

ADOPTED
BISHOPS LYDEARD & COTHELSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs A Shepherd, Rose Cottage, Oldway Lane, Wrantage, Taunton, TA3 6DE.
Phone: 01823 412922 Email: clerk@bishopslydeard.org Website: <http://www.bishopslydeard.org.uk>

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 11th January 2023 at 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall.

Persons present: Cllrs Martin (Chair), Morency (Vice Chair), Allen, Bainbridge, Ball, Lewin-Harris, Hunt, Rigby (until 7.25pm), Pattemore, Warmington and Delderfield.

Persons absent: None.

In attendance: Mrs Amy Shepherd (Clerk), Jack Council (Parish Lengthsman) and 1 member of the public.

198/22 Apologies

No apologies were received.

199/22 Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda

Cllrs Lewin-Harris and Pattemore declared personal interests in respect of item 11 'MUGA repairs / replacement update'.

Vice Chair declared a personal interest in respect of item 10 'Road and Traffic Issues update' as a resident of Quantock View.

Cllrs Ball and Allen declared personal interests in respect of planning application number 06/22/0039.

200/22 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2022

An amendment to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th December 2022 to include items in relation to the 'To consider the draft Firepool masterplan public consultation' and 'to consider the approval of a complaints policy' which were omitted in error were identified. The minutes were approved subject to the Clerk making these amendments.

201/22 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

The agenda was interrupted to take item 15 'Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters'

202/22 Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters

Somerset Council 2023/24 Budget – the budget setting process has been finalised and the proposed budget is now going through the democratic pathway. There has been a massive amount of work involved in developing the budget, pulling all the councils finances together. A balanced budget has been achieved and frontline services have been protected. There have been no cuts to the Highways budget. Adult Social Care and Children's Services overspend every year because they are demand led services and there is no way of controlling demand. All Upper Tier Councils are struggling, and it means that every other budget line is squeezed to enable the cost of adults and children's services to be covered. There is a need to fix this pressure nationally by Government. 50-100 councils are going to be in trouble in the next 12 months because of this issue.

LGR – work continues at pace, tier 2 recruitment now underway. There are 9 tier 2s to appoint. The appointments should be confirmed by the end of the next week. The structure beneath them will then be set. LCN proposals have been circulated, on track to be launched on 1st April. Taunton Town Council will be in place from 1st April – elections in May. Shadow Council in place at the moment, the Town Council will help to continue the regeneration of Taunton.

Bus Fares - £1.00 bus fare for greater Taunton, £2 for the wider area. Night buses are becoming available between 10.30 and 11.30pm which will be useful for shift workers. Park and Ride buses included. These improvements are in place for three years. Cllr Ball questioned the reliability of the buses into the village. Cllr Rigby confirmed that he has raised the issues with SCC Officer to raise with the bus company. Buses need to be a more attractive option. Need to spend money on bus and cycle improvement rather than road improvements which are more costly.

Blocked drains – reported many and unblocked some drains and asked the Lengthsman to keep an eye on them. The problem is that the gully maintenance is done in the summer before autumn when they become blocked again.

Delta Rise Wall – start date is going to be 20th February. There will be signal controlled traffic management rather than a road closure during the works.

The following questions were asked:

Cllr Lewin-Harris - LCNs – Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone is in with Taunton although the Parish Council expressed a wish not to be put in with Taunton. Cllr Rigby expressed his view that he didn't think this would be a problem.

Vice Chair requested an update regarding the Yellow Lines at the back of the school. Cllr Rigby confirmed that a meeting hasn't taken place. Vice Chair stated that signs should accompany the lines confirming that the lines / no parking is not enforceable apart from the school opening and closing times. Vice Chair also reported that Kate Brown at SCC had indicated that the request for the yellow lines came from the Parish Council but expressed concern that a discussion or vote by the Parish Council did not take place. Chair believed that he had kept the Parish Council informed of the issue. He agreed that it was his understanding that the lines would be accompanied by a sign explaining the limited hours they were in force. Vice Chair expressed concern that the road is unadopted and there are no legal grounds upon which to lines can be painted. Cllr Rigby to chase up the meeting and signage.

