

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 November 2021 at 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall.

Persons present: Cllrs Martin (Chair), Morency (Vice Chair), Allen, Armstrong, Lewin-Harris, Pattermore, Hunt, Watson and Rigby (from 7.05pm until 8.20pm).

Persons absent: Cllrs Warmington and Russell.

In attendance: Mrs Amy Shepherd (Clerk), Christine Brewer, Village Agent and 2 members of the public.

148/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Warmington and Russell.

149/21 Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda

Cllr Allen declared a personal interest in respect of item 14 'To consider the recommendations of the CIL Committee in relation to the applications for funding from the VHMC and Wombat Cricket Club' as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr Pattermore declared a personal interest in respect of item 14 'To consider the recommendations of the CIL Committee in relation to the applications for funding from the VHMC and Wombat Cricket Club' as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee and item 11 'To discuss MUGA repairs / replacement' as a member of the MUGA Committee.

Cllr Lewin-Harris declared a personal interest in respect of item 11 'To discuss MUGA repairs / replacement' as a member of the MUGA Committee.

150/21 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2021

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting on 13th October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

151/21 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

152/21 Clerk's Report

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

153/21 Chairman's Report

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

- Working with the consultants regarding the traffic management work.
- Written articles for last edition and upcoming edition of Fiveways.
- Spoken with the Librarian to get an update regarding the library. The library is currently open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and alternate Saturday mornings. Keen to open every Saturday with the help of volunteers. The volunteers will need training again on the

computers. Training will begin to take place on Wednesday mornings. The footfall in the library is on average 250 per month which is an increase despite the library being open for less hours.

154/21 Comments from members of the public on matters not listed on the agenda

Christine Brewer, Village Agent and now the Area Manager for the Taunton area, provided an update on the activities that are taking place in the village. A new coffee group has started on Tuesday mornings between 10am and 12noon. The Parish Council Good Neighbours donation has been used to cover the hall hire costs for the coffee morning. A lunch is planned prior to Christmas and a lunch club is planned in the future subject to volunteers coming forward. In the locality area the Somerset Resilience Food Programme which funds free meals is accessible for Village Agents and free meals can be arranged for those who are in need. If anyone is aware of someone in need, Christine requested that contact is made with her.

The proprietor of Miles Estate Agents attended the meeting and raised the inadequate frequency that the Cotford St Luke roundabout is cut, which his business sponsors. Clerk to report to Somerset West and Taunton Council.

155/21 Planning applications for comment

No planning applications received for comment

156/21 Station View Open Space Update

Chair reported that he had visited the public open space with the Landscape Architect who had surveyed it. His opinion is that there isn't enough room on the open space to accommodate a football playing area and an amenity area. The Landscape Architect is preparing large drawings for the consultation event with a range of options for the area. A conversation followed about public opinion on the use of the space.

Clerk confirmed that she had enquired with SWT about erecting a football goal at the play park next to the WSR. SWT have responded to confirm that they are not agreeable to a football goal being placed there as it may interfere with use of the other equipment in the park.

Cllr Armstrong confirmed that 25 of the 37 properties in Station Green / View had responded to his request for opinions on the use of the space and the majority were in favour of it not being used for football.

The consultation event on 25th November will be an opportunity to formally gather the views of local people on the use of the green space. Clerk to encourage those that have added views on Facebook to attend the event. Cllr Armstrong to also remind people to attend the consultation event in his next newsletter.

Landscape Architect be asked to bear in mind that children may play football on the open space anyway when he develops options.

The need for a bin on the green was discussed. Clerk to gather quotes for different options for consideration at the next meeting.

157/21 Road and Traffic Issues

20 mph speed limit – Cllr Rigby reported that SCC had indicated that work to put the 20mph speed limit in place would take place in November. Cllr Rigby to chase at the end of November if no work has been carried out.

Chair confirmed that the consultation event will take place on 25th November 3-7pm at the Village Hall regarding the different interventions being considered. Presentations will take place by the Consultants at 4pm and 6pm. A leaflet is being distributed and local advertisement will take place. A questionnaire will be available for comments to be made and recorded. The comments will enable the PC to get a

general feeling about the views in respect of a range of different interventions. The Landscape Architect will do open space designs for Quantock View and Station View and the area outside the Primary School.

Vice Chair raised his concern that the Quantock View Parking Proposal was being delayed further and suggested that planning permission for the proposal could be applied for now, whilst the consultation is taking place. Chair explained the reasoning for consulting on all proposals for the village in one go and the need to consider the responses to the consultation before progressing any of the proposals.

