

ADOPTED
BISHOPS LYDEARD & COTHELSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs A Shepherd, Rose Cottage, Oldway Lane, Wrantage, Taunton, TA3 6DE.
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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th August 2022 at 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall.

Persons present: Cllrs Martin (Chair), Morency (Vice-Chair), Allen, Ball, Bainbridge, Warmington, Lewin-Harris, Hunt, Pattermore and Rigby.

Persons absent: None.

In attendance: Mrs Amy Shepherd (Clerk), Cllr Andy Sully (SWT and SCC Cllr) and 1 member of the public.

84/22 Apologies

None

85/22 Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda

Cllr Warmington declared a prejudicial interest in respect of planning application numbers 13/22/0007. Cllrs Lewin-Harris and Pattermore declared personal interests in respect of item 15 'MUGA repairs / replacement update and to consider quotations received from tendering exercise'.

86/22 Adoption of the minutes of the meetings held on 13th July 2022

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting on 13th July 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

87/22 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

88/22 Declaration of Parish Councillor Vacancy

Following the resignation of James Russell, a Parish Councillor Vacancy was declared. Clerk confirmed that the required notices, providing an opportunity for electors within the Parish to request an election within 14 days, would be displayed as required. If 10 electors do not request an election, the Parish Council can co-opt a new member into the vacancy at the September Parish Council meeting.

89/22 Clerk's Report

Clerk's report was read to the council (attachment 1).

Actions required:

- Cllr Rigby to chase Station Road Bus Shelter repair and Woodland Walk response with SCC
- Clerk to arrange installation of dog bin at agreed location in Quantock View
- Clerk to enquire about SWT Free Trees and follow up planting proposal with SCC.

90/22 Chairman's Report

Chair reported that he had carried out the following activities since the last Parish Council meeting:

- Written an article for Fiveways. A discussion took place about the articles submitted to Fiveways by the Chair. It was agreed that the Chair would continue to submit articles on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Continued to liaise with the Traffic Consultant regarding traffic issues.
- Unfortunately missed the Almshouse Trustees Meeting in July.

91/22 Comments from members of the public

A member of the public reported that a tree is partially down on the Whisky Trail footpath between Cedar Falls and the railway. Clerk to liaise with the Parish Path Liaison Officer to establish ownership / responsibility for the tree.

A member of the public requested an update regarding the footpath between Lethbridge Park and the railway. The farmer has put down hardcore to go down to the field, but at the end of hardcore the farm vehicles go off the track and onto the footpath. Clerk to follow up issue and resolution with the Parish Path Liaison Officer.

92/22 Avon and Somerset Police Report

The July Police Report was circulated in advance of the meeting and its contents noted.

93/22 Planning applications for comment

Cllr Warmington left the meeting at 7.17pm

13/22/0007: Change of use from Wedding Venue with overnight bed and breakfast to a holiday let at Cothelstone Manor, Cothelstone

The Parish Council continues to support the granting of permission.

Cllr Warmington re-joined the meeting at 7.18pm

06/22/0025: Change of use from shop to 1 No. dwelling with various alterations at 6 West Street, Bishops Lydeard

The Parish Council objects to the granting of permission for the following reasons:

- As specified in the Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council is keen to maintain commercial properties and services within the village to achieve the vision and aim of a ensuring a sustainable community. Objective 3 'Employment' of the Neighbourhood Plan states that the Plan seeks to 'Enhance opportunities for employment in the Parishes by maintaining and increasing the range, extent, and scale of commercial and light industrial premises'. The Parish Council therefore objects to the change of use from a shop to a dwelling to maintain its current commercial use in line with this Neighbourhood Plan objective.
- The Parish Council is not confident that the business has been marketed adequately at a realistic price.
- There are aspects of the proposal, particularly the proposed windows and doors, that the Parish Council does not consider to be appropriate in the conservation area.

06/22/0020: Erection of a shed to house mobility scooter at 2 The Stables, South Drive, Sandhill Drive, Bishops Lydeard

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

06/22/0019/T Application to pollard two Poplar trees and to pollard ('monolith') 18 Ash trees (due to Ash Dieback disease) and to carry out management works to one Ash tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Bishops Lydeard No.2) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at Greenway Woods, to the east of 46 Greenway, Bishops Lydeard (TD705)

The Parish Council neither supports or objects to the granting of permission but makes the following comments in respect of the application:

- The Parish Council is surprised at how the Ash dieback is proposed to be dealt with and suggests that it may be more appropriate for the diseased trees to be felled and an alternative species replanted.
- It would appear that some work on trees has already taken place and not in accordance with what is proposed in this application.

