

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 virtually on Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 7.00pm

Persons present: Cllrs Davenport (Chair), Martin (Vice-Chair), Morency, Allen, Pattermore, Russell, Warmington, Armstrong, Watson, Lewin-Harris (from 7.15pm) and Rigby (from 7.50pm).

Persons absent: None

In attendance: Mrs Amy Shepherd (Clerk), Anthony Trollope-Bellew (District Councillor) and 7 members of the public.

165/20 Apologies

No apologies were received.

166/20 Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda

Cllr Warmington declared a prejudicial interest in respect of item 8 'Planning Applications for comment' in respect of planning application number 13/20/0004/LB.

167/20 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2020

Subject to a small amendment to the wording of item 163/20, the minutes from the Parish Council meeting on 11th November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

168/20 Matters arising

Only one matter was arising from the minutes regarding the Post Office, Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had not received any further news.

169/20 Clerk's Report

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

170/20 Chairman's report

Chair reported on the following:

Taunton Road Development – the Parish Council has recently been advised that a landscape scheme for the development was approved by SWT earlier this year. It is a little disappointing that the Parish Council wasn't invited to comment on the proposed scheme. The scheme is available on the SWT website under the original planning application number. The Site Manager has confirmed that the first purchasers of homes are expected to move in before Christmas. Work has commenced to start the foundations for plots 22-31, 70 – 72 and 64 and 65. Work on the development will cease over Christmas. Taunton Road hedge was cut yesterday.

The Paddock – work is about to commence, SWT have received the S106 play park equipment contribution. Chair requested the thoughts of Parish Councillors on potential locations of new play equipment. Cllr Allen confirmed that the VHMC has put in an expression of interest. SWT are expected to respond in due course. The rules for the spending of the S106 money are not clear. It will be up to SWT to choose what to spend it on.

Station View – slow progress on acquiring public open space.

Co-op Move – an email has been received from Landmark Estates. There has been some difficulty at DWH regarding completing the transaction. Chair has offered to contact the Chief Executive at DWH if it will help to progress the situation. It is hoped that there will be further progress to report at the next meeting.

Bins – meeting took place with Richard Hopkins from SWT, agreed to move bin alongside bus shelter by the Taunton Road junction. With regards to the proposed new bin at the bus shelter at the Mount Street junction, there are two options; either to clamp a bin to the wall of neighbouring property or to have a more conventional one on the ground. Chair needs to discuss the options with the owners of the neighbouring property. Now lockdown has eased Chair will try to do this before the next meeting.

171/20 Comments from members of the public on matters not listed on the agenda

A member of the public requested an update in relation to the Greenway Lighting issue. It was agreed that Cllr Rigby would provide an update later in the meeting.

172/20 Planning applications for comment

13/20/0004/LB - External repairs/restoration of The Gatehouse at Cothelstone Manor, Cothelstone Road, Bishops Lydeard

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission and has the following comments to make:

- The Parish Council notes the comments made by Historic England in relation to the use of Helifix.
- The Parish Council also notes the comments made by Historic England in relation to the use of lead, however the Parish Council is concerned about the possibility of lead theft due to the rural location and a history of similar thefts in the area.

06/20/0056/CQ Prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 2 No. dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated building operations at Eastcombe Farm, East Combe Lane, Bishops Lydeard

The Parish Council had no comments to make on this proposal.

06/20/0044/CLA Notification for prior approval of the installation of a 11.97m high slimline monopole accommodating a tri-sector antenna within a GRP shroud and 2 No. 0.3m dishes with installation of 1 No. 1.2m sat dish, 1No.generator and 3 No. equipment cabinets within a compound enclosed by 1.8m high mesh fence with formation of access track and installation of gabion baskets as a retaining wall on land at Lower Lambridge Farm, off Bishpool Lane as amended by agents email of 23rd November 2020 amending the size of the 3 No equipment cabinets

The Parish Council continues to support the granting of permission.

173/20 Quantock View Parking Proposal

Chair confirmed that at the last meeting Cllr Rigby was tasked with liaising with the Portfolio Holder at SWT about the parking proposal.

An initial meeting with the Traffic Consultant has been arranged for 10am on 27th January to discuss traffic issues in the village, including Quantock View.

Cllr Morency confirmed that he and Cllr Rigby had a site meeting with the SWT Portfolio Holder since the last meeting. Cllr Rigby to provide an update when he joins the meeting.