The agenda was interrupted to take item 14 'Parish Lengthsman Report'

203/22 Parish Lengthsman Report

The December Parish Lengthsman report was tabled at the meeting and its contents noted.

Jack Councill, the Parish Lengthsman was in attendance and raised the following queries / provided the following updates:

Hedge by the school – needs to be coned off to stop people parking so that the hedge can be cut.

Phone box at Darby Way refurbishment – the Parish Council confirmed that they would like the phone box to be refurbished.

Broadgauge Business Park sign – needs a coat of paint. Clerk to write to businesses asking them to carry out the work.

Benches in village – strip down and paint with mahogany coat – agreed by Parish Council.

Hedge along Taunton Road and Hither Mead – Clerk to check ownership with District Council.

Grass Strip along Taunton Road – the Parish Council agreed for the lengthsman to cut the grass strip.

Cotford Roundabout – stumps within the splay around the edge of the roundabout – the Parish Council agreed for the Parish Lengthsman to remove the stumps.

New roundabout – area by Gore Farm – how often would the Parish Council like the grass cut? It was agreed that the grass should be cut once or twice a year.

Stream by Cedar Falls – Cllr Pattermore to provide contact details of owner of the land.

Tree guards on trees behind brewery – should they be removed? Agreed by Parish Council.

SID – Parish Lengthsman to put the SID back up on Hither Mead.

Cllr Bainbridge suggested that using Parish Online to log the areas that are maintained by the Parish Council / Lengthsman may be useful to add clarity. Clerk to circulate details about Parish Online to discuss / consider at the next Parish Council meeting.

The agenda was resumed

204/22 Clerk's Report

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

Actions required:

- Clerk to respond to Clarke Telecom requesting confirmation that a planning application will be made in respect of the proposed upgrade to telecommunications equipment at Castle House. If a planning application isn't going to be made Clerk to request more time for the Parish Council to respond to the correspondence received.

205/22 Chairman's Report

Chair confirmed that he didn't have too much to report this month. Chair confirmed that he is now on the distribution list and will attend future meetings about the Local Government Reorganisation.

206/22 Comments from members of the public

No comments from members of the public.

207/22 Avon and Somerset Police Report

The December Police Report was circulated in advance of the meeting and its contents noted. Cllr Pattermore reported that there had been further Facebook posts about nails in Greenway again, Clerk to raise with the PCSO.

208/22 Planning applications for comment

06/22/0039: Erection of 1 No. dwelling (to replace approved planning consent 06/20/0061CQ) on land at Dene Road, (North of Oak Dene and The Mews), Bishops Lydeard (Resubmission of 06/22/0012).

The Parish Council made the following comments in respect of the application:

- If the Class Q prior approval is no longer valid, the Parish Council does not support the proposal to erect a dwelling on land at Dene Road, North of Oak Dene, and The Mews. There is concern that if permission is given for the erection of a dwelling at this location it may set a precedent for further dwellings to be constructed at or near the location of the proposal in the future.
- The Parish Council would prefer not to see either the Class Q Prior Approval dwelling site or this proposed site developed.

06/22/0040/T Application to fell one Ash tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Bishops Lydeard No.2) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at 16 Lethbridge Park, Bishops Lydeard (TD705)
The Parish Council supports the granting of permission subject to the views of the Tree Officer.

209/22 Road and Traffic Issues update

Chair provided an update and confirmed that the Traffic Consultant has done further work following the discussions and decisions made at the December Parish Council meeting.

The next step is for the Working Group to meet to discuss the further information received from the Traffic Consultant with a view to making recommendations for the Parish Council to consider at its February meeting.

A Working Group meeting will take place within the next two weeks.

A consultation event can then take place towards the end of February as planned. Leaflets and posters will be developed for the consultation event.

The responses from the consultation exercise will then inform the final proposals to form part of the S278 agreement. It should be possible to agree these at the March Parish Council meeting.

210/22 MUGA repairs / replacement update

Cllr Lewin-Harris reported that the MUGA is looking really good, and work is almost complete. The contractors have today fitted the basketball hoops / fittings. Work to the gates still needs to be done, this includes stops being added at the top of the gates and holes at the bottom for bolts to go down into. Once the work is completed, Clerk to request that Chris Winn inspects the work to ensure it meets the agreed specification and that it is RoSPA compliant. Cllr Allen reported that the gate at the far end won't open. Cllr Lewin-Harris to raise with Abacus.