Cllr Lewin-Harris raised that a footpath is not available from Gore Square to Taunton Road and that this become more of an issue with increased traffic from the Taunton Road development and the possible Coop move. Cllr Rigby confirmed that the new development will provide a new pavement, but it was noted that the issue is nearer to the former Post Office. It was suggested that a virtual pavement may be an appropriate intervention to consider.

Quantock View parking – Clerk confirmed that a formal response from SWT in relation to the findings of the drain survey is awaited.

A discussion took place about the Mount Street pavement widths and whether there was adequate room to accommodate an increased pavement size next to The Mount B&B.

Chair confirmed that the work of the Landscape Architect is £2000 for all of the work up to and including the consultation event. The cost of the Landscape Architect was approved by the Parish Council.

158/21 MUGA repairs / replacement

Nothing to report. Chair to follow up.

159/21 Avon and Somerset Police Report

Report circulated at the meeting and its contents noted.

160/21 Parish Lengthsman Report

Report circulated at the meeting and its contents noted.

The frequency of the mowing of the new A358 roundabout was discussed and whether it should be reduced.

Chair confirmed that the telephone box work is still taking place and that it is quite intricate so will be quite costly. Clerk to request the cost of refurbishing / painting the telephone box when it is completed.

161/21 To consider the recommendations of the CIL Committee in relation to the applications for funding from the VHMC and Wombat Cricket Club

The minutes of the CIL Committee Meeting on 3rd November which include its recommendations in respect of the two applications for CIL funding were circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Parish Council agreed to accept the recommendations of the CIL Committee as follows:

- £20,000 of CIL funding is awarded to the Cricket Club for this project but as the total funds awarded for the two projects total £73,342.00, a further application from the Cricket Club for any future project will not be favourably considered until after 1st April 2024.
- £27,182.00 of CIL funding is awarded to the Village Hall Management Committee for this project but as the total funds awarded for the two projects totals £66,676.00, a further application from the Village Hall Management Committee for any future project will not be favourably considered until after 1st April 2024.

162/21 Update regarding Climate Change

In Cllr Russell's absence it was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

The agenda was interrupted to take item 19 'Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters'

163/21 Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters

Cllr Rigby reported on the following:

Phosphates issue – there is a need to fix the issue at a national level. SWT have allocated £2m to purchase land to provide mitigation and sell back to developers to help to unblock planning system as a temporary measure. 3000 homes already awaiting permission. It was hoped that provision would be included in Environment Bill to require Wessex Water to upgrade treatment plants, but the Bill got royal ascent and has become an Act without inclusion of this provision.

Unitary - Government have issued the draft Structural Changes Order. The Council will be called Somerset Council, vesting day will be on 1st April 2023. It is still unclear when the elections will be – either in 2022 or 2023 – Government is requesting further views on this point. The majority of Somerset Councils have backed elections next year. Based on 110 councillors. If delayed until 2023 prospect that there could be a boundary commission review in the interim period. Implementation Committee set up comprising 5 County Councillors and 4 Leaders from District Councils.

Recycle More - New waste collection arrangements came in last week.

Taunton Town Council – only unparished area in Somerset. One Somerset Business Case included development of a Town Council as it is required for Unitary to move forward. SWT agreed to begin consultation to include 8 parishes surrounding the current unparished area of Taunton as well. Two consultations will take place. There will be a Town Council but unclear about the boundaries for it. First consultation and then preferred option and then further consultation. First elections should be in 2023.

Fives Wall – a bit of vegetation on it. Cllr Rigby confirmed that he individually owns the Wall. Trust to be set up when further local assets are also acquired but until then Cllr Rigby insures it and is responsible for it. Cllr Rigby confirmed that he is happy to manage for now and would happily give it to the PC in the longer term.

Cllr Allen requested an update on the adoption of the underpass. Cllr Rigby confirmed that the snag list still hasn't been finished but that he is continuing to follow up progress.

The agenda was interrupted to take item 20 'Update regarding Sandhill Park Mansion'

164/21 Update regarding Sandhill Park Mansion

Cllr Rigby confirmed that he had ordered a report into what had happened with the bond. That report has now been received. It confirms that there is no evidence that anyone did any research on the financial viability of the bond, that no checks were made that payments were being made on the bond, there is no evidence that anyone thought it would be good to call in the bond and that no one was responsible for monitoring S106 agreements. Cllr Rigby is considering what action to take now that the report has been received.

