



**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom
Wednesday 3rd February 2021**

Present **Sue Isherwood, Chair** **Sue Reece, Councillor**
 Jo Tucker, Councillor **Buffy Fletcher, Councillor**
 John Millbank, Councillor **Guy Timson Councillor**

In attendance: Sam Peake, temporary clerk and Mark Smith, Website administrator

20/86 Apologies for Absence

Ros Wyke

20/87a Declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda.

Cllr Reece has a personal interest in items 20/95 c(iii) and (iv)

20/87b Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests, personal interests or personal and prejudicial interests.

None

20/87c Other requests for dispensation as appropriate

None

20/88 Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 5th January 2021 were approved to be signed by the Chairman

20/89 Website update

a. Mark Smith, Website Manager, presented a website report summarising work carried out.

b. To discuss upgrading the website for Clubs and Societies

Mark produced a paper for a Tickbox update on the website for Clubs and Societies so comments or information can be posted for each club and society. The hope was for subscription lists for each society but this has not been possible and any post would be forwarded to all. Concerns were raised as to how much it would be used as there are a number of ways that each group already communicate. The funds could be better used for other ways of communication such as a newsletter. Other methods of communication were discussed.

Resolved: To ascertain from groups whether they would use the facility and for Cllr Timson and Mark Smith to discuss other ways of communication. Mark to also brief Tickbox. Clubs and Societies will be asked to update their web pages

20/90 Footpaths report

a. General Report

New signs have been installed in Lynch Lane. Cllr Tucker was referred to the PPLO to replace the gate at the end of Roughmoor Lane.

b. Court House Farm footpath

No progress on the stile as yet.

20/91 Emergency Planning Group Update

Report received from Cllr Reece. The Chair will be adding a letter for circulation next week.

20/92 Update on impact of Coronavirus pandemic on Parish Council business

The shop is continuing to do a good job.

Information boards will be put up at some point on the Playing fields as society opens up again.

20/93 Reports from the Somerset County Councillor and Mendip District Councillor

It was reported that Cllr Wyke is promoting the Mendip Parish Forum and any councillor can sign on. Meeting noted that the use of Teams has not been overly successful.

20/94 Clerk Report

Clerk reported that she had attended a Scribe financial package training but would not recommend that Westbury sub Mendip. The small scale of our finances do not warrant a financial package.

Clerk also highlighted the problem of holding meetings beyond 6th May when the law governing parish councils to hold meetings remotely runs out and there are currently no plans to extend the time. This may have implications for holding the Annual Parish Meeting.

20/95 Planning

a Planning Applications to be considered:

2020/0110/TCA Fell Norway Spruce at Clover Hill House, The Square

Members had no objections to this application. It was suggested that applicants refer to the Tree list produced by the tree group which is on the website concerning a replacement.

b Mendip District Council Decisions:

2020/2247/HSE Langdale, Roughmoor lane	Granted permission
2020/2412/TCA Free Hill House, Free Hill	Granted permission
2020/2447/HSE Quarry Cottage	Granted permission
2020/2520/TCA Green Bank	Granted permission

NB 2020/2447/HSE: this is St Cuthberts Out PC.

2020/0364 Erection of single storey dwelling at Tor Road was looked at to see if there had been any decision. Revised drawing in October but no decision as yet. Clerk to enquire as to why the Parish Council have not been consulted as to the revised drawing

C. (i) 2019/1549/FUL Agricultural Buildings, Top Road, no developments but to monitor
ii) 2019/2336/FUL Shamrock Stables

Meeting noted new staff which may alleviate some of the problems. Appeal has not yet been heard

iii) Land at Lynchcombe Lane, unauthorised occupancy and any developments. No current developments

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

No current developments

(v) Felling of Holm Oaks contrary to refusal of planning permission

No current developments

20/96 Finance

a Payments to Note

- Sam Peake, Zoom subscription (January) £14.39
- Information Commissioners Office: £35.00
- SALC (Training) £75.00
- CPRE: £36.00
- SALC (Training) £75.00

b Payments to Approve

Sam Peake, temporary clerk wages: £221.60

c To note and discuss account balances as at 31/01/20:

- Treasurer's Account £2982.27
- Business Bank Account £19694.26

Meeting noted that the Parish Council can be refunded by the Tree Council once all the trees are planted

20/97 To agree Standing Orders 2020-21

Resolved: To agree the Standing Orders as produced with agreed paragraphs removed.

