

HAMBRIDGE & WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 9th DECEMBER 2019 @ 8PM

IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT:- Cllrs Simon Denley (Chairman), Richard Maidment, Richard Meecham, Paul Masters, District Cllr Mike Stanton and County Cllr Adam Dance.

651). **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Jon Lock.

652). **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

653). **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH NOVEMBER 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting, having been circulated to the members were approved and signed on the proposal of Cllr Paul Masters.

654). **REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

- a). County Cllr. Adam Dance said they were in purdah but, he wanted to update the members about the road up at Court. He had spoken to the developer and the residents. The developer had finally got back to the residents as he had asked him to. They were going to do the work before Christmas but they have now sent an official letter to everyone which said:-

“As you are aware, we recently received confirmation from the council that the proposed work to the driveway out of Court could proceed. We were in touch with our contractors as soon as we received this go ahead. We can now confirm that the start date will be Monday, 10th February 2020. This is in some ways disappointing as we had hoped to complete the work before Christmas but, this is out of our hands. It will take two weeks for the work to be done and they would let him know nearer the time”.

- b). District Cllr Mike Stanton said that he had just spent the day at a Flooding Conference in London. This had been very revealing about a whole lot of things, particularly in regard to how trees can help if the right ones are planted in the right places. The fact that the canopy can retain so much water for so long to stop it getting down to the ground. When he asked the speaker what the best type of tree was, he was advised that it was the Leylandii tree. Evergreens work all year round and they grow fast.

He had also spent this morning at the Housing Meeting with the housing providers. He thought it fair to say that all the complaints that Parish Councils have about the planning processes is echoed by all the housing developers too, including the Housing Associations. We must do something about it. It was pointed out that there would be no Area North meeting in December.

655). **MATTERS ARISING**

- a). **Caravan parked at Westport – update**

District Cllr Mike Stanton reported that he had today received an email from Tim Wills advising that he had personally served a notice on the address on the 6th December. Cllr Simon Denley advised that he had emailed Tim Wills and he had come back this morning confirming this. Cllr Simon

Denley followed this up with an email asking what would happen if he ignored the notice. He was advised that if they do not comply with the requirement of the notice to remove the caravan from the site, then they commit an offence, that could be tried, even in the Magistrate's Court or Crown Court. There is a right of appeal against the notice and if they lodge an appeal it would be necessary to wait until a decision is known. Until such time as the notice takes effect again, i.e. if they lose their appeal or, they win the appeal.

b). **Footpaths generally – update**

Cllr Simon Denley advised that he had found some more documents relating to the L192. He would pass them onto Cllr Richard Maidment who said that he had tried to contact the lady but, he had not yet received a reply.

c). **Auto Speed Watch – update**

There had been difficulty in opening the zipped file that the Clerk had sent. This information had also been sent to Curry Rivel Parish Council who were also interested in erecting speed indicator devices. If a further demonstration was organised Curry Rivel would be interested in becoming involved and the clerk was asked to liaise between the two councils and find a convenient date.

d). **Development at Westmoor Lane**

Cllr Simon Denley said that he had heard nothing further. District Cllr Mike Stanton said that Alex Skidmore was the officer to contact and he had realised too late that although he had asked for an update, he had not received one. County Cllr Adam Dance suggested that a copy of the email be sent to him today and he would speak to her tomorrow.

e). **Hambridge Mill Project - update**

Cllr Simon Denley said that it had been sold but, not to the co-operative that had been talked about at our last meeting. Savilles had emailed indicating that they were interested in coming along to the meeting tonight. It was considered that there was not enough notice for us to put it onto our Agenda and we had not seen any planning applications. He had a feeling that they were going to try and turn it into housing. If they could provide us with information on the proposed development by the end of December, we could discuss it at our January meeting. They could then be invited to attend our meeting on Monday the 10th February.

