

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 13th October 2021 at 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall.

Persons present: Cllrs Martin (Chair), Morency (Vice Chair), Allen, Armstrong, Warmington, Russell, Lewin-Harris, Pattermore and Rigby (from 8.45pm).

Persons absent: Cllrs Watson and Hunt.

In attendance: Mrs Amy Shepherd (Clerk), Clare Lain (Parish Path Liaison Officer).

124/21 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Watson and Hunt.

125/21 Declarations of interest relating to matters on the agenda

Cllr Pattermore declared a personal interest in respect of item 19 'Village Hall Play Park upgrade update' as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

126/21 Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2021

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting on 8th September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

127/21 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

128/21 Clerk's Report

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

Clerk to write to owners of property in Gore Square about a hedge that is overgrowing the pavement.

Clerk to request Hawthorn trees from SWT as part of their Free Trees initiative.

Clerk to request SWT to erect a road sign at Fennington Lane.

129/21 Chairman's Report

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

- Chased up transfer of Station View public open space.
- Chased up SWT regarding their position in relation to the Quantock View parking proposal.
- Attended the Almshouse Trustees meeting on 4th October 2021.
- Chased DWH about constructing the footpath to Spinneyfield and Hither Mead.
- Made contact with a Landscape Architect about proposals in Bishops Lydeard.
- Attended the LGR Conference for Town and Parish Councils on 7th October. LCNs are happening with the move to unitary, there will be a significant reduction in Councillors. The Conference included a presentation from Wiltshire Council. There is an indication that the LCNs budget is going to be quite small.

130/21 Comments from members of the public on matters not listed on the agenda

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

131/21 Planning applications for comment

53/21/0005/LEW Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing use of the land and stables for the purposes of agriculture at Plot 2 Dene Road, Cotford St Luke (resubmission of 53/20/0013)

The Parish Council neither supports or objects to the proposal but notes that Ivor Roberts of Wick Farm who has written a letter in relation to the application is deceased.

06/21/0037 Erection of shed/outbuilding in the garden to the rear of Grey Gables, Lower Merridge, Bridgwater

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

25/21/0032 Replacement of leylandii hedge to boundary with Montys Lane with close boarded timber fence with brick gateposts replacing timber posts at Riverfield House, Montys Lane, Norton Fitzwarren (retention of works already undertaken)

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

132/21 Update from Parish Path Liaison Officer including:

Clare Lain, Parish Path Liaison Officer attended the meeting and provided an update on the work that she has been doing recently in relation to the footpaths in the parish.

Clare explained that she had been getting used to the role and the expectations of it. Clare is working with SCC Officers about the works required to footpaths in the village including the byway in between the Football Pitch and the Cedar Falls Road and the Whiskey Trail. Substantial works are required to both and quotes are being obtained by SCC for what is required, SCC will also will liaise with the landowners about the works required.

A volunteer has come forward, following the display of posters, who is willing to strim the footpaths. In exchange for SCC providing the required equipment, insurance and training, a contribution of £80.00 per year per volunteer is required. The Parish Council confirmed that it was happy to proceed.

It was agreed that Clare would add an article to Fiveways in the Spring to try to recruit additional volunteers.

Clare explained that as part of her role she is required to submit an annual report to the Parish Council and SCC. The report contains recommendations of work required to the footpaths following a walk of them. Clare asked the Parish Council to consider what improvements it would like to see to footpaths.

The report is submitted in February. It was agreed that Clare would send a draft of the report to the Chair and Clerk and that an item would be included in Fiveways asking Parishioners to identify any improvements.

Clare finally outlined the work that she would like to take forward and add to her work plan for the coming year in relation to footpaths in the Parish. There are a number of footpaths that are not on the map; 3-4 in total. Clare would like to complete the required paperwork to get the footpaths added to the map. It was agreed that Clare would send a list of the paths to the Chair and Clerk so that the landowners can be identified to enable a conversation to take place with them before the paperwork is submitted.

Cllr Lewin-Harris raised the footpath between the bypass and Broadgauge Business Park and the works required to the surface. Clare agreed to liaise with SCC regarding the path and the required works with a view to the PC funding any required works.

Cllr Pattermore raised the appropriate use of footpaths. Clare agreed to add some promotion of this to her workplan for the coming year.

133/21 Station View Open Space Update and authorisation to sign Deed of Transfer

Chair confirmed that the deed of transfer in respect of the open space had been received from the solicitor for signature by the Chair and Vice Chair. The Parish Council authorised the signing of the Deed.

Cllr Armstrong provided an update on the outcome of the consultation with local residents about the use of the open space once the transfer has completed. 50% of local residents would like the area to be landscaped with bushes and a bench. The other 50% were split in two, half of which indicated that they don't mind and the other indicating that they would like football to continue.

Chair reported that he had been liaising with a Landscape Architect who had just completed the Design Guide for SWT; Richard Guise. It is hoped that the Parish Council could use his services for developing the look and feel of the proposed road interventions across the village but his services could also be used in relation to this open space. It was agreed that the Chair should seek Richard Guise's view regarding the open space.

Clerk to enquire with SWT about the possibility of adding a football goal in the playpark next to the Railway Station. Cllr Armstrong to consult again with residents about the proposal to add a football goal in the park.

134/21 Update regarding Sandhill Park Mansion

In Cllr Rigby's absence this item was deferred until the next meeting.

135/21 Road and Traffic Issues

Chair provided an update on the road improvement proposals.

A response has been received from SWT regarding the Quantock View Parking Proposal to confirm that, following consultation with local residents, SWT would be supportive of no more than 5 additional spaces being added in line with the Traffic Consultants recommendations. This is on the condition that the 5 spaces do not have a negative impact on the existing trees on the green and that the required permission is obtained. SWT have also indicated a preference for the 20mph speed limit to be extended into Quantock View.

An email has been received from the South Side Residents Group stating their position in relation to the proposal and confirming that they will refuse permission to access the site of the proposal.

As reported at the last meeting a positive response has been received from SCC Highways department in relation to the improvements proposed in the Parish and as such the Parish Council is now in a position to proceed with the planned public consultation event which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 25th November from 3pm until 7pm at the Village Hall. A leaflet advertising the consultation event will be delivered to every household in the parish.

The consultation will be on the initial concepts, approach and ideas. A questionnaire to gather feedback on each of the different approaches will be drawn up and made available at the event. Following the consultation detailed sets of proposals will be developed, there will then be a further consultation on them.

SCC have agreed to remove all road roundels initially proposed for the 20mph speed limit apart from on the road near Darby Way where there is too much vegetation to display road signs that are visible. Roundels will also be included on the road at the beginning of the 20mph speed limit. The hope is that the speed limit will be in place by Christmas.

Chair requested that the Parish Council give him authorisation to spend money engaging Richard Guise from Creating Excellence to get his input into proposals for the open spaces at Quantock View and Station View. A firm idea of the price / cost will be available after an initial meeting has taken place.

and formal approval will be request at the next PC meeting. The Parish Council authorised the Chair to proceed.

Clerk provided an update on the condition of the drain in Quantock View following a drain survey. The drain is damaged due to tree roots and is completely blocked approximately 5 metres into the drain. The drain has been cleared for now but it is likely to continue to become blocked over the winter months. An estimate of the cost to dig up / fix the drain was also provided as part of the survey. It was agreed that the Clerk would pass the information from the drain survey to SWT with the proposal that work to the drain is tied in with the parking proposal work but that SWT make a financial contribution towards the works required and make a commitment to clear the drain at required intervals in the interim.

136/21 MUGA repairs / replacement

Chair reported that an update had been received from Jim Bletcher by email. It is recommended that the weldmesh fencing and timber or plywood rebound boards are replaced with twin-wire fencing panels which incorporate a heavier duty mesh for the bottom 1200mm. This material is much longer lasting. However, using this system would mean replacing the court enclosure completely which will inevitably cost more. Jim Bletcher has asked GB Sport and Leisure to provide a cost estimate for this system so that the two options can be compared. In either scenario there will be a significant cost in disposing of the original rebound boards, Jim Bletcher has suggested they could be offered to the local community, either free or for a modest donation. They would be ideal for raised beds or other garden structures.

Chair suggested that there may be match funding possibilities available in addition to CIL expenditure on the MUGA.

137/21 Avon and Somerset Police Report

Report circulated at the meeting and its contents noted.

138/21 Parish Lengthsman Report

Report circulated at the meeting and its contents noted.

139/21 Lydeard Illuminated update

Clerk confirmed that the road closure application for the Christmas Street Fayre was submitted following the September PC meeting and the application fee was paid. Unfortunately, a few weeks later SCC responded confirming that the information submitted with the application was not sufficient and requesting further reports and information was submitted. The Lydeard Illuminated Committee have decided that they do not have the time or expertise to develop this information in time for the 2021 event and asked that Clerk to request that SCC either refund the application fee or hold onto it for the application for next year instead. SCC have confirmed that they will not provide a refund but will hold the fee until next year. SCC also confirmed that because the TTRO can be in place for 18 months both the 2022 and 2023 Christmas Street Fayre dates can be included. This information has been passed to the Lydeard Illuminated Committee.

The Christmas Fayre will still take place this year but in the churchyard instead of on the road.

140/21 To consider nomination of Almshouse Trustees

Chair confirmed that of the 11 Almshouse Trustees, 6 are nominated by the Parish Council. Of these 6, 3 require renomination by the Parish Council. Of the 3, Richard Peacocke and Eddie Ferris have confirmed that they are happy to be nominated again. The Parish Council agreed to nominate Richard

Peacocke and Eddie Ferris. It was noted that one Trustee vacancy remains, a nomination into the vacancy will be considered by the Parish Council at a later date.

141/21 Village Hall Play Park upgrade update

Cllr Allen provided a general update on the Village Hall. The AGM took place recently but was only attended by two members of the public. 2020 was challenging operationally but financially the Village Hall has been okay due to grants being received which covered the lost revenue. Most of the groups have restarted, some groups have stopped but some others have started and overall the Village Hall is being used well again. Work is now underway to get some bollards installed on the Mount Street pavement to prevent inconsiderate parking on the pavement.

The fencing for the play park is being delivered shortly and a container has been placed by the MUGA for storage of the materials for the play park pending their installation.

The play park upgrade will include a slide and adventure trail, improvements to the surface around equipment and the provision of pathways between the equipment. Three quotes have been obtained for the work. The VHMC has decided to go with the more expensive quote as the equipment is better. The total cost of the upgrade is £53k in total. S106 money secured from the Paddock development will be used and the Village Hall is making a contribution. An application to the Parish Council has been made for £27k of CIL funding.

Chair confirmed that the application will be considered by the CIL Committee in the first instance and the Committee will make recommendations to PC to be considered at its November meeting.

142/21 Somerset County Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council matters

Cllr Rigby reported on the following:

Unitary – the draft Structural Changes Order is being prepared setting out the details of the new council. Options regarding the number of councillors have been put forward to Government. The draft order should be available shortly. At the moment it isn't clear when the elections will take place; they may take place in 2023.

Phosphates issue – some progress to report, SWT are spending £2m on buying lots of land to re-wild and provide phosphate mitigation. The spend will be cost neutral to the Council as developers will buy an amount per house proposed. This step will help to get permission granted for some proposals. 3000 proposed houses are backed up in system awaiting approval. Wessex Water need to take further steps regarding treatment plants, this need has been relayed to the MP.

Taunton Town Council – Working Group established to look at the options. Including unparished area or extending to adjoining parished areas. The options will be considered by SWT Full Council on 19th October.

20mph speed limit – work should start next month, awaiting confirmation from the scheduling officer.

Hedge at Greenway / Station Green – going to be replanted this winter along with fencing around it to make it clear that it is a hedge.

Cycle path – two plans for major cycle paths have been put forward, Bishops Lydeard is one of them. Good progress is being made.

Waste Collections – back to normal.

Covid – increasing levels locally, a lot of cases locally particularly now schools are back.

Darby Way fencing - in place around the green.

Sandhill Park – has been sold as previously reported. Legal agreement in place. Includes a package of works to get the building watertight.

143/21 Finance

Quarter 2 Financial Statements (Parish Council, CIL and Library)

The quarter 2 financial statements were noted.

Review and adopt new model Standing Orders (as per recommendations of Internal Auditor)

The new model Standing Orders were reviewed and it was agreed to adopt them.

To note income received

Interest	£2.81
SWT – Precept	£28073.00
SALC (Community Fund)	£1448.00
Library Income	£99.34
SW+T Council (£594.00 Burial Grant, £400.00 Footpath Grant, £806.00 Playing Field Grant)	£1800.00

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
EDF Energy (Library Electric April – October)	305.14
British Gas (Public conveniences Electric)	£62.90

Payments to be made by BACS:

Jack Council (Parish Lengthsman Work – September)	£1346.10
Clerk's expenses (Travel, office 365)	£62.67
Intelligent Workplace Solutions (Cleaning Toilets and Library)	£445.66
Mr C Back (Library Lease)	£800.00
HMRC (Tax and NI contribution)	£501.67
Friendly Club (Community Fund)	£500.00
Greenway Hall (Community Fund)	£300.00
J Hewitt Maintenance Services (Hanging basket installation/ removal / brackets / watering)	£5678.40
Transport Planning Associates (Traffic Management Report work)	£1620.00
Somerset West and Taunton Council (Grass cutting and dog Bin emptying Quarter 2)	£1236.74
Viking (Stationery and postage)	£168.12
St Mary's PCC	£400.00
First Local Services (Quantock View Drain Clearance / Survey)	£395.88
Coomber Security (Library)	£192.81

Payments to be made by Cheque:

St Thomas' PCC	£200.00
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It was proposed, seconded, and voted unanimously that these payments be approved.

144/21 To note planning permissions granted

06/21/0025 Erection of wood cladding fence and multi-purpose roofless bin store at 32 Wheatstones, Bishops Lydeard (retention of works already undertaken) - Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 17/09/2021.

06/21/0032 Erection of porch to the front of 16 Darby Way, Bishops Lydeard - Decision of Conditional Approval was made on 07/09/2021.

06/21/0033/CLA Notification for prior approval for the installation of a H3G Phase 8 20m high street pole c/w wrap around cabinet and 3 No. equipment cabinets at Minehead Road Streetworks, Minehead Road, Bishops Lydeard - Decision of Prior Approval Approved (Conditional) was made on 17/09/2021.

145/21 To note planning applications refused/withdrawn

53/21/0005/LEW Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing use of the land and stables for the purposes of agriculture at Plot 2 Dene Road, Cotford St Luke (resubmission of 53/20/0013) – Withdrawn

146/21 Any Other Business - for report only

Cllr Armstrong requested clarification from Cllr Rigby regarding the adoption of Station Green / View roads. Cllr Rigby to investigate.

Cllr Russell requested that an item on Climate Change matters is added to the agenda for the next meeting. Cllr Russell has attended Somerset Prepared courses this month and would like to provide a report to the Parish Council. WPD would like to raise awareness of the priority services register, there are also grants of up to £5k available for equipment for volunteer groups focussed on local resilience, SPARK Somerset is also available for managing volunteers. A thorough report will be provided next month.

Cllr Lewin-Harris raised concerns about the continuing problems that the Lengthsman is finding with the cleanliness of toilets. Clerk confirmed that she is liaising with the Cleaning Company.

Cllr Morency reported that the hanging baskets have now been taken down.

147/21 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th November 2021, 7pm at Bishops Lydeard Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed



Date: 10th November 2021