

**WESTBURY SUB MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL**

**6th December 2023**

**Present;** Cllrs Sue Isherwood, Ros Wyke, Guy Timson, Buffy Fletcher, Maggie Beebee, Penny Colwill.

**In attendance:** Mrs D Boulton, Locum Clerk.

1. **The Chairman** welcolmed all to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllr Adamos Euripidou, SCllr Heather Shearer. Reasons accepted.
3. **Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**
4. **To receive declaration of interests from Councillors on items on the agenda**
5. **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).

1. **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate**
2. **Public Session.** Three members of the public present, no comments.
3. **Somerset Councillor Reports.** Cllr Wyke (Somerset Ward Councillor) Reported that the good news that the bus 126 service has been saved with additional funding and an improved timetable, now going all the way to Weston again.Overall Somerset Council has increased bus services bettering service since before Covid. All to encourage use. The national story for Councils’ financial issues continues with pressure in Somerset for both Adult and Childrens Services. Nationally it is expected that 7/10 councils will not be able to put a budget together. Somerset is working hard to avoid this situation, making huge savings and selling assets and reducing services. Parish Councils may be able to help by providing cleaning of bus shelters, cleaning road signs and similar services. £120million of regeneration projects across Somerset are in place and it is hoped to continue with Glastonbury and Bridgwater Town Deals. Flooding has affected many homes and roads across Somerset with the very heavy fall and more to come. There has been a challenge meeting with Bristol Water regarding complaints on leakage and quality and working on how to help people who need it.
4. **Somerset Assets and Service Devolution.** Clerk to find out what services are provided to Westbury-sub-Mendip to ascertain which could be provided by this Council.
5. **Local Community Network Report.** A financial update for Somerset Council was given. Plus an update on Active Travel. There was also a presentation from the Volunteer Network at Glastonbury. (Denise -was there an update on progressing the ROW conections projec suggested atrthe previous meeting? Colin Booth is keen to progress.)
6. **Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator.** Report circulated. It was confirmed that training and new email addresses will be dealt with once the new Clerk is in place.
7. **The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st November 2023, were agreed as a true record with one amendment.**
8. **Planning Applications –** 
   1. **2023/1401/HSE The Old Vicarage, School Hill, Westbury-sub-Mendip.** Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary residential accommodation. Refusal was recommended on the first application as Westbury-sub-Mendip has a 'dark skies' policy. Although the roof light and windows appear to have been upgraded we believe no provision has been made to prevent light pollution. Refusal is again recommended.
   2. **2023/1402/LBC The Old Vicarage, School Hill, Westbury-sub-Mendip.** Conversion of outbuilding to ancillary residential accommodation. Refusal was recommended on the first application as Westbury-sub-Mendip has a 'dark skies' policy. Although the roof light and windows appear to have been upgraded we believe no provision has been made to prevent light pollution. Refusal is again recommended.
9. **Planning Applications – Responses.** None received.
10. **Neighbourhood Plan.** 
    1. **Resolved** to accept and forward the Character Assessment Document to Somerset Planners for consideration**.**
    2. **Summary of results of community consultation on community facilities** is indicative, even if those of 30 years and under did not respond proportionately.
    3. **Resolved for the Council to apply for funding to enable Neighbourhood Plan housing needs survey.**
11. **Brownfield Site. Resolved that an independent valuation to be sought. Also resolved** that the siting of the 0.1 hectare of community land should be positioned in the NE corner of the Greenfield site, adjacent to the brownfield site .This is in accordance with the community recommendation. Thanks to the Neighbourhood Plan Group.
12. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan to be discussed.** Suggestions from Colin Booth were noted and **i**nformation to be provided to the next LCN meeting.
13. **Community Grants –** deferred to January meeting.

**Playing Field**

**Village Hall**

**Village Shop**

**Westbury-sub-Mendip Footlights**

1. **Appointment of new Clerk.** It is hoped that a new Clerk will be able to start in January.
2. **Clerk’s / Councillors Report** 
   1. **Resolved to purchase a new Parish Council laptop**
   2. **Resolved to appointment Probusiness of Wells as Internal Auditors**
   3. **Parking Amendment Order.** No comments or action required.
   4. **Training –** Buffy Fletcher attended online training for Risk Assessment.
   5. **Enforcement report.** One report regarding development has been confirmed as having permission. Noise and vibration from the quarry has increased and complaints received. Clerk to write to Somerset.
   6. **Highways/rainwater drainage/local flooding.** Several reports received and forward to Somerset Council.
3. **Finance**
   1. **The Budget/Precept for 2024/2025. Resolved** to set the budget at £28,860.00. All in favour. Cllr Wyke thanked for her work on this.
   2. **Bank Balances as at ­­­­­12th November 2023**

Current Account £6628.40

Reserve Account £20313.81

* 1. **Expenditure approved.**

Village Hall £50.00

Backdated salary (previous Clerk) £162.24

Postage £11.00

LB Planning £2850.0

* 1. **Receipts**

Bank Interest October £18.81

* 1. Bank Interest November £22.40
  2. **Noted new NJC Scales.**

1. **Correspondence**
   1. **Somerset** – Changes to waste collections - circulated
   2. **Somerset Rivers Authority draft strategy** circulated
   3. **Willow Man Briefing Note -** circulated
2. **Verbal Updates from Community Groups –** deferred.
3. **Matters to report / items for next agenda**

**Date and time of Next meeting –** Wednesday 3rd January 2024 7.30pm to be held in the Village Hall.