Cllr Lewin-Harris also reported that bolts are exposed on the outside of the MUGA. Cllr Ball suggested that this will be an issue. Cllr Lewin-Harris to raise with Abacus.

Clerk to check with Chris Winn if there is a form of guarantee or a period when the Contractor can be called back to fix any snags that may come up after the invoice is paid.

Cllr Lewin-Harris reported that the surface needs moss treatment and relining. The MUGA Committee has funds to cover the cost of this work.

211/22 Station View Public Open Space update

Clerk confirmed that there was nothing further to report following the acceptance of the quote provided by Abacus at the last meeting. Clerk to follow up with Chris Winn.

212/22 Climate Change Update

Cllr Delderfield confirmed that he had nothing further to report since the last meeting.

213/22 Finance

To consider and approve the 2023/24 budget and precept demand

Cllr Morency outlined a proposal to reduce the number of Hanging Baskets in the village this year from 50 to 40. Clerk to advertise for businesses who could water the baskets and the six wooden planters outside the church and/or ask the Lengthsman to provide a price for the service.

It was proposed by Cllr Lewin-Harris to accept the budget and increase the precept demand by 5% to £67,595.29, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Pattermore.

Cllr Bainbridge made a counter proposal that £5,000 (the hanging basket / planting budget line) was removed from the budget and 0% increase in precept would be required. The proposal was not seconded.

A vote took place on the motion to accept the budget and increase the precept demand by 5%. Cllrs Lewin-Harris, Pattermore, Chair, Vice Chair, Delderfield, Allen, Warmington and Ball voted in favour, Cllr Bainbridge voted against. It was resolved to accept the budget and increase the precept by 5%.

Quarter 3 Financial Statements (Parish Council, Library and Community Infrastructure Levy)

Noted

To note income received

Interest	
HSBC	£10.47
	£115.87
CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund	£776.00
Unity Trust	£116.85
Library (fees and charges)	£72.36

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)	£48.80
EDF Energy (Library Electric)	£92.62

Payments to be made by BACS:

Jack Council (Parish Lengthsman Work – December)	£699.30
Clerks Expenses (Office 365, Travel, wages underpayment)	£79.24
AIS Cleaning Contractors Limited (Toilet and Library cleaning)	£690.60
Mr C Back (Library Lease)	£800.00
HMRC (Tax and NI Contributions)	£776.22
Viking Direct (Stationery and postage)	£240.22

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

214/22 To note planning permissions granted

06/22/0033 Erection of attached double garage to the side with formation of hard standing to the front of 2 Hamber Lea, Bishops Lydeard – Conditional Approval on 28th November 2022.

06/22/0035/T Application to carry out management works to one Yew tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Bishops Lydeard No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at Cedar Falls, Watts Lane, Bishops Lydeard (TD704) – Conditional Approval on 12th December 2022.

215/22 To note planning applications refused/withdrawn

13/22/0009 - Erection of 1 No. dwelling (as an alternative to the conversion of barn into a single dwelling under Class Q), garaging and associated works, including the retention of Class Q barn to be used as domestic storage, at Middlebrooks, Kingston St Mary Road, Bishops Lydeard – Withdrawn

216/22 Any Other Business - for report only

Cllr Hunt reported that the post office has a to let sign outside, providing a possible commercial opportunity in the village.

Cllr Morency reported that he knew a tree surgeon who may be able to provide a report in respect of the Quantock View Parking Proposal. Cllr Morency to provide the Clerk with the contact details.

Cllr Pattermore asked if the proposed concrete across the gateway on the right of way between the railway and Lethbridge Park will include a concrete pipe to allow water to flow beneath it. Clerk to check with the Parish Path Liaison Officer / SCC.

Cllr Allen reported that the butcher shop has closed. It was noted that the planning application in respect of the premises hasn't been determined yet.

217/22 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th February 2023, 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. K.', written on a light-colored background.

Signed

Date: 8th February 2023.