94/22 To discuss village planters and hanging baskets

Clerk confirmed the cost to the Parish Council of 50 hanging baskets through the village. In 2021/22 the total cost to PC was £3953.40 and the anticipated cost in 2022/23 is £4730.00

Cllr Bainbridge questioned why the Parish Council is funding baskets through the village and asked why individual property owners cannot do baskets themselves. Cllr Bainbridge also suggested that it is not obvious that the baskets are provided by the Parish Council and requested clarity about how it is decided which houses the baskets go on. Cllr Bainbridge suggested that the Parish Council should reconsider the way it does displays in the village to make them more visually striking.

A discussion followed. It was noted that the main cost of providing the baskets was the watering costs as opposed to the baskets themselves.

Cllr Sully offered to look at who does the watering for SWT to see if a contractor is available at lower cost.

It was agreed to review the cost of delivering the baskets in 2023/24 when the PC considers its budget for the year. Clerk to obtain alternative watering quotes.

Noting Cllr Bainbridge's comments about it not being clear that the PC provides the baskets, it was agreed that this should be communicated more in Fiveways.

The discussion then turned to the Village Planters on the church wall. Cllr Lewin-Harris confirmed that a couple of people have indicated that they would be willing to help with the maintenance of the planters. Cllr Lewin-Harris requested a commitment from the Parish Council to purchase 6 new boxes (reducing the number from the current 8 planters), plants and compost (around £400.00 a year) and providing watering during the hanging basket watering season. The volunteers would then look after everything else. This commitment was agreed by the Parish Council.

95/22 To discuss Welcome Packs

Cllr Pattermore confirmed that the Welcome Packs were last updated in 2011 and suggested that since then people tend to use information that is available on websites. It was noted that although the Welcome Packs are sponsored by local businesses, they are produced at cost to the Parish Council. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the Welcome Packs are an unnecessary expense now that people tend to use the internet to gain local information.

It was therefore agreed that Welcome Packs would no longer be developed / provided by the Parish Council.

96/22 To discuss / review Library Q1 Statistics

The library statistics for quarter 1 were circulated in advance of the meeting and were reviewed and noted. The Parish Council expressed its complements to the librarian for her work.

97/22 Road and Traffic Issues

Creation of a roads and traffic working group

Chair confirmed that he had circulated an email in advance of the meeting suggesting the number of councillors and terms of reference for the working group.

The focus of the working group is 'To investigate and consult on further steps to manage road and traffic in the village, including but not limited to the current list of proposals, and advise the PC accordingly'.

It was noted that the Working Group would make recommendations to the full Parish Council and won't have powers to make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council.

Chair confirmed that there is a big list of proposed works that need exploring, a further consultation event is also needed, and neighbouring property owners need to be specifically consulted.

It was agreed that the Working Group members would include Chair (or Vice Chair in absence of the Chair), Cllr Ball, Cllr Bainbridge, and Cllr Lewin-Harris. The Clerk will also attend meetings of the Working Group to take minutes.

98/22 MUGA repairs / replacement update and to consider quotations received from tendering exercise

The three quotes received as a result of the tendering exercise for the MUGA fencing replacement were circulated in advance of the meeting. The quotations were discussed, and it was proposed, seconded, and agreed with all in favour to accept the cheapest quote provided by Abacus Construction Limited and that the works would be funded by using £9200.00 from the MUGA sinking fund and £30000.00 of CIL funding.

Clerk to liaise with Foothills Landscaping about logistics for the work including how quickly the work can be carried out, how long the work will take, and safety issues during the works relating to the neighbouring playing field and play park.

99/22 Station View Public Open Space update and to consider quotations received from tendering exercise

The three quotes received as a result of the tendering exercise for delivering the Station View Public Open Space proposal were circulated in advance of the meeting. Surprise was expressed by Councillors at the cost of carrying out the work and there was a general feeling that the cost of delivering the proposal was not good use of public money.

It was proposed, seconded, and agreed (1 voting against and the rest in favour) that Clerk would enquire with Foothills Landscaping about what could be delivered in the open space with a budget of £10000.00.

100/22 To discuss the David Wilson Homes development Public Open Space

Clerk confirmed that there was no update, a response is awaited from DWHs solicitor.

