

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2020
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

20/705 PRESENT:

Mr S. Denley (Chairman), Mr P. Masters (Vice Chair), Mr R Maidment, Mr R Meecham, Ms. J Lock, Mr. M Stanton (District Councillor), Mr. A Dance (County Councillor), Mrs L.Brooks (Clerk).

No members of the public were present.

20/706 APOLOGIES:

Nothing to report

20/707 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The Chairman, Cllr. Denley, declared an interest in Footpath L9 22 update

20/708 MINUTES:

The Minutes from the September meeting have been circulated. They were agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Masters

Agreed unanimously.

20/709 PUBLIC TIME

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by a resident regarding the speed sensor at Underhill. It no longer worked. He asked if a new one could be purchased and maybe a better place for it to be positioned.

Clerk to look at pricing and report at November meeting.

Action: Clerk

The Chairman reported a concern from a resident regarding parking of cars on the Westport main road. The concern is that the cars are damaging the verge and ditch. The Chairman said he would go and speak to the resident. County Cllr. Dance offered to go with Cllr. Denley if required.

Action: Cllr. Denley

Cllr. Meecham reported an incident of fly tipping in a field on Westmoor Lane and requested a piece to be included in the newsletter asking residents to be vigilant for further attempts of fly tipping in the village.

Councillor Maidment reported a resident having regular bonfires in Westport. Councillor Dance suggested Cllr. Maidment keep a record of the bonfires. The Council can issue an 'abatement notice' if a neighbour's bonfire is causing a nuisance. A bonfire must happen frequently to be considered a nuisance.

Action: Cllr Maidment

20/710/a District Councillor: District Cllr. Stanton was present at the meeting.

He reported on the current SSDC's Finance situation.

He talked though the objections raised to the Government Planning Consultation: Planning for the Future.

These proposals are a major concern which have the potential to:

- Reduce democratic input in planning.
- Increase the density of existing settlements.
- Reduce the construction of Affordable Homes by up to 20%.
- Water down environmental impact assessments.

Taken together these proposals are the biggest centralisation of the Planning Process ever undertaken.

Cllr. Stanton also asked the Parish Council if they would like him to email a report to the Clerk before the Parish Council meetings, which the Clerk would then circulate to all the Parish Councillors. It would then give the Parish Councillors time to read the latest information before the meeting and have any questions ready they may like to ask. The Parish Councillors felt this would be a good idea.

20/710/b County Councillor: Cllr Dance joined us via phone for the first part of the meeting. He discussed his concerns by SCC's Unitary proposal and updated them on the latest happenings.

- The letter of invitation was received by all of the Somerset Authorities on Friday 9th October.
- In addition to the 4 District Councils and County Council which have put forward proposals for Local Government Reform, the letter was also sent to BANES and North Somerset Councils.
- It is difficult to see how either of the North Somerset Authorities could be combined with either the County's proposal or the Stronger Somerset proposal.
- If North Somerset was included in a single Unitary there would be over 1 million people included, which Cllr. Dance felt made the Unitary far too big.
- Somerset, North Yorkshire and Cumbria are seen as test cases which may potentially proceed.
- The timetable and likelihood of moving forward with either a single or two Unitary Authorities for Somerset is now more unclear than ever. However it is likely a decision will be made by January 2021.