The agenda was resumed

165/21 To discuss the cleaning of public conveniences and library

Clerk outlined the issues being experienced with the current cleaning contractor. Clerk confirmed that she has contacted alternative cleaning contractors to gather quotes but that they were not received in advance of the meeting.

It was agreed that the PC would not continue to use the current cleaners and the Clerk would continue to gather alternative cleaning quotes for consideration at the next PC meeting. Clerk to contact local companies and enquire who the Doctors' surgery uses.

A discussion also took place about whether solar panels could be installed on the public conveniences roof. Clerk to make enquiries.

166/21 Lydeard Illuminated update

Cllr Hunt provided an update. Disappointingly because of the amount of work needed to be undertaken to enable a road closure this year the Committee has decided not to continue with the application for the event this year but roll it forward to next instead. A request will also be made to roll forward the insurance purchased for the event this year until next. The Committee have been working to try to find a way to hold the event in another location. Piffin Lane was an option but because of Covid there are lots of concerns and using the churchyard was also considered but with no luck.

The Star will go on church and Christmas carols will take place on 13th December. Christmas lights have been purchased from the funds received last year and they will be going up over the next couple of weeks.

167/21 To discuss Fiveways Trust grant funding – Platinum Anniversary

Chair outlined the email received from the Fiveways Trust about the funding that could be made available for a celebration to mark the Queens Platinum Anniversary next year.

A discussion took place about the options including a Party in the Park and the Queens Green Canopy. It was agreed to add an item to the agenda for the next meeting and for the Clerk and Councillors to make enquiries about the options to inform discussion at the next meeting.

168/21 Finance

To note income received

Interest	£2.81
SWT (CIL money)	£47446.40
SCC (Library)	£500.00
HMRC (VAT reclaim (Q1 + Q2))	£1800.43

To approve payments

Payments to be made by Direct Debit:

BT (Telephone and broadband)	£75.36
Somerset Web Services (Email account)	£5.52
British Gas (Public conveniences Electric)	£61.68
Somerset Web Services (Website Annual Fee)	£358.80

Payments to be made by BACS:

Jack Council (Parish Lengthsman Work – October)	£1933.25
Jack Council (Footpath cutting)	£440.00
Clerk's expenses (Travel, office 365, PL Hi Vis vests)	£96.31
Intelligent Workplace Solutions (Cleaning Toilets and Library)	£445.66
Bishops Lydeard Village Hall (Venue hire)	£48.00
Somerset Playing Fields Association (Subscription)	£15.00
SLCC (Annual Membership)	£234.00
Daisy Cottage (Community Grant)	£300.00
Taunton Dor-2-Dor (Leaflet printing and delivery)	£498.00
Bishops Lydeard Village Hall (CIL Award)	£27182.00
Wombat Cricket Club (CIL Award)	£20000.00

Payments to be made by cheque:

Greenway Village Hall (Community Grant)

£300.00

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

169/21 To note planning permissions granted

06/21/0037 Erection of shed/outbuilding in the garden to the rear of Grey Gables, Lower Merridge, Bridgwater - Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 28/10/2021.

06/21/0034 Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 1 South Drive, Sandhill Park, Bishops Lydeard - Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 15/10/2021.

170/21 To note planning applications refused/withdrawn

None

171/21 Any Other Business - for report only

Cllr Watson suggested that the Parish Council may like to consider taking responsibility for maintaining the roundabouts and offer business sponsorship as the current arrangement seems to offer businesses poor value for money. Clerk to make enquiries and add an item to the next agenda.

Cllr Armstrong reported issues that are being experienced with parking at the car park at the village hall. Cllr Allen confirmed that work men working on the play park have been parking across the car park which has caused some issues.

Cllr Martin reported that performances of 'Who killed the mad scientist' are taking place on Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Cllr Allen suggested that the Parish Council consider re-doing the hand drawn map of the village to reflect the new development / changes in the village. It was agreed to consider this at an appropriate point in the future.

Cllr Pattermore reported that parking on the corner of Gore Square and parking through the village is becoming an issue, particularly at weekends. Clerk to request visits from Parking Enforcement.

Cllr Hunt reported concerns about the amount of dog mess on pavements in the village. Clerk to print some leaflets and order some signs encouraging people to clean up their dog mess.

172/21 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th December 2021, 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm.



Signed

Date: 8th December 2021