



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall

Wednesday 13th November 2019

Present Sue Isherwood, Chair
Ros Wyke, Councillor
Jo Tucker, Councillor
Sue Reece, Councillor
Peter Bright, Councillor
Guy Timson, Councillor

In attendance Chris Harris, Clerk
Three members of the public

Before the meeting proper commenced, two members of the public presented their concerns regarding the appeal which had recently been lodged in reference to planning application 2019/0544/FUL, sui generis application, sale of vehicles, Units 16 & 17, Lodge Hill Estate. They reiterated their previous issues and concerns with this application and their dismay at the lodgement of the latest appeal. Council assured them that it will be responding robustly to the appeal on behalf of local residents and the community at large.

One member of the public gave some additional information regarding the phone box library.

1. Apologies for absence

Mr Colin Booth, Footpath Officer
Cllr Graham Noel, Somerset County Councillor

2. Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

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.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held on 2nd and 16th October 2019

The minutes of both meetings were reviewed, agreed and signed as correct records.

4. Co-Option for Parish Council Vacancy

The Chair noted that, in consultation with MDC's Monitoring Officer, the previous co-option of Wesley Hann had not followed proper procedure and as such his appointment did not stand. The Council had since re-advertised the position and invited Mr Hann to reapply, but he had declined. No other applicants had been forthcoming, thus the vacancy remains. In view of all recent attempts to co-opt another councillor, it was unanimously agreed to revisit the matter next year.

Councillors took this opportunity to welcome Guy Timson to the Council.

5. Presentation and update on works by Richard Olive Community Engagement Manager, Gigaclear

Richard Olive, who had very recently taken over from Ben Stevens as Gigaclear's Community Engagement Manager, gave an update on current works. Since the loss of the ODS contract, a

commercial decision had been made to continue works using the existing infrastructure rather than wholly underground. A cabinet should be in place for the Stoneleigh area early in 2020, with the intention of completing works by the end of March 2020. Various planned road closures have already been notified. Councillors questioned Mr Olive very closely on a number of points and noted the demarcation of provision between competing companies, namely Gigaclear and Truespeed. Mr Olive was thanked for his report.

5. Reports from the Somerset County Councillor and Mendip District Councillor

No reports were presented due to purdah as a result of the general election.

6. Clerk's Report

6a Actions from previous meetings

i) Dog waste bins, footpaths report and interpretation panels are on the agenda for discussion.

ii) Report on condition of Westbury Cross: still no response from SW Heritage.

iii) AutoSpeedWatch pricing update: SCC requirements and MOU was circulated for comment.

Update: the Clerk has since contacted SCC for an update on their requirement which remain the same.

iv) Road safety issues around Westbury Cross: the head teacher was contacted and agreed to notify parents. However, there has been little change in parking behaviour with the road regularly obstructed. Cllr Reece suggested a leaflet campaign in the New Year, and Cllr Bright agreed to regularly monitor the situation.

Action: Cllrs Reece & Bright

v) Speed restrictions: no further progress.

vi) The bank mandate has finally been accepted and various documentation is being sent from Lloyds.

ix) Potholes have been reported in Old Ditch, Lynch Lane and other sites, but have mostly been filled in by SCC highways.

6b Other matters arising

6bi) Extra parking at Stoneleigh – Cllr Bright reported no further progress at this time.

7. Planning

7a Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Chair confirmed that Phil Harvey of Burnham District Council has agreed to present to the Council in the New Year, final date to be confirmed.

Action: Chair

7b Planning Applications

Council considered the following application:

2019/2555/TCA	Tree works, various, West End Cottage, Stoke Road	No objection
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7c Mendip District Council Decisions

Council noted the following MDC decisions:

2019/1748/FUL	Erection of agricultural building, Broad Road	Approved with conditions
2019/2426/APP	Approval of materials (previous application 2018/2055/HSE) Free Hill House	Approved
2019/1240/FUL	Demolition of existing and replacement with 4 bed house, The Chalet, Stancombe Lane	Approved with conditions
2019/2131/TCA	Tree works, Little Orchard, Lynch Lane	Approved
2019/2086/TCA	Tree works, Swallow's Nest, Stations Road	Approved
2019/1165/HSE	Extension and loft conversion, Hillcote, Station Road	Approved with conditions
2019/1382/FUL	Retention of bunding, quarry	Approved with conditions

7e Council considered the following planning application in appeal against refusal:

2019/0544/FUL	Sui generis application, sale of vehicles, Units 16 & 17, Lodge Hill Estate
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Following the earlier presentation from members of the public on this contentious appeal, Council unanimously agreed to write to the Planning Inspectorate (online upload) reiterating all previous points raised in the Council's original objection to this application and that an appeal is still being actioned when an existing planning enforcement (opening hours) is being ignored.

Action: Clerk

8. WSM Phonebox Library

Council requested that their grateful thanks to Mrs & Mrs Dalby of Nut Tree Cottage, who have been managing the phonebox for a number of years, be noted in the records. Cllr Reece has had some discussion with Mr & Mrs Dalby, with the suggestion that the Council take over management completely and/or offer them whatever assistance they require going forward. Clerk to write to Mr & Mrs Dalby to thank them for their stalwart efforts and clarify how the Council should proceed.

Action: Clerk

9. Playing Field/Rail Canopy Interpretation Panels

The Clerk had received a quotation of around £240 (ex VAT) for the panels, and confirmation that the company will be able to reproduce the same images. Council unanimously agreed to proceed with the purchase.

Action: Clerk

10. Dog Waste Bins

Various models of bin were discussed, as were potential installation sites. Clerk to liaise with Sue Church at MDC regarding preferred style and to contact SCC Highways regarding installation sites.

Action: Clerk

11. Footpath review

Council wishes their grateful thanks to Colin Booth be recorded, for his sterling efforts in monitoring the Parish paths, and for his comprehensive report. With regard to Court House Farm path WS/1, various issues concerning access are still ongoing. Clerk to write to SCC ROW and the Church Commissioners regarding proper reinstatement of the path.

Action: Clerk

12. Finance

12a Council noted the following payment had been received:

- Marquee hire (private hire) £25.00

12b Council approved the following payments:

- Essential Clerk training Pt 1 & 2 £60.00
- External Auditor’s fee £96.00

12c Council noted the current Account Balances as of 01/11/19

- Treasurer’s Account £2818.21
- Business Bank Account £20,925.64

13. Budget 2020/21

Review of budget targets and precept planning to be carried forward to the next meeting.

14. Any Other Business/ Items for Next Agenda

14a Marquee hire process to be carried forward to the next meeting.

15. Date of next scheduled meeting – Wednesday 8th January 2020 @ 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

Signed.....Chair of the Parish Council Date.....

