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

**Wednesday 6th November 2024, starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:** CllrsSue Isherwood (Chair),Ros Wyke**,** Guy Timson, Buffy Fletcher, Adamos Euripodou,

**In attendance:** Rachel Spiller, Clerk

Public – 3 members present.

**1. Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

CllrPenny Colwill, Cllr Maggie Beebee, Somerset Cllr Heather Shearer

**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 a non-pecuniary interest in the Brownfield Site

Cllr Isherwood declared an interest in the Village Hall and Footlights grants

Cllr Timson declared an interest in the Playing Field grant

**5. Public Session –** None

**6. Somerset Councillor Reports.**

Cllr Ros Wyke reported that the junction has been re-aligned at the Miner’s Arms, as there had been many serious accidents there. New bridge opened at West Shepton for the Strawberry Line. The consultation is ongoing regarding the Mendip Local Plan. The Council is still working through the financial challenges and need to reduce workforce of 2550 by 450, which includes voluntary redundancies and vacant posts, as well as compulsory redundancies, so this may cause delays in responses from some departments. Some good news though - central government funding has funded refurbishment projects in Bridgwater, Glastonbury, Yeovil and Taunton. Also Bridgwater is developing academy to train people in Social Care.

**7. Local Community Network Report.**

Highways working group was cancelled. Cllr Wyke reported that there are small grants for anti-flooding equipment from the Somerset Rivers Authority fund of £1/4 million, applications open 10th December. Godney Council already received funding as a pilot project.

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

Tickbox training on 21 November at 7pm in Village Hall. Let Clerk know if you would like to attend.

**Action: Clerk to create poster for Cllr Isherwood to display in Village following email to village groups and Pew advert.**

**9. The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2024, were agreed as true record and signed**

**10. Planning Applications**

* 2024/2001/TCA at Owls Haunt Top Road – notification purposes only

**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 updates

**12. Grant Applications (agenda item 17 moved forward on request)**

It was noted that the Friendly Society have not received any grant applications and are looking for applications.

Cllr Wyke took the Chair for this item only, as Cllr Isherwood had declared an interest in two grants

**The Parish Council received** **the following Community Grants requests**

**Village Playing Field £1800.00**

**Village Hall (up to) £130.00**

**Village Shop £600**

**Westbury-sub-Mendip Footlights £500**

**The Parish Council are minded to fund these grants in principle but have asked the Playing Field Committee and the Shop to ask for 50% or other suitable contribution/amount from the Friendly Society first, as the amounts exceed the Parish Council’s budget for applications.**

**The Council RESOLVED to approve the Footlights Grant and the Village Hall grant**

**The Council RESOLVED to continue to fund the Box office contribution for the shop at £520 per annuum in addition to the grants.**

**Action: Final decision on Playing Field and Shop delayed until after Friendly Society meeting. Cllr Timson to help with marketing for the Village Hall puppet show in March 2025.**

**13. Roughmoor Lane Housing Development**

Planning permission is likely to be issued before Christmas at which point a formal response can be made. The Church Commissioners have been dealing with the issue of safe access to rest of village. No date yet set for barn demolition on brownfield site.

**14.** **Neighbourhood Plan**. – No updates. The Chair thanked Chris Langdon and Mick Fletcher for all the work they have been doing on this.

**15. Brownfield site development working group.** No updates

**16. Flood Mitigation – update**

Cllr Fletcher is arranging for the Flooding emergency team to come and speak at the Village Hall and demonstrate equipment. We are on the list for them to attend. They can also go to individual houses to advise at cost of £300 but Somerset council will pay 80% of this. Village Hall session is free of charge apart from hall hire.

Many blocked drains in village. Highways will charge to clear if not on their list.

The council RESOLVED to pay for the hire of the Village Hall for the proposed meeting.

**Action: Clerk to complain to Highways on behalf of the Parish Council regarding blocked drains on A371 as it is very dangerous in heavy rain**

**Action: Clerk to contact other local clerks re: drains, as paying Highways is costly and could be split with neighbouring parishes**.

**17. 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**

**18. Dog Bins**

Permit not needed as originally applied. Road Records are asking for what 3 words location of other two bins to check their records are up to date.

**Action: Clerk to contact Road Records again**

**19. Complaints from villagers**

Dogs barking at 5.30am at Shamrock Stable site and setting off other dogs in the village. Rodney Stoke Parish have said they have not had complaints from campsite. Council agreed that residents should complain directly to the owners, as it is privately owned, not a licenced kennels.

**20. Parking outside pub – double parking on bend**

A concern was raised about the dangerous parking outside the pub, however, it was agreed no action could realistically be taken by the council at this time.

**21. Highways.**

Temporary Road closure on Wells Road, Wedmore on 25th November for three days.

**Action: Clerk to start putting road closures on website following website training on 21st**

**22. Clerk’s Report**

 Tickbox have suggested a support package previously circulated to councillors. Quote is for £720 per annum.

Clerk to use up remaining annual leave before Christmas as agreed.

Council salary increases for this year has been confirmed. Council RESOLVED to approve the back pay for the clerk dated back to April 2024 according to new SCC salary scale.

**Action: Clerk to discuss Tickbox support package with Mark Smith and put on next agenda**

 **23. Finance**

1. **Bank Balances at 30/10/2024**

Current Account £9,717.25

Reserve Account £36,173.03

1. **Expenditure**

Clerk expenses May – August £60.79

WSM Village Hall Hire £40

Clerk Salary October £320.85

PAYE tax October £43.20

1. **Committed expenditure**
2. **Receipts** Bank Interest: October £29.71

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

**24. Budget Review** - no updates

**25. Correspondence.** None

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

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

Precept and budget discussion, updates on community grants.

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

Wednesday 4th December, Wednesday 8th January, Wednesday 5th February, Wednesday 5th March

Meeting closed at 9.35pm