Cllr Morency confirmed that the drain is fine at the moment due to less heavy rainfall. If the work was to progress, a survey of the drains would be conducted, including the use of a camera to identify the structure and issues.

174/20 To discuss the village Christmas lights / decorations

Chair confirmed that an email was circulated in advance of the meeting outlining a request for a further contribution towards the village Christmas lights and decorations. A community group of volunteers have further plans for this year and additional plans for next year.

A member of the group of volunteers outlined the extent of the decorations that have been displayed this year and the further decorations planned for this year, including a star being added to the church tower. Materials are on the way for this. The Christmas lights on the Christmas Tree at the Church will be switched on on the 14th December, the star will be added at the same time. There are two trees this year at the church – one inside and one outside. On 20th December at 4pm Christmas Carols will take place outside the Church.

The Parish Council has already made a £500 contribution towards the lights this year. The group want to make the Christmas decorations and extension of them through the village more sustainable and are requesting donations from the community - £240.00 has been raised so far. There is a shortfall of £165.00 this year.

The plan for 2021 is to extend the decorations and lights further in the village including at the Community Hall at Darby Way, the Village Hall, the bridge over Hither Mead and at the Hall in Greenway. A more formal switch on event is planned for next year too.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed with all in favour (apart from one abstention from Cllr Rigby) that a further £1500 contribution would be made by the Parish Council.

175/20 To discuss the car park next to the public conveniences

Chair reported that he had discussed the possible car parking restrictions with the garage proprietor, the proprietor has expressed his dissatisfaction with the proposals. It was agreed to leave the car park as it is without any restrictions for the time being.

The new catering van was discussed and a couple of issues raised including, that the trader commences operating at 3.30pm rather than 4.30pm and that the van is parked in a manner that may obstruct access to the doctors' surgery should it be required in an emergency. Clerk outlined two concerns raised by members of the public: one being the noise from the generator and the other that the trader conflicts with the local food businesses offering takeaway food. The concerns were noted. It was also noted that a catering van has operated from this location previously and it is therefore not a new concept.

Clerk to contact the trader and ask him to supply his own rubbish bins, use a quieter generator and clarify his hours of operation.

176/20 To discuss the parish telephone boxes

Cllr Russell provided an update regarding the telephone boxes and summarised a report circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr Russell confirmed that there is a lack of volunteers who are willing to help with restoring the telephone boxes. One piece of glass in the Mount Street telephone box has been replaced. The door to the Mount Street box also needs planing off so that it can close fully. It was noted that the Mount Street box is being filled with items like books and DVDs but it isn't organised and a shelf / storage boxes were needed.

Clerk confirmed that the Parish Lengthsman had offered to paint the telephone boxes. It was agreed that the Lengthsman would be asked to undertake the work to repaint the Mount Street Telephone Box, Clerk to put the Lengthsman in touch with Cllr Russell.

177/20 Update regarding Sandhill Park Mansion

Cllr Rigby reported that the position in relation to the Mansion House hasn't changed a lot since the last meeting, the property is still in the hands of the bank. SWT are corresponding with the bank to get work on Mansion House underway. Emergency work needs to be done at a cost of approximately £1-2m. There is a concern that the building will only last for another couple of years in its current state so there is a real urgency to ensuring that the emergency works commence as soon as possible. The estate railings along entire length of west side of South Drive have been installed. These are also required on the East Side – enforcement proceedings have commenced.

178/20 Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters

Cllr Rigby reported on:

Unitary Bids – the deadline for bids to be submitted is today. Two bids have been submitted the One Somerset and the Stronger Somerset bid. Consultation expected in the spring. Response from Secretary of State as to the preferred bid expected in the Summer. There is some confusion regarding the start date – clarity needed as to whether it will be 2022 or 2023

Phosphates issue – affects any planning applications in the Rive Tone catchment area – these applications cannot be approved. Working to try to fix the problem. The issue affects a number of Councils but SWT probably the most affected due to catchment area. Hoping to announce a way forward in the next week or so.

Interim Planning Statement relating to Climate Change has been developed. Provides guidance / restatement of existing policy. It clarifies SWTs expectations in the interim period until new Local Plan SWT Planning Committee – is under review.

Review of Car Parking across the whole district – this includes the charging policy (TD / WS currently have two different policies) and the number of car parks.

