

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 5th October 2022**

Present: Guy Timson, Sue Isherwood (Chair), Buffy Fletcher, Ros Wyke Ellie Metcalf

In attendance: Kate Egan – Parish Clerk

Items were taken out of order from the agenda

1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Adam Euripidou

3 Absent

No Councillors were absent

4 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

(a) To receive declaration of interests from Councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Sue Isherwood declared an interest in item 11 (c), Cllr Buffy Fletcher declared an interest in items 11 (c), Cllr Guy Timson declared an interest in item 11 (a)

(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

No written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests were received

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

Cllr Guy Timson requested a dispensation in relation to item 11 (a), Cllrs Buffy Fletcher and Sue Isherwood requested a dispensation in relations to 11 (c)

5 Public Session

There was one member of the public in attendance

6 County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Ros Wyke gave a verbal report mentioning levelling up bids, phosphates, licences, planning and the Strawberry Line. Mendip District Council are operating as usual up to 1st April 2023.

County Councillor Heather Shearer sent her apologies. County Councillor Ros Wyke gave a verbal report regarding the new CEO of Somerset County Council has now started. Work is still going on to align all the services, budgets and departments for vesting day, Most importantly the 126 bus has been funded for six months to run between Wells and Axbridge only.

7 Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator

Mark Smith was not in attendance; a monthly report had been sent out prior to the meeting

8 To confirm the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 5th September 2022, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 5th September be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

9 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

There were no matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

10 Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered.

(a) 2022/1906/TCA T1 – Silver Birch Crown reduce by 2m. T2-Acer Crown reduce by 3m. Works required as both trees are large and close to several properties. 25 Back Lane, Westbury Sub Mendip **Update** Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council recommended approval

11 Grants

(b) Application from the Community Shop - £2,300.00

Further details were required so this was deferred to the next meeting

(a) Application from Robert Glanville Playing Field for £1,625.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the grant for £1,625.00. The Chair of the Robert Glanville Playing Field thanked the Parish Council

(c) The Strawberry Line Association - £1035.80

The Council agreed in principle but queried the cost of the bench, this was deferred to the next meeting.

12 To Be Resolved/Discussed

(a) Proposal and discussion on the proposed response to the Local Community Network Consultation

There was a long discussion on the various proposals, and questions. Cllr Sue Isherwood will compile a reply to be passed by Councillors before the deadline of 17th October

(g) Proposal for the Parish Council to write formally to Wells City Council / Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group asking about the lack of consideration for the surrounding rural area need.

The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ros Wyke will compose a letter with Cllr Sue Isherwood for the Parish Clerk to forward on to the Chair of the group.

Cllr Ros Wyke left the meeting at 21.06pm

(b) Proposal to consider the response from the Parish Council to the questionnaire from Somerset County Council in providing warm spaces

The Council chose not to complete the questionnaire from Somerset County Council due to the short deadline, but a discussion was held of warm spaces within the village. There are discussions over public and private buildings to be used and the idea of forming social groups so people can meet in the warm.

(c) Proposal to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and the Parish Clerk to sign the document on behalf of the Parish Council

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Westbury Sub Mendip Parish Council and South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and the Parish Clerk to sign on behalf of the Parish Council.

(d) Proposal to accept the proof from Signscape and Signconex for the new noticeboard at a cost of £1559.32

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the proof from Signscape and Signconex for the new noticeboard at a cost of £1559.32 including VAT

(e) Proposal to apply for a Section 171 permit for three locations for dog waste bins at the at a cost of £250 per permit totalling £750.00 plus costs of the dog bins.

This was deferred to the next meeting

(f) Discussion and proposal for a location to install the refurbished noticeboard that was previously situated at Stoneleigh on the wall.

Various locations were discussed as a wall is required. Cllr Guy Timson will ask whether one can be installed within or near the entrance of the industrial estate.

13 Clerk's / Councillors Report

(a) Following a request to extend the operating times of the flashing lights outside the school, Traffic Management at Somerset County Council unfortunately have replied this is not possible although the thirty-minute slots can be 'moved' to coincide with the times when motorists can expect to see the highest number of schoolchildren on and around the highway.

(b) Update from Cllr Guy Timson on the initial meeting with Councils discussing traffic issues along the A371 **Update** Cllr Guy Timson had sent his apologies for the virtual so Cllr Sue Isherwood gave an update on what was discussed. The opinion was that the meetings are worthwhile and will carry on.

(c) Update from Cllr Sue Isherwood on the Steering Group in regard to the Smart Communities Community Plan **Update** the Steering Group are also the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and will use the information provided to help with the Neighbourhood Plan.

(d) Update from Cllr Sue Isherwood on the Neighbourhood Steering Group following the recent meetings. **Update** The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is made up of 50% Councillors and 50% residents. The Council noted the membership and wished it every success. All agendas and minutes of meetings will be posted on the Parish Council Website.

(e) Update from Sue Isherwood regarding the cancellation of the 126 buses between Weston Super Mare and Wells. **Update** A new bus company has been appointed to run the route for the next six months supported by a grant from Central Government and funding from Somerset County Council.

(f) Update from Cllr Adam Euripidou on whether the Community Centre at Stoneleigh can be used as a warm space during the cold weather **Update** An update will be issued at the next meeting as Cllr Adam Euripidou was not able to in attendance.

(g) Update from Cllr Ellie Metcalf on information regarding installing a community fridge within the village. **Update** Cllr Ellie Metcalf gave a verbal update but more information needs to be researched, this will be brought back to the next meeting.

14 Reports from Village Organisations

(a) Footpaths

There was no update

(b) Westbury Tree Group

Westbury Tree Group are holding an open day on Saturday 15th October

(c) Robert Glanville Playing Field

The Committee are looking at replacing fences that keep being blown over with stockproof fencing and hedges. Tree saplings have been donated from the Woodland Trust. Monies have been received from Glastonbury Festival after providing stewards.

(d) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

15 Finance**Bank Balances as at 27th September 2022**

Current Account £4,029.09

Reserve Account £22,542.39

Quarterly Budget Review This was noted by the Councillors

Approval and signing of the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Quarterly Bank Reconciliation and it was signed by the Chair.

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - £0.96 – received 09.09.22 by DD

(b) Hire of village marquee - £25.00 – received by bacs 12.09.2

Payments

(c) Village Hall – Hall Hire - £40.00

(d) Clerks Salary – September – £326.32

(e) HMRC – September - £9.60

Possible Additional Payments

(f) Signscape and Signconex – new noticeboard - £1,559.32

(g) Robert Glanville Playing Fields - £1,625.00

(h) Community Shop - £2,300.00

(i) The Strawberry Line Association - £1,035.80

Transfer

(j) Transfer from the Reserve Account to the Current Account - £5,000.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above apart from the Community Shop and the Strawberry Line Association (h and i) as grants had not been approved earlier on in the meeting.

16 Correspondence

(a) Invitation to the Mendip Parishes Liaison Group Meeting to be held at Doultling Village Hall on Thursday 29th September.

17 Matters to report / items for next agenda

There were no matters to report or items for the next agenda

18 Date and time of Next meetings –

Monday 17th October at the Village Hall, 6pm

Wednesday 16th November or Wednesday 7th December to be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm, this will be confirmed nearer the date