

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 9th November 2022 at 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall.

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

Persons absent: Cllrs Hunt, Pattermore and Warmington.

In attendance: Mrs Amy Shepherd (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

155/22 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hunt, Pattermore and Warmington.

156/22 Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda

Cllr Lewin-Harris declared a personal interest in respect of item 13 'MUGA repairs / replacement update'.

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

Cllr Rigby declared a personal interest in respect of planning application number 06/22/0034.

157/22 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting on 12th October 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

158/22 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

159/22 Clerk's Report

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

Actions required:

- Clerk to instruct A1 Windows and Doors to repair the Bus Shelter at Station Road
- Clerk to enquire with SCC about installing the SID on Station Road between the roundabout and the Lethbridge Arms.
- Clerk to forward Tree Licence email correspondence from SCC to Cllr Rigby to see if he can negotiate the terms of the licence.

160/22 Chairman's Report

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

- Written an article for Fiveways
- Attended a meeting of the Almshouse Trustees.
- Attended the Library Review Meeting
- Gathered information to respond to a FOI request.

Chair confirmed that he also planned to attend the Remembrance Service in the village on behalf of the Parish Council.

161/22 Comments from members of the public

No comments from members of the public.

162/22 Avon and Somerset Police Report

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

163/22 Planning applications for comment

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

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

06/22/0034 Construction of dormer to front of dwelling and installation of door to rear of the garage outbuilding at Church House, West Street, Bishops Lydeard

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

164/22 Road and Traffic Issues

Feedback from Working Group Site Meeting with Traffic Consultant

Notes from the Site Meeting of the Working Group with the Traffic Consultant on 31st October were circulated in advance of the meeting as follows:

Notes from Site Meeting of Road and Traffic Issues Working Group with Traffic Consultant, Phil Parker, TPA on 31st October 2022.

In attendance:

Cllrs Martin, Bainbridge, Lewin-Harris and Ball, Amy Shepherd (Clerk) and Phil Parker (TPA).

Members of the Working Group walked to the following locations in the village where measures are proposed, and the following comments / observations were made:

Possible crossing of Hither Mead where it joins to Mount St

Vehicle crossover discussed and agreed as long as there is no reduction in the radius of the road junction to enable larger vehicles to manoeuvre. The continuous path to also go across the Village Hall car park. The proposed informal pedestrian crossing of Mount Street would be located between the garage and the public toilet car park outside No 4.

Works to the bridge over the stream on Hither Mead

Working Group supportive of the proposal.

Possible pathway in village green along the side of the MUGA. VHM to discuss and produce a proposal.

Other interventions on Hither Mead discussed but deferred for now.

Village gateway by Moorland Gate entrance on Taunton Road

Working Group supportive of proposal.

Gateway to be placed where the stone wall build outs are located for the DWH development. The carriageway will be reduced in width. The surface would be raised to slow traffic coming into the village.

Action:

Clerk to check Taunton Road Development landscaping plan to check the design of the gateway and Open Space at the beginning of the DWH Development.

Gore Square works

Two proposals to be developed for this element upon which to consult and cost.

One where the whole area is raised and one where areas are raised at each of the four incoming roads

Village gateway on Station Road

Location suggested between the two bus stops. Gateway to narrow the carriageway width and to be raised. No crossing point required.

Crossing on the Greenway side of Station Road, by the underpass

Proposed location for the crossing point at the other side of the bus stop, the crossing will be raised and provide a pedestrian crossing point near to the entrance of the business park.

Minehead Road village gateway and possible closure of slip road

Phil Parker advised that closing the slip road would likely to be an issue for SCC Highways and that SCC would be unlikely to agree to the closure of the slip road as it would mean that traffic from Minehead would have to take a sharp left turn on a fast stretch of road. A number of vehicles were observed using the slip road as a turning point whilst at the location.

Gateway to be placed by the 20mph signs. Gateways to be raised and reduce the carriageway width but no crossing point required.

Mount St junction with Mill Lane

Proposal incorporates the widening of the existing pavement to 1.8m, thereby narrowing the road. The measures will make it more obvious to road users that it isn't possible for two vehicles to pass each other at certain points on Mount Street and provide a greater width pavement for pedestrians.

Some concern was initially expressed about this proposal but after further discussion, there was general support for this measure.

Crossing by the village hall/garage

Working Group supportive of the proposal near the bridge.

Further crossing point between the garage and public toilet car park (outside number 4 Mount Street) agreed (as noted in the Hither Mead/Mount Street works above).

Quantock View and Mount St junction

General support for the vehicle crossover element and removing the bellmouth of the junction. By large vehicles not following the bellmouth line of the junction damage to the wall on the other side of the junction will be reduced.

Some concern was expressed about increasing the pavement width outside The Mount B&B.

It was noted that the area is currently having a topographical survey. It was agreed that drawings would be developed of the proposal to enable further consideration.

School entrance crossing and related ideas

Working Group preferred the provision of a crossing point only next to the existing fencing on the pavement edge outside the school. The crossing point will be six metres in width, raised and will narrow the carriageway.

Crossing on Church St by the Co-op (or Paper Shop)

Locations for the crossing point reviewed.

It was agreed that the crossing point should not be located by the Co-Op.

It was agreed that the most suitable location for the crossing point was outside number 17 Church Street where double yellow lines are already in place on both sides of the road.

The crossing point might narrow the road width but would not be raised.

West St village gateway

Village Gateway to be added at the far end of West Street on the village side of the bridge.

Works on Cothelstone Road by Pound Lane/Delta Rise, including village gateway

Working Group supportive of this proposal.

Noted that just the crossing point / gateway by the football club is being taken forward with SCC as part of the mini S278 agreement. The other elements of this proposal will be included in the large S278 agreement.

Other notes:

- Village Gateways – to have a universal design, possibly incorporating the Quantock Hills AONB Buzzard. Designs / ideas need to be developed. All village gateways to be external on each main part of the village. There was no appetite for internal village gateways.
- Proposed bin on Taunton Road, around the junction with Mill Lane – Clerk to request permission and a quote from SWT.
- Pavement outside Paddock – unclear what is happening with this / what is proposed. Clerk to look into.
- Clerk to check ownership of verge in front of Questel, Taunton Road
- Clerk to check extent of ownership of Gore Square / Lethbridge Arms frontage.

Agreed next steps:

- Clerk to type up notes from the site meeting and circulate.
- Update on Site Meeting to be provided to Parish Council at its meeting on 9th November.
- Phil Parker to develop plans and send them through by the end of November.
- Phil Parker to follow up SCC regarding progress with the mini S278 agreement.
- Clerk to continue to gather quotes for the Mount Street/ Mill Lane and Cothelstone Road Gateway / Crossing to enable costings for all proposals to be estimated.
- Working Group to meet again during week commencing 28th November to discuss plans and make recommendations to Parish Council.
- Working Group to develop and make recommendations for the Parish Council to consider at its meeting on 14th December.
- Consultation to take place in January / February 2023.

The notes were reviewed. The following suggestions were made by Councillors:

- Slip road onto Minehead Road – pursue with SCC Highways.
- Footpath/pavement on Cothelstone Road as an option to be considered rather than virtual footpath. Cllr Rigby confirmed that with the completion of the works to the wall at Darby Way / Delta Rise, more space may be available for a pavement instead of virtual footpath. Cllr Rigby

also reported that SCC Highways Engineers are going to take a look at interventions that could be used in this area to reduce visibility and slow traffic speeds.

- Narrowing outside the school for crossing point, consider a raised crossing but not a narrowing of the road.

A member of the public requested an update in respect of the proposals and if any further consultation will take place. Chair provided an overview of the two projects that are underway at Quantock View and Cothelstone Road and confirmed that further consultation in respect of the rest of proposals will take place in January / February 2023.

Clerk confirmed that a web page is being developed on the PC website to include designs and plans of the proposals. Clerk is also undertaking a costings exercise for two of the proposals to give some clarity of likely cost to deliver all of the proposals.

Chair confirmed that we would like a 20-mph limit and a gateway/crossing on Greenway Road but this does depend upon Cllr Rigby succeeding in persuading Highways that other speed slowing works need to be put in place.

Update on Quantock View Parking Proposal

Chair confirmed that the Planning Application is still to be determined.

Vice Chair expressed concern about the yellow lines outside the back of the school which reduce the number of parking spaces available. Vice Chair reported that SCC had confirmed that the request for the yellow lines came from the Parish Council. Vice Chair questioned whether SCC had the legal right to put yellow lines on an unadopted road and the validity of the request to put lines on an unadopted highway. Vice Chair has raised these concerns with Cllr Rigby to raise with SCC.

Cllr Rigby confirmed that he has suggested a meeting being arranged to get to the bottom of who can carry out works in Quantock View.

165/22 Community Gardens Grant Request

Clerk outlined a request received from Jane Durant on behalf of the volunteers who maintain the two community garden areas in the village; one near the underpass and one on Mount Street by the surgery. The Group have requested £100 of funding to replace some of the plants lost during the hot weather in the summer. The grant request was approved by the Parish Council.

166/22 Somerset Emergency Community Contact for the Parish

A letter received from the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit and circulated in advance of the meeting, requesting that the Parish Council nominate up to 3 trusted people in the community to act as contacts, was discussed.

Chair and Cllrs Delderfield and Lewin-Harris agreed to be nominated as the emergency contacts.

Cllr Allen confirmed that the Village Hall has been registered as a place of safety.

167/22 MUGA repairs / replacement update

Cllr Lewin-Harris reported that work to the MUGA is expected to start during week commencing 21st November. Sleepers / kicker boards that are being removed will need to be advertised.

168/22 Station View Public Open Space update

Clerk confirmed that a tender exercise for the alternative design is underway.

169/22 Climate Change Update

Cllr Delderfield confirmed that he did not have too much to report this month. Meeting arranged with Climate Action Taunton for Monday 14th November to consider initiatives to move the PC forward. Cllr Delderfield to report back at the next meeting.

170/22 Parish Lengthsman Report

Clerk confirmed that the October Parish Lengthsman Report had not been received and confirmed that she would circulate it to Councillors when it was.

Clerk to remind the lengthsman to cut the hedge along school boundary opposite the noticeboard

171/22 Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters

Cllr Rigby reported on the following:

Budget – there is a possibility that the Council will not be able to deliver all services next year. Adults and Children’s services are demand led and the Council can only raise Council Tax by up to 1.9% which is not enough. The budget setting process for next year will be tough. A lot of Councils are in same or worse position. A change from Central Government on financing is needed in the next 6 months. In terms of the impact on Bishops Lydeard, it’s suggested that a precautionary increase in the Parish Council budget is implemented to enable money to be included for things that the Somerset Council won’t be able to deliver.

Buses – local bus fares have been capped at £1.00 although this doesn’t include Bishops Lydeard.

Taunton Town Council – will come into being on 1st April, elections will take place in May, Shadow Councillors will be in place in the meantime.

Chief Executive - now in post from October.

DWH – Co-op is still on track to go onto the DWH site, a new company is acting as an agent for Co-Op. Cllr Rigby is going to follow up progress again in a week. Aware of some pre-development conditions that look to have been breached – planning enforcement are taking a look at these. DWH expect to be off site by June next year.

Delta Rise – the contractor being used is finishing work at the Coal Orchard and are expected to be on site within 4 weeks. Materials have been ordered, the proposed six-week road closure will not take place and traffic lights will be used instead.

Greenway – to enable the reduction of vehicle speed, white lining proposed but surface dressing needs to take place first which is scheduled to take place next year. The white lining will make the road feel narrower by lines being painted on the outside of the road and the middle line being taken out. Physical measures to reduce speed are also being considered which will allow the 20mph speed limit to be extended.

171/22 Finance

To note 2022/23 Pay Agreement

The 2022/23 Pay Agreement was noted which equates to approximately a £1.00 per hour increase.

Clerk to calculate back pay from 1st April 2022 and adjust the month Standing Order payment.

To note income received

Interest	
PSDF	£402.06
Library Income	£72.90
SCC (Library Contribution)	£500.00

To approve payments

Payments to be made by Direct Debit:

BT (Telephone and broadband)	£82.38
Somerset Web Services (Email account)	£5.52
Somerset Web Services (Annual Web Hosting Fee)	£363.00

Payments to be made by BACS:

Jack Council (Parish Lengthsman Work – October)	£1673.20
Clerks Expenses (Office 365, Travel, SID fixtures)	£89.39
AIS Cleaning Contractors Limited (Toilet and Library cleaning)	£671.70
Coomber Security Systems Limited (Fire Extinguishers Maintenance)	£193.92
Somerset County Council (Library Staffing Q2)	£2593.63
Clive Martin (Remembrance Wreath / traffic consultant lunch expenses)	£55.03
Society of Local Council Clerks (Annual Membership Fee)	£234.00

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

172/22 To note planning permissions granted

No notifications received.

173/22 To note planning applications refused/withdrawn

06/22/0031/A Display of 3 No. non-illuminated advertisement/sponsorship signs on Dene Cross Roundabout, A358/745, Bishops Lydeard – Withdrawn.

174/22 Any Other Business - for report only

Cllr Allen reported that the Christmas Prize Bingo will take place on 26th November and the Christmas Fayre will take place on 3rd December at the Village Hall.

Cllr Allen reported that one of the Village Hall Management Committee past Trustees has passed away. Two new trustees have come forward.

Cllr Lewin-Harris suggested that the Parish Council congratulate the Primary School on the Ofsted result. Chair to write to the school on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Bainbridge reported that she is creating a Community Speedwatch Scheme.

Cllr Bainbridge reported the death of South Quantock Ward Councillor Anthony Trollope-Bellew. Cllr Rigby confirmed that he will cover the whole of the South Quantock Ward for the rest of the term.

175/22 Date of next meeting:

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed



Date: 14th December 2022