

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 4th January 2023**

Present: Guy Timson, Buffy Fletcher, Ros Wyke, Sue Isherwood (Chair), Adam Euripidou, Ellie Metcalfe

In attendance: Kate Egan – Parish Clerk was in attendance via zoom

1 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

2 Apologies for Absence

All Councillors were in attendance

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

There were no declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

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

No written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests were received

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

No requests for dispensation as appropriate were received

5 Public Session

There were three members of the public in attendance. Subjects covered were the formation of the Unitary Council on 1st April when all services will continue as normal.

One member of the public was concerned about the state of public toilets in Wells.

District Councillor Ros Wyke confirmed that the cleaning contract was out sourced, but that she would raise the matter at Mendip.

6 County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Ros Wyke was in attendance and gave a verbal report. She confirmed that the current Mendip Local Plan would remain in place until 2023 at least.

County Councillor Ros Wyke was in attendance and gave a verbal report concerning the budget and the new bus scheme that is running for the next few months.

County Councillor Heather Shearer sent her apologies

7 Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator

Mark Smith was in attendance and had sent a report out prior to the meeting. Mark Smith will confer with Cllr Sue Isherwood regarding changes to the website, the ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.

8 To confirm the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 7th December 2022, previously circulated

Following an amendment, the Council **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes for 7th December be accepted as a true record. The minutes will be signed at the next meeting as the amended copy was not to hand.

9 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were 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.

No planning applications have been received to be considered

11 To Be Resolved/Discussed

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

The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase three section 171 permits for dog waste bins and also **RESOLVED** to purchase the bins for installation. The Parish Clerk will start the process of obtaining the permits.

At this point the internet failed, the Parish Clerk was cut off from Zoom and was unable to re-join.

The meeting continued with no clerk in attendance, the following part of the meeting was recorded by a Councillor.

(b) Proposal for the Parish Council to take the Pledge for the Civility and Respect Project

As the Clerk was not in attendance, this was deferred to the next meeting.

(c) Proposal to approve the annual budget for 2023-2024 and set the Precept to be applied for

Cllr Ros Wyke went through the budget for 2023/2024, no amendments were made and the difference would come out of reserves. The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the precept by 5% to £12,594.75

12 Clerk's / Councillors Report

- (a) Update from Cllr Ellie Metcalfe on installing a community fridge within the village
Update Following a discussion it was agreed to not follow through with a community fridge for the village as it would not be viable as it was too small a community and there were other ways to support those within the community.
- (b) The new stretch of the Strawberry Line is now open to walkers, this is around 1KM of new path between Station Road and Erlong Lane. **Update** A discussion followed this concerning the Strawberry Line, it was noted that residents were already using it. Footpaths in general were also touched upon

13 Finance

Bank Balances as at 21st December 2022

Current Account £4,262.09

Reserve Account £17,549.20

Quarterly Review – This was noted by Councillors

Approval of Quarterly Bank Reconciliation – This was deferred to the next meeting due to bank statements not being available.

Receipts

(a) Bank Interest - £4.01 – received 09.12.22

(b) HMRC - overpayment £323.85 – received 08.12.22

Payments

(c) ICO – Annual Subscription - £35.00 – pd by DD 15.01.23

(d) Westbury Sub Mendip Village Hall – Hall Hire - £20.00

(e) SLCC – Annual Membership - £44.25

(f) Clerks Salary for December – £346.86

(g) HMRC – December - £14.80

(h)

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above receipts and payments; the paperwork will be signed by Councillors at the next meeting.

14 Reports from Village Organisation**(a) Footpaths**

This was covered under item 12 (b) whilst discussing the Strawberry Line

(b) Westbury Tree Group

Cllr Buffy Fletcher gave a verbal report. A planting session is arranged for 21st and 22nd January to start planting 2,000 trees with completion over time.

(c) Robert Glanville Playing Field

Quotes are being obtained for work in regard to the fences blown down in the storm. The gate in the north east corner is being replaced. There are various ongoing maintenance issues. The Committee will hopefully be providing stewards at the next Glastonbury Festival.

(d) Village Hall

Volunteers are needed to help with organising the film programme and run the events.

(e) Community Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The next meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening where they are hoping to sign off a number of initial documents, including a clear description of the Neighbourhood Plan process for the community and a pilot questionnaire to test out what subjects most concern villagers now and for the next 10 years.

(f) Strawberry Line Association

This was covered under item 12 (b)

15 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note

16 Matters to report / items for next agenda

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

17 Date and time of Next meeting – Date to be confirmed but the meeting will be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Following the meeting it was decided the next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 31st January as the Clerk is away on the 1st February.

Meeting closed, 9.05pm