencing facilities.