



57/23-24

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 7th June 2023, starting at 7.30pm**

Present: Guy Timson, Buffy Fletcher, Ros Wyke, Adamos Euripidou, Sue Isherwood (Chair), Penny Colwill, Maggie BeeBee

In attendance: Kate Egan – Parish Clerk was in attendance

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

All Councillors were present.

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 was no declaration of interests from Councillors on items on the agenda.

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

Cllr Sue Isherwood has a written request for dispensation in relation to the Village Hall matters for four years (expires May 2027).

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

There were no requests for dispensation as appropriate.

5 Public Session

There were four members of the public in attendance. A potential MP was in attendance observing to gain an oversight of the issues within Westbury Sub Mendip. A resident was in attendance to voice concerns about planning application 2023/0738/HSE which was discussed under item 10 (a) and (b). Concerns were raised about the state of the roads by a new housing development on the edge of Wells, these will be passed to Somerset Highways by Somerset Councillor Ros Wyke.

6 Somerset Councillor Reports

Somerset Councillor Heather Shearer sent her apologies.

Somerset Councillor Ros Wyke was in attendance and gave a verbal report. Subjects covered were recruitment of staff, demands on adult and children services, mental health, Ofsted being carried on schools in the county, purchase of homes for children with learning difficulties, active travel, the Strawberry Line, social housing and the new county tree strategy.

7 Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator

Mark Smith was in attendance and had sent his report prior to the meeting. He spoke about the benefits of the training as it would make the site more interactive. A free cookie plug in has been installed for GDPR and Data Protection, but it causing problems, Mark will refer to Tickbox Marketing for advice and whether a different one is required.

12 To Be Resolved / Discussed**(e) Proposal to accept costs for further training on WordPress for the website**

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the costs for training on WordPress provided by Tickbox Marketing at a cost of £375 + VAT. Members of community groups will be asked if they wish to attend, the training will hopefully be held in the Autumn.

8 To confirm the minutes of Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd May, previously circulated

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the Annual Council Meeting and the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd May 2023 be accepted as a true record, these were signed and dated by the Chair.

11 Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council

(b) 2022/1945/REM Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 2020/0364/OTA for the erection of a single dwelling. Matters of access / appearance / landscaping / layout / scale to be determined. Land North East of of Tor View, Top Road, Westbury Sub Mendip. **Update** This planning application has been referred to the next planning board taking place on Tuesday 4th July. Cllr Buffy Fletcher will attend to represent the Parish Council.

9 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

(a) The dog waste bins have been delivered, Cllr Adamos Euripidou is hoping to install them soon although one of the bins may be sited in a different location.

(b) No response has been received from the Improvement Scheme Delivery Team regarding extra signage on the roads.

(c) A request had been received to install “20 is plenty” signs below the 30mph signs on the main road but the poles do not belong to the Parish Council. Signs could be installed on their own property.

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) 2023/0739/LBC Conversion of existing garage and construction of link to existing residential annex. Crow Farm, Crow Lane, Westbury Sub Mendip.

Recommendation The Council recommended **REFUSAL** due to the significant impact it would have on a neighbouring property, over development and it would be detrimental to the setting of a listed building.

(b) 2023/0738/HSE Conversion of existing garage and construction of link to existing residential annex. Crow Farm, Crow Lane, Westbury Sub Mendip.

Recommendation The Council recommended **REFUSAL** due to the significant impact it would have on a neighbouring property, over development and it would be detrimental to the setting of a listed building.

(c) 2023/0793/FUL Erection of utility barn for horse management purposes with part agriculture use. Land at 350640 148983 Lynchcombe Lane, Westbury Sub Mendip.

Recommendation The Council recommended **REFUSAL** due to the size and scale of the building, it is outside the development area, would be visible from the Mendip Hills and the justification for agriculture use. A condition will be requested to prevent the infill of the walls, screening to be included and consideration for the Parish Council Dark Skies policy.

11 Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council

(a) Beech – Fell, Ash Tree – Crown by 6m, Confier x 2 – Fell. 1 Broadhay, Westbury Sub Mendip. **Decision** This is a notification only and in line with Somerset’s Constitution and the adopted scheme of delegation and terms of reference, the decision for this application is delegated to the Planning Officers.

12 To Be Resolved / Discussed

(a) Proposal to accept the Annual Insurance for 2023-2024 and agree the payment

The Council **RESOLVED** for the Annual Insurance to be covered by Zurich at a cost of £363.00

(b) To appoint a Councillor to represent the Parish Council at the Local Community Network Meetings.

The Council appointed Cllr Sue Isherwood as the Parish Council representative at the Local Community Network meetings, but is unable to attend the first one on 29th June, so representation will be made by Cllr Adamos Euripidou

(c) Proposal to renew the annual subscription to the Countryside Charity (CPRE), annual membership has increased from £36 to £60.

The Council **RESOLVED** to renew the annual subscription to the Countryside Charity for £60. The contact address will be changed to Cllr Sue Isherwood.

(d) To appoint a Councillor for Health and Wellbeing and join a local network being set up to improve provision in the area.

Cllr Guy Timson was appointed as the Councillor for Health and Wellbeing and his contact details were passed on.

(f) Proposal for the Parish Council to write to Somerset Council and request that special planning specifications are considered such as the Parish Council Dark Skies policy when accepting planning applications

The Council **RESOLVED** to write to Somerset Council via Somerset Councillor Ros Wyke requesting that special planning specifications are considered such as the Parish Council Dark Skies policy when accepting planning applications.

(g) Proposal for the Parish Council to write to Priddy Parish Council noting the concerns of residents from Westbury Sub Mendip in regard to the closure of the footpaths across Yoxter Range, and whether they are willing to hold the licence and if they are intending any further action.

The Council **RESOLVED** to write to Priddy Parish Council noting the concerns of residents from Westbury Sub Mendip in regard to the closure of the footpaths across Yoxter Range. The letter will be sent to the Chair of Priddy Parish Council.

(h) Following receipt of an email from Lichfield containing a reply to the response following the last meeting the Parish Council have been requested to make a decision as to where the preferred location for the Community Building could be sited, the barns outside the development off Roughmoor Lane, or within the development itself.

The Council were unable to make a decision as they were still in consultation with local community groups. Cllr Sue Isherwood proposed a letter was sent in conjunction with the Parochial Church Council to the Church Commissioners and the land agents Strutt and Parker. This was approved.

Ros Wyke left the meeting at 9.25pm

13 Clerk's Report

(a) There was nothing to report

14 Finance**Bank Balances as at 30th May 2023**

Current Account £1,194.72

Reserve Account £30,194.19

Receipts**(a)** Bank Interest - £14.14 – received 09.05.23**Payments****(b)** Clerks Salary and Expenses - £432.58**(c)** Annual Zoom Subscription - £143.88 – pd by DD**Transfers****(d)** Transfer of £5,000 from the reserve account to the current account

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments and receipts.

15 Correspondence**(a)** Somerset Council Liberal Democrat Group Report for May 2023 – forwarded 04.05.23**(b)** Wells and Rural Area LCN Board meeting will take place on Thursday 29th June at 7pm in Priddy Village Hall.**(c)** Councillor Training – Summer Dates 2023 – forwarded 25.05.23. Cllr Maggie Beebee has booked a place on Roles and Responsibilities.

Adamos Euripidou left the meeting at 9.31pm

16 Matters to report / items for next agenda**(a)** Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**17 Date and time of Next meeting – Wednesday 5th July 2023 to be held in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.**

Meeting closed 9.34pm