20/98 To confirm bids for the Climate Change Emergency fund

Cllr Isherwood circulated the bid that went in for the fund and the fund administrators have requested further information.

20/99 To receive a report on the St Cuthbert out initiative regarding Unitary authority discussions

The results of the discussion were circulated to council and generally felt to be useful although possibly ambitious. The consensus amongst the parish councils present was to meet again to establish common issues. Preliminary thoughts on common causes included planning consultation, dark skies and speed limits. It was recognised that more administrative support would be needed if extra responsibilities were devolved to Parishes but no indication

of appropriate extra resources. WSM will consider what they would like to take forward for collaboration with other parishes. To be discussed at the next meeting.

20/100 Green policies

The trees have nearly all been planted with plenty of publicity.

The Tree Group have produced a list of trees that should be planted in gardens.

Cllr Fletcher and the Tree Group were congratulated on their success in seeing the project through in difficult circumstances.

20/101 To discuss a Parish wide newsletter

Meeting considered that any newsletter produced should be via e-mail. The "Eyes and Ears" team may be happy to circulate something once a month. GDPR needed to be considered.

Mailchimp was suggested. Curating, collecting and presenting the information is a consideration and generally felt to be an onerous task. Meeting felt that there was not an issue in communication with events in the village. It was suggested that parishioners should be encouraged to use the website. QR codes were suggested and Cllr Timson agreed to produce guidance for QR codes on posters. Meeting felt that the website was the way forward. To be discussed further.

20/102 To discuss the problem of speeding in the side roads of the Parish

Cllr Millbank presented a suggestion for "Road Safety Buddies" for small figures to encourage people not to speed. Although well received, meeting felt that there would be issues of lack of pavements, insurance, cost and theft. However, it was noted that strategically placed scarecrows can help with slowing speeders. It was noted that the 20 mph limit should be introduced on the A371.

Resolved: to promote making scarecrows which could be used on the roads to slow speeding vehicles and to further investigate "20 is plenty" signs and signs made by children. Clerk to contact Priddy for costs of producing children designed signs.

20/103 To discuss action to help implement the Dark Skies policy

Cllr Isherwood had received responses from a number of respondents following the Dark Skies policy newsletter.

Cllr Millbrook had sent a questionnaire to Lodge Hill and Farm Close residents including information explaining that WSM is a dark skies village and the AONB Dark Skies policy. The questions gave three options, should they be removed, replaced with lower level lighting or remain as they are. Although there were some respondents expressed concerns regarding safety should the lighting be reduced, generally there was support for reducing the level of lighting.

Resolved: PC should actively explore if there could be lower level of lighting.

Clerk to contact Highways to establish if it was possible. Cllrs Tessa Munt and Noel to be forwarded the results of the survey. Survey results to go into the newsletter with further information on Dark Skies and the survey on Orion from the CPRE. Lighting on the industrial estate to be queried with Cllr Wyke.

There are several areas in the parish that are causes of concern regarding light pollution.

20/104 To discuss putting forward enforceable road markings/ parking restrictions that need to be subject to a TRO

Councillors to make suggestions for road markings to be discussed at next meeting

20/105 To confirm appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2020-21 audit

Alison Cole to be approached

20/106 To discuss a response to NALC paper on Right to Regenerate

No comments to be made

20/107 Notices

There were none

20/108 Items for Next Agenda

Website update/communications

Dark Skies

Road markings

Discussions for unitary authority common causes

Annual Parish Meeting date

Wednesday 3rd March 2021 @ 7.30 p.m. as a virtual meeting via online conferencing facilities.

Meeting was closed at 10.07 p.m.