101/22 Parish Lengthsman Report

The Parish Lengthsman report summarising work that had been carried out in July was tabled at the meeting and its contents noted.

Clerk to ask the Lengthsman:

- How many hours the Lengthsman spends collecting litter around the Quantock Brewery after festival and food nights. Clerk to then write to Quantock Brewery pointing out the issue and asking that they take action and arrange litter picking for future events.
- To manage weeds on pavements.
- To cut the hedge at Webbers.

102/22 Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters

Cllr Sully reported on the following:

The District and County Council are currently in the holiday period

A new SCC Chief Executive from Maidenhead Council has been appointed and commences their employment on 3rd October.

LGR – work is continuing.

SCC Budget gap - £44m identified. Working Group established to look at the gap which has been caused by increased demand in Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care services. All councils are in a similar and SCC are looking to the government for help or an increase in Council Tax will be required. Any increase above 1.99% requires a referendum.

Somerset Innovation Exchange Conference – 27th September - conference to support innovation in Somerset and help businesses to develop and grow. Key themes energy, engineering, food, and drink, digital, data and health care.

Covid – SWT have an additional relief fund to help businesses that haven't received support in the last financial year. SWT writing to qualifying businesses.

Cllr Rigby reported on the following:

Bus Service Improvement Plan – has been approved by Department for Transport. Mobility Hub on site of old bus station. Additional bus lanes in and around Taunton. All bus tickets in and around Taunton will be capped for a single fare at £1.00. Starting with park and ride and then roll out across greater Taunton. Hope to have transformational change in use of buses and get levels to pre-covid levels.

Cycle path – revisiting feasibility study.

LCNs – proposals will be out in around 8 weeks' time.

Creech Castle works - on target to reopen by the end of the month. Some works will continue for around 6 weeks, but road will function as it should by the end of August.

CGR Consultation – 500 responses to second consultation received. Being considered now. Proposal to go back to Full Council in September.

Phosphates – response received from Government. Work to treatment plants needed the feasibility of this is not clear.

Finances – government need to look at Local Government finances because a number of councils are struggling and will go bust.

Parking enforcement – attend the village around once a week.

Cllr Morency asked when the work at Trenchard Way will be completed. Cllr Rigby confirmed that the work is scheduled to take place in October.

Cllr Lewin-Harris requested an update on the Delta Rise wall works. Cllr Rigby confirmed that he is continuing to chase for an update.

103/22 Finance

Feedback from Member Auditor

Cllr Lewin-Harris confirmed that she had completed an audit of the Parish Councils financial records for Quarter 1. Cllr Lewin-Harris recommended that a further £150k is transferred from the Unity Trust bank account to the Public Sector Deposit Fund. The transfer was approved by the Parish Council.

To note income received

Library income	£49.95
Somerset County Council (Library quarterly contribution)	£500.00
Interest	
HSBC	£0.92

CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund £126.20

To approve payments

Payments to be made by Direct Debit:

BT (Telephone and broadband)	£82.38
Somerset Web Services (Email account)	£5.52
British Gas (Public conveniences Electric)	£62.64
EDF Energy (Library Electric)	£51.27
Information Commissioners Officer (Data Protection Fee)	£35.00

Payments to be made by BACS:

Jack Council (Parish Lengthsman Work – July)	£1054.35
Clerks Expenses (Travel, Office 365)	£55.29
SCC (Library Q1 fixed staffing charge)	£116.05
Playsafety Limited (MUGA RoSPA inspection)	£84.00
AIS Cleaning Contractors Limited (Toilet and Library cleaning)	£671.70
ElanCity (Speed Indicator Device)	£2726.51
TPA (Quantock View and Cothelstone Hill work)	£2700.00
Jordan Hewitt (Hanging basket installation and watering)	£5580.00

Payments made via BACS to report:

Planning Portal (Quantock View Planning Application)	£149.20
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It was proposed, seconded, and voted unanimously that the payments be approved.

104/22 To note planning permissions granted

06/22/0006/T Application to carry out management works to one Oak tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Bishops Lydeard No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1994 to the front of Little Acorns, Lydeard Mead, Bishops Lydeard (TD614) - Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 25/07/2022.

06/22/0022/T Application to carry out management works to one Oak tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Bishops Lydeard No.2) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at 38 Lethbridge Park, Bishops Lydeard (TD705) - Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 27/07/2022.

105/22 To note planning applications refused/withdrawn

None received.

106/22 Any Other Business - for report only

No other business to report.

107/22 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th September 2022, 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

Signed

Date: