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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on**

**Wednesday 2nd October 2024, starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:** CllrsSue Isherwood,Guy Timson, Buffy Fletcher, Penny Colwill, Maggie Beebee

**In attendance:** Rachel Spiller, Clerk, Somerset Cllr Heather Shearer

Public – 2 members present.

**1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr Adamos Euripodou, Cllr Ros Wyke (also Somerset Cllr)

**3.**  **Absent.** None

**4. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

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

Cllr Beebee also has a written request for dispensation in relation to the Village Hall matters

Cllr Ros Wyke declared an interest as a Somerset Councillor.

Cllr Guy Timson declared an interest in the Brownfield Site.

All Parish Council members of the Neighbourhood Plan have an ongoing dispensation

Cllr Fletcher declared an interest in planning application 2024/1619/TCA

**Action: Clerk awaiting new updated declarations of interests for some of the remaining councillors.**

**Clerk to check whether Cllr Fletcher should declare interest in Brownfield site, due to the Tree Nursery being on adjacent land.**

**5. Public Session –** Colin Booth, Rights of Way and Footpaths Officer, spoke on agenda item 19, for which he circulated a report to all councillors outlining his concerns regarding the design of Deer Leap proposals, the impact of parking and obstruction of the road if the height barrier is introduced and regarding the way the consultation itself has been conducted. He also highlighted the interference with historic rights of way and questioned whether the designs are incongruous with the rural nature of the site. The National Landscapes Authority should also discuss with the Highways Authority regarding any impact on the rights of way in this area.

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports.**

Cllr Heather Shearer reported that the council is still working through the financial challenges and is carrying out a restructuring of posts - only balanced the budget this year because of using reserves and sale of assets. Police and Crime Commissioner consultation has gone out and we are all encouraged to take part, plus another consultation on Family and Children’s Services and SEND services. The council would also like to make people aware that there is a great need for more foster carers in this region.

**7. Local Community Network Report.**

Cllr Fletcher reported that she attended LCN Flooding meeting on Monday. Updates are in agenda item 15. Cllr Fletcher and Cllr Colwill attended the LCN Highways group meeting. Discussion on speed limits, to create 20mph zone would cost £7500, so not within Parish Council budget. Speed indicator display is also a possibility, could be in conjunction with Priddy or Rodney Stoke. Volunteers taking Chapter 8 training was also discussed. Clerk has circulated annual LCN report.

**Action: Clerk to put message in Pew regarding reporting of pot holes to Highways Authority, as the Parish Council is not responsible for this. Also to find out if anyone in village has Chapter 8 training.**

**Action: Cllr Shearer to find out if the Chapter 8 Lite training gives any insurance cover**

**8. Report from Mark Smith the Webmaster Administrator.**

Tickbox training awaiting date in November. Cost will be £375 plus VAT for three hours. Anyone representing a group can attend. Mark Smith now has new Gmail address and will put it in the Pew as the contact for website matters.

**Action: Clerk to agree training date with Tickbox and circulate to village groups and put in November Pew**

**9. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th September 2024, were agreed as true record and signed**

**10. Planning Applications**

* **2024/1425/HSE at Kites Croft Little Field Lane**

Replacement single storey rear extension

**Passed – No Objection**

* **2024/1556/HSE at Land At 350021 148604 Duck Lane**

Refurbishment of Existing barn conversion

**Recommended for Refusal due to neighbour objections but suggestion to be made of more discussion with neighbour and of moving the flue to other side of apex or making it taller to reduce smoke pollution.**

* **2024/1619/TCA at 5 Broadhay Westbury Sub Mendip** – notification only – Works/Felling Trees in a CA

**Passed but noted that there is some concern about how roughly the work was done last time.**

**11. Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Somerset Council**

**a.** None received

**b.** **2013/0055 Enforcement enquiry re: bright 24 hr lighting on Perch Hill Vineyard agricultural building in Top Road.**

**Action: Clerk to write to Enforcement about how to contact owners who live outside of the village.**

**12. Roughmoor Lane Housing Development**

Planning permission likely to be issued in November at which point a formal response can be made.

**13.** **Neighbourhood Plan**.

Smaller local consultation meetings/focus groups being organised to particularly include villagers who don’t come to the general meetings to get their views. The next public meeting will be in the Village Hall on 16 October.