20/710/c P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

20/711 **MATTERS ARISING**

- 20/711/a New Clerk – transfer of information; setting up banking; extra hours for September, Payroll.
Extra Hours: The Chairman informed the Parish Council that the new Clerk had worked for many hours through September, before she officially started as Clerk, to get the accounts up to date. The Parish Council agreed to pay the clerk for 13 hours work for September. (To be paid at the November Parish Council meeting)
Proposed: Cllr. Maidment Seconded: Cllr. Masters Agreed unanimously.
The Clerk explained she had produced all accounts since April 2020 - two end of quarter spreadsheets showing all payments and receipts and a bank reconciliation for the first quarter. She had still not received the latest bank statements (so can't produce a bank reconciliation until this has been received), or any confirmation from the bank regarding being the new contact for the Parish Council. The Clerk discussed the need to find a local person suitable to act as internal auditor for the Parish Council, who checks the accounts at the end of every quarter and not as it's currently being done at the end of the year, before the external audit. All the Parish Councillors agreed to think if they knew of anyone to ask. **Action: All Parish Councillors**
Nat West Bank Issues: The Chairman explained how he had attempted on many occasions to update the bank with the changes to the Clerk's details and update the details of all Parish Councillors with the bank so they could all sign cheques. He was finding Nat West very unhelpful and had lodged a complaint. **Action: Cllr. Denley and Clerk**
Payroll: It was agreed to use a Payroll Company for PAYE and HMRC. Clerk to set up the agreement with Cox and Co Payroll Services Ltd, and sort out the P45 for Jenny. **Action: Clerk**
Proposed: Cllr. Maidment Seconded: Cllr. Denley Agreed unanimously.
- 20/711/b Parish Council website – website training will be given to the Chairman, Clerk and Mike Evans by George Meadon, Squiggle Graphics on 22nd October. This will take place virtually via Zoom starting at 7.30pm.
- 20/711/c PC Councillors email addresses: Some Councillors still need to set up their Parish Council email accounts. **Action: Cllr Maidment & Cllr Masters**
- 20/711/d Speed sensor/display Underhill: Clerk to investigate prices of movable speed sensors for the village which can be moved to different locations. Cllr. Stanton advised the Clerk to speak to Cllr. Dance and the South Petherton Clerk. **Action: Clerk**
- 20/711/e Road safety mirrors – Isle Brewers Lane and Ruskway Lane – update: The Chairman will look at prices of mirrors, posts and fixings suitable to display them on. He will also speak to a resident regarding installation of the posts. **Action: Cllr. Denley**
- 20/711/f Caravan parked at Westport – update: District Cllr. Stanton is still in discussions with SSDC regarding getting the caravan removed. The Chairman was asked to write an email to the Lead planning specialist to add some pressure. **Action: Cllr Denley & Cllr. Stanton**
- 20/711/g Development at Westmoor Lane – update: Cllr. Stanton updated the Parish Council regarding getting a meeting set up with the landowner.
- 20/711/h Village Shop sign– update The Chairman reported that he would speak to the shop owner about the need for a shop sign on the green. **Action: Cllr Denley**
- 20/711/i Current development compliance: The Chairman discussed his concern regarding a building currently under construction that appears larger than the planning permission granted. Cllr Meecham suggested that all Parish Councillors go online and take a look at the plans. If they felt it was indeed larger, the Chairman was informed to report the issue via the SSDC website. **Action: All Parish Councillors**

20/712 PLANNING:

20/712/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

20/712/b Decisions Notified:

19/02565/COL - Bowhay Hambridge Langport TA10 0BG. Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for the existing use of land for the siting of a static caravan. STATUS – REFUSED (18TH Sept 2020)

20/712/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

20/713 FINANCE:

20/713/a Matters for report:

The Budget: The Clerk reported that she will now be working on the budget for 2021/22.

20/713/b Matters for resolution

Payment for Clerk's extra hours for September: See Matters Arising

HMRC PAYE – Using A Payroll Company: See Matter Arising

20/713/c Cheques Payable

M.Evans	Rockwell Print & Sign – newsletter July 2020 price adjustment	£ 100.00 chq no:482
AVS Southwest Ltd	CCTV installation – Rec, Hall and carpark	£ 1,802.40 chq no:483
M Von Tyszka	Church yard maintenance 1xmow,cut back hedges	£ 440.00 chq no:484
M Von Tyszka	Rec Maintenance - 2 x mowing	£ 110.00 chq no:485

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment Seconded: Cllr. Masters Agreed unanimously.

20/714 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received, had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors.

20/715 FOOTPATHS:

20/715/a Footpath L9 22 update: Cllr. Maidment to look into this.

Action: Cllr. Maidment

20/715/b Change to Footpaths Officer at SCC: The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Les Braunton has now retired and the new Footpaths Officer at SCC is George Montague. Email address:

gmontague@somerset.gov.uk

20/716 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Cllr Maidment reported a gate that was damaged on a footpath. He would inform the Clerk so she could report it to the Footpaths Officer.

Action: Cllr Maidment & Clerk

For November Agenda:

- Hedges in Westport - Cllr Masters to look at this with Max.

Action: Cllr Masters

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 7.30pm