

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

**Wednesday 4th September 2024, starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:** CllrsSue Isherwood (advised of late arrival),Ros Wyke (also Somerset Cllr) Buffy Fletcher, Penny Colwill, Maggie Beebee

**In attendance:** Rachel Spiller, Clerk,

Public – 2 members present.

**1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The Vice Chair Ros Wyke welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

Cllr Adamos Euripodou, Cllr Guy Timson

**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 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

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

**5. Public Session –** None

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports.**

Cllr Ros Wyke reported that at the year end the Council finished £1.6 million over budget due to reduction in expenditure but there is still significant gap in this year’s budget, so council is using reserves/selling assets as per the government’s capitalisation directive.

Huge pressure on social care and social housing. Phosphate credits becoming more available. Developers delaying building new estates due to slow housing market, so housing remains a big issue.

Strawberry Line has received grants from Somerset Council for work on routes in Shepton Mallet and Wells.

**7. Local Community Network Report.**

Cllr Fletcher reported that she attended flooding seminar in Shepton Mallet. Volunteers imported from USA some pieces of kit which can help with flood water, such as large water absorption pads designed for flooding in homes. Suggested session in village hall for the community about self-help methods, as Westbury is below threshold for active intervention from Council. Cllr Wyke will also attend Somerset Rivers Board meeting. Grants may be available.

Cllr Isherwood to attend meeting in Mark Village Hall on Monday regarding flooding

The Council RESOLVED for Cllr Fletcher to investigate these self-help methods further.

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

Tickbox training awaiting date in October. 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: Date for training to be agreed and circulated to village groups and put in October Pew**

**Action: Mark Smith to let the Pew know new email address details**

**9. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd July 2024, were agreed as true record and signed**

**10. Planning Applications**

* None received

**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.**

 No update

**12. Roughmoor Lane Housing Development**

No update

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

 Updates in this month’s Pew. Focus groups tackling issues on the plan and survey responses to be analysed. More updates to follow at next meeting

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

 No update. Meeting with Church Commissioners to take place soon and there will be more updates after this.

**15. Discussion regarding external lighting**

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**

**16. Dog Bins**

Council emailed to say they could not empty bin in the location suggested at the last meeting, so Parish Council suggested the original location on Roughmoor Lane at the entrance to the housing estate on other side of the road from the playpark. From next April there will be a charge for dog bin emptying but not if it is on council-owned land. This needs to be confirmed.

The Parish Council RESOLVED to agree this location. Cllr Wyke registered her reservations about this location as may cause complaints.

**Action: Clerk to contact Sophie Lintern again suggesting this location. Cllr Colwill to confirm the What 3 Words location to Clerk**

**17. Complaints re: dog barking**

Dogs barking at 5.30am at Shamrock Stable site and setting off other dogs in the village. This has been causing complaints from villagers

**Action: Clerk to email clerk of Rodney Stoke Council as it is in their parish**

**18. Highways.**

Cllr Isherwood arrived to the meeting

 Cllr Fletcher reported very deep gullies on the west side of Broad Road going down the hill.

**Action: Cllr Fletcher to send Clerk a map showing damage, Clerk to report this on the Somerset website**

**19. Clerk’s Report.**

 New Gmail address for Mark set up by the Clerk on 20th August

SALC has new booking system for booking training. Councillors still to contact Clerk who can book online for councillors

Query re: invoice received for annual membership but total owed was zero. Clerk to check this with SALC as it has definitely not been paid but invoice says it has.

Grit Bins have been checked and reported back. One on the square very overgrown

Grants need to be advertised in October so that received before November meeting.

**Action: Clerk to put Community Grant Application advert in October Pew for consideration in November meeting**

**20. Finance**

1. **Bank Balances at 28/08/2024**

Current Account £10,782.35 Reserve Account £36,112.65

1. **Expenditure**

Clerk Salary August £320.85

HMRC PAYE August £43.20

WSM Village Hall £25

Clerk Salary July £244.45

HMRC PAYE - July £119.60

Penelope Colwill – survey prize (2 x £50 vouchers) £100

WSM Village Hall £75

Killens £960

Clerk Salary June £311.05

HMRC PAYE - June £53

1. **Receipts**

Bank Interest: July £37.22, August £35.68

Marquee hire - M.D Love £12.50

Groundwork UK Grant £3831.00

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

**21. Budget Review**

**Action: For end of September Clerk to produce a year to date spend plus year end forecast, including where we might overspend by year end and use any reserves, for example grant money.**

**22. Correspondence.** None

**23. Verbal Updates from Community Groups** Updates were given on the Tree Group and Strawberry Line group and the Village Hall.

* Tree Group had their AGM and open day which was attended by our MP
* Strawberry Line Group. Westbury to Easton path counter has recorded at least 50,000 people in the first year. Huge effort by local volunteers on drainage issues. Path other side of Easton moving forward.
* Village Hall – societies started to meet again from September and film programme is commencing at end of Sept. Budget balanced at AGM

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

Community grant applications. Budget review and end of year forecast. Deer Leap development proposal. Flooding to be standing item going forward.

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

Wednesday 2nd October, Wednesday 6th November, Wednesday 4th December

Meeting closed at 8.25pm