**14. Brownfield site development working group.**

Letter received from Victoria Barrett-Mudhoo summarising the proposals put forward at the last meeting and the Church Commissioners will be in touch once the matters have been discussed at head office.

**Action: Cllr Isherwood to forward letter from Church Commissioners to Clerk**

**15. Flood Mitigation – update**

Drains on Back Lane have been cleared and with the recent heavy rain it was clear that some drains are not in right place. Need for village to be divided up so that drains in all locations are checked. Cllr Fletcher suggested getting the people who spoke at LCN meeting to speak to community at the Village Hall and suggested making people aware of products available for the home. Reporting flooding to Wessex Water and Environment Agency is essential as action will be taken by Council if 10 homes or more are flooded.

**Action: Cllr Fletcher to find a date for speakers on flooding to visit and book Village Hall**

**16. External Lighting - update**

Concern about the various light sources of various types on different premises causing concern to local residents, such as motion sensors.

**Action: Cllr Wyke to draft a statement to put in the Pew about light pollution in the village and Dark Skies policy**

**17. Dog Bins**

Council emailed to say they **could** empty third dog bin in the location suggested at the last meeting on Roughmoor Lane at the entrance to the housing estate on other side of the road from the playing field. Next step is to get the permit from the council, as it is on a roadside location.

**Action: Clerk to contact council regarding permit for dog bin**

**18. Complaints from villagers**

Dogs barking at 5.30am at Shamrock Stable site and setting off other dogs in the village. This has been causing complaints from villagers and from users of the camp site adjacent which is in Rodney Stoke parish.

Complaint about overgrown footpath from pub to Crow Lane. This is a matter for the private landowner to deal with.

Overgrown grit bin in the Square – **The PC RESOLVED to pay for bush to be cut back**.

**Action: Cllr Fletcher to send Ian Medcalf’s contact information to Clerk**

**Action: Clerk to email clerk of Rodney Stoke Council about dog barking**

**19. Deer Leap Development Proposal – including public consultation.**

Councillors raised concerns that campervans staying overnight are leaving sewage waste which is part of the reason for height barriers but imposing it could cause a problem outside the site instead, such as parking and blocking the road. The proposals were considered to make the site more accessible for wheelchair users, however and the picnic benches could encourage people to use the area more.

The PC **RESOLVED** to feed back that they consider the public rights of way and bridleway should be clearly marked and maintained/ kept clear. Also to consider that this is a natural site and plans should be sensitive to this and not detract from the view or rural nature of the area. Accessibility and Health and Safety should also be considered.

**Action: Clerk to draft response and send to Cllr Isherwood for approval**

**20. Highways.**

Concern that council not giving enough notice of road closures and inadequate information on signage. Building project on Drappel Lane causing concerns from villagers re: access. Not a PC matter, rural village, farming community, informal conversations only.

**Action: Clerk to contact Highways to register PC’s concerns and establish what governs notifications**

**21. Community Grants**

Advert put in Pew, closing date of 30th October, so will be considered at November meeting

**22. Clerk’s Report**

Budget overspent due to previous year’s grants and honorarium being spent after 1 April but otherwise on track. Villagers reporting issues which were Highways or residents’ responsibility rather than PC, so suggestion was to create a guide to responsibilities of the parish council to make it clearer.

**23. Finance**

1. **Bank Balances at 28/09/2024**

Current Account £10,782.35 Reserve Account £36,143.32

1. **Expenditure**

None since last meeting

1. **Committed expenditure**

Clerk Salary September £321.05

HMRC PAYE - September £43

SALC and NALC affiliation fee £236.21

1. **Receipts**

Bank Interest: September £30.67

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

**24. Budget Review** - money still in budget to be spent on village maintenance, though there is an overspend in other areas but money can be kept for any flooding emergencies in the winter and hedge cutting. Budget otherwise on track, although increased costs this year in some areas, like website management.Decisions to be made nearer year end, next year’s budget to be discussed in December and finalised in January.

**25. Correspondence.** None

**26. Verbal Updates from Community Groups** Updates deferred to next meeting

**27. Matters to report / items for next agenda**

Community grant applications. Parking outside pub

**Date and time of Next meetings –** to be held in the Village Hall.

Wednesday 6th November, Wednesday 4th December

Meeting closed at 10.00pm