Roadworks on A358 – cracks in southbound carriageway, taken out of use as a precaution. Stream has caused damage. Traffic lights will remain into the new year. Some major works involving road closure will be required.

Closure of A358 for ducting work has taken place and is complete. Impact was minimal as overnight road closures took place.

Hedge on Station Road / Greenway now in place.

Lighting at Greenway – Cllr Rigby has emailed the concerns of the member of the public and has asked for a meeting to establish who is responsible and what can be done.

Roundabout Safety Audit – still underway, long list of issues which SCC are following up with Taylor Wimpey. Not big issues but there are a number of them.

Quantock View Parking – no update, hoping to receive in the next week or so.

179/20 To consider 20mph speed limit proposals

Cllr Rigby confirmed that work is continuing, plans are being developed for the purpose of the Traffic Regulation Order. SCC has reconsulted with the police on the proposal. No concerns raised by the police. It is hoped that the Traffic Regulation Order will be advertised before Christmas. There will be a 6-week consultation period until the end of January for work to commence in March.

Cllr Rigby confirmed that he hopes to be able to present the plans at the January Parish Council meeting – the plans will include the location of roundels and signs.

180/20 Parish Lengthsman Report

The Parish Lengthsman Report for November was circulated in advance of the meeting and its contents noted.

It was agreed that the Parish Lengthsman should add the repainting of the parish noticeboards to his jobs list for next year.

181/20 Avon & Somerset Police report

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

182/20 Finance

To consider the draft 2021/22 budget

The contents of the draft budget were discussed and noted. Formal approval of the budget and precept requirement will take place at the January Parish Council meeting.

To note income received

Library income	93.60
Interest	0.19

To approve payments

Payments to be made by Direct Debit:	
BT (Telephone and broadband)	£73.20
Somerset Web Services (Email account)	£5.52
British Gas (Electric – Public Conveniences)	£66.01
Payments to be made by BACS:	
Jack Council (Parish Lengthsman Work – November)	£446.05
Clerks expenses (Travel, office 365 and Zoom subscriptions)	£50.08
Somerset West and Taunton Council (Dog bin emptying and grass cutting Q2)	£1477.15
Intelligent Workplace Solutions (Cleaning – toilets and library)	£434.80
Wombat Cricket Club (CIL payment)	£53,342.00
Somerset Playing Fields Association (Annual Subscription)	£15.00
SCC (Library staffing Q2)	£2178.53
Viking payments (Stationary)	£10.18

It was proposed, seconded, and voted unanimously that these payments be approved.

183/20 To note planning permissions granted

06/20/0047/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 13th November 2020.

06/20/0048/T Application to fell one Alder tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Bishops Lydeard No.2) Tree Preservation Order 1994 at Home Field Barns, Bishops Lydeard (T617) – Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 23rd November 2020.

06/20/0050/T - Application to carry out management works to one Oak tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Bishops Lydeard No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at West Lodge, Williton Road, Bishops Lydeard (TD704) – Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 17th November 2020.

184/20 To note planning applications refused/withdrawn

06/20/0017 Change of use of residential garden store into Class A5 take away outlet at Park End Lodge, West Bagborough Road, West Bagborough – Decision of Refusal was made on 9th November 2020.

185/20 Any Other Business - for report only

Cllr Watson reported that the future of the Post Office on Taunton Road doesn't look promising and expressed concern for residents of Bishops Lydeard and the surrounding villages. Cllr Watson asked if the Co-op could be approached about including a post office inside the new Co-op. Chair confirmed that he is going to raise this proposal with Landmark Estates with a view to them incorporating it into their plans. Cllr Rigby confirmed that he had been in touch with the post office and asked if a temporary post office could be provided in the interim, perhaps in the village hall or existing Co-op. Cllr Lewin-Harris reported that it was clear that the post office will not continue in its current location as the property is not owned by the post office.

Cllr Lewin-Harris reported that the kissing gate at Woodland Walk has been fixed and that SCC responded very quickly to the Mill Lane railing damage that was reported.

Cllr Lewin-Harris asked if the Parish Council had been consulted on the work to the entrance of a property at the entrance to Glanfield Close. Trees have been removed and highway verge works are being undertaken. Cllr Rigby confirmed that SWT are currently looking into the works.

186/20 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th January 2021, 7pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm



Signed

Date: 13th January 2021