f). **Request for road safety mirrors at Brewers Lane and Ruskway Lane**

It was understood that Somerset County Highways would not pay for safety mirrors and the parish council would have to finance them. Following a lengthy discussion during which various suggestions were put forward, it was agreed that Cllr Richard Maidment would speak to residents about the possible erection of mirrors adjacent to their property.

g). **The planting of trees**

District Cllr Mike Stanton said trees would be available from the Woodland Trust if there were people willing to plant them. They would be delivered in March and October. Cllr Simon Denley said we could also get the Primary School involved. The more we could do to preserve existing trees, with the exception of apple trees. One parish had challenged every house to plant one tree in their garden and if there was space, they could plant two. Cllr Simon Denley suggested that Earnshill might be interested if the trees were free. District Cllr Mike Stanton said that in the Californian fires two hundred million trees were lost. Cllr Richard Maidment suggested that Mike Evans could be asked to include something in the Newsletter and someone might come forward to take it on as a project.

h). **Combined Charities -nomination of a Trustee representing Hambridge & Westport**
Cllr Simon Denley had spoken to Mike Evans and he had confirmed that he was willing to act as a Trustee for Hambridge & Westport.

i). **Dog Bin**
The Clerk had found it difficult to contact the department that dealt with the maintenance of dog bins.

656). **FINANCE REPORT**

a). The following accounts were approved for payment on the proposal of Cllr Paul Masters, seconded by Cllr Richard Maidment.

Mike Evans – Newsletter	£56.00
Clerk’s Wages – December	£65.05
HM Revenue & Customs months 6/8	£81.00
Refund to Ian Dunster for Grit Bin	£80.34

b). A copy of the Annual Accounts of the Recreation Trust had been received. Lucy Knight had been elected as the Chairman and Danny Hardesty as the Hon. Treasurer.

c). **Council Tax Base 2020/2021**

The Clerk had received an email from the District Council to assist the Parish Council in setting its Precept for 2020/2021 and this had been emailed to the members for information. The setting of the Precept for 2010/2021 would feature on the Agenda for the January meeting.

Adjournment to allow public comment

A resident had drawn attention to the fact that if footpaths are not registered by 2026 they could be lost. A discussion followed on the problems experienced with the maintenance of various areas and County Cllr Adam Dance recommended using the Rangers’ Scheme. We would be able to get them to maintain the footpaths and carry out other repairs that were required. The question of cost was raised and the fact that the cost would probably be the same as paid to the contractors. It was pointed out that the contractors were being paid but, did not appear to be carrying out the necessary work. County Cllr Adam Dance said that all the District Councils in his area use the Rangers. You can pay for the District Council staff to have, say, half a morning or day a week for an hourly rate. . They have all the equipment required to carry all the rubbish away. They are also highway qualified if you required work to be carried out on the highway. If you require the drains to be cleared out you can get them to bring in a machine at a cost of £12 per drain. It was agreed to place this item on the Agenda for the January meeting and suggested that a small increase in the Precept could be considered when it was set at the January meeting.

The question of planting trees was raised by a resident and this would be discussed further at our next meeting.

657). **LAW & ORDER**

a). Cllr Simon Denley drew attention to the fact that pictures had been taken of a prowler going round the cars parked in the village in the early hours of the morning. It had been caught on CCTV. The PCSO will be visiting Mike Evans who had submitted the photographs to obtain any relevant information.

- b). The question of CCTV being installed at the Village Hall to protect the defibrillator etc., had been proposed and a rough quotation of £800 had been obtained for two cameras and a thirty-day recording service which members of the committee could access.
- c). Cllr Richard Maidment had been advised that a bungalow in Barrington has been burgled and various electrical items taken. Entry had been made in daylight through an open window. It was recommended that the villagers should be made aware.

658). **ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA**

- a). Footpaths generally – update
- b). Caravan at Westport – update
- c). Development at Westmoor Lane
- d). Woodland Trust
- e). Auto Speed Watch – update

CHAIRMAN_____ **DATE**_____