

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

21/750 PRESENT:

Mr. S. Denley (Chairman), Mr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Mr. R Maidment, Mr. R Meacham, Ms. J Lock, Mr. M Stanton (District Councillor), Mr. A Dance (County Councillor), Mrs L.Brooks (Clerk). 1 member of the public was present.

21/751 APOLOGIES:

Nothing to report

21/752 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

21/753 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Lock

Agreed unanimously.

21/754 PUBLIC TIME

21/754/a Public Time: A member of the public asked for the login details to be made more public for the residents instead of having to email the Parish Clerk to obtain them. The Clerk informed him that following a meeting at SSDC that was hacked into on Zoom, all Parish Councils had been recommended to do it this way. The Chairman pointed out that it was well publicised on both the notice boards and the website with the Clerk's email address.

The same member of public mentioned a village support group for people who want to offer support but do not want to be on a committee. He then informed the Parish Council that the village agent for Hambridge and Westport was Jo Robinson (Langport and the surrounding area). The member of the public discussed how the Parish Council should be working with the village agent. The Clerk suggested that the village agent normally makes contact with village residents through the village newsletter and writes an update with her contact details so people can contact her directly in complete confidence.

The current editor of the newsletter is the Chairman of the Parish Council (Due to default, not choice). The newsletter is advertising for a new editor due to a lack of time the Chairman has to do this as well.

The member of public also requested that the Parish Council should recognize the residents in the village who are keyworkers that have done an incredible job throughout the Covid pandemic. He suggested a piece be included in the newsletter.

Action: Cllr. Denley

The member of the public also commented that the emergency plan on the website was still the old version. The Chair informed him that the Clerk had updated everything she was able to update and he was in the middle of updating the last few contacts that were missing. He invited the resident to have his input on this if he so wished.

Councillor Masters reported his concerns over people parking and staying overnight in semi-converted transit vans at the gravel pit in Hundry Lane. It started with one van and then one night there was four vans parked up. The concern is that more people could join them and also current Covid regulations say this is actually illegal.

Clerk to report to PCSO.

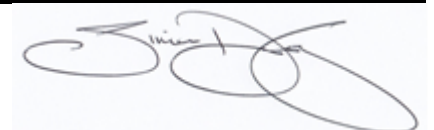
Action: Clerk

The Chairman reported that a resident brought to his attention that there is a bungalow in the village that is owned by a housing association and that was originally set aside for people in need. However, there seems to be a young gentleman residing there but not full time. The question was asked if we should be flagging it up with the housing association. The Chairman will raise it with Yarlington, to see if it is one of their houses and if they are aware of the situation.

Action: Cllr. Denley

Cllr Maidment asked if we should be contacting the school to see if there are any families who require computing devices to enable them to study from home. The Clerk reported that she had seen it discussed recently on the local news where schools were asking for old laptops, if anyone had one. The Chair mentioned there were large companies (e.g. Tesco) that were donating ipads to schools. The Chair said that if the school were happy, he would include something in the newsletter. Cllr Masters said he would check with the school to see if they required anything.

Action: Cllr Masters/Cllr Denley



21/754/b District Councillor: District Cllr. Stanton had emailed a report that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. Items included were:

Area North Committee: Most planning applications within the rainfall catchment area which feeds the Somerset Levels are still delayed by Natural England's new requirement for a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be submitted with each, to assess the level of phosphates being discharged into water courses. Councillors were briefed on the latest position on 1st February, including a way of calculating the likely phosphates discharge effect on a particular application then mitigating its effect by the applicant purchasing an interest in an 'offset', i.e. a piece of land with no phosphate pollution and which is positively contributing to improving the environment: these areas of land are likely to be wetlands. SSDC District Executive will consider on 4th February a proposal to accept this phosphate load budget calculator as our preferred method to assess the potential impact on development sites affected.

Changes to Planning: Changes to the way planning applications are decided on will also be considered by SSDC District Executive on 4th January: these are the result of a long consultative process with a Working Group of which I was a member; they should speed up and simplify the decision process particularly for small householder applications, and avoid the necessity for some applicants to present their case twice.

Draft Budget (viewable on SSDC website under District Executive Agenda item 7)

SSDC District Executive will consider on 4th February :

- A Net Revenue Budget for 2021/22 of £16,743,010.
- **2021/22 Council Tax increase of 2.91%**, increasing the annual Band D rate by £5 to £177.11.
- A new capital programme.

Full Council will consider the proposed budget on 25th February.

Regarding local issues, Councillor Stanton reported on the following:

Caravan parked at Westport update:

SSDC – The Development Specialist has written again to the person whom he believes is the owner to an address which also correlates to previous addresses and or businesses and left a message on the telephone number they have. They are hoping that by tracking the person down the caravan can be removed at their expense and therefore be a swifter solution.

Land Adjacent Burgum, Westport: –

The planning application has now been submitted and is in the process of being validated. The application reference is 21/00181/S73 and was received on the 19 January 2021. There is currently a delay with validation. The Parish Council will get the application as soon as it's been released by SSDC.

21/754/c County Councillor: County Cllr. Dance had emailed a report that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. Cllr Dance also reported on the following:

Somerset County Council has written to Government to request permission to postpone the May 2021 Local Elections. No decision has yet been made.

Delivery of political leaflets by volunteers has been banned. However this may create a political imbalance where some parties can afford to have paid-for literature delivered and others cannot.

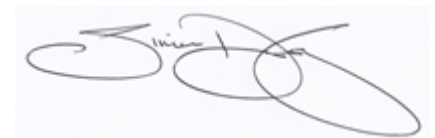
Cllr Dance also reported that Westmoor Lane has had some more patch work carried out.

Cllr Maidment mentioned the pot holes in Ruskway Lane that he had reported but nothing has been done. Clerk surprised that they haven't been highlighted as the Council do this within 3 days of notification. Clerk will report them again.

Action: Clerk

21/754/c P.C.S.O. Report:

4x4 – see matters arising below



21/755 MATTERS ARISING

21/755/a Banking: changes to mandate - update

The Chairman reported that he has still heard nothing back from the bank and still no further forward with the mandate. He had now started to look at alternatives banks and online banking. Funds need to be transferred across from the reserve bank account to the current and the bank will not even allow him to do that. The Clerk raised the point that the precept is due in April and to not do anything before then, as SSDC have now logged the details of the account that the precept has to be paid into. The Chairman will pursue this next week.

Action: Cllr Denley

21/755/b 4x4's using the droves: The Clerk reported that the PCSO had informed her that they still have not haven't managed to issue the section 59's as they need to be given in person. However, the individuals know they have been identified by the Police with this matter and it appears they have stopped driving through the droves. They have also passed their details onto the team covering the area where these people live so they can track them down and issue the warnings.

21/755/d Road safety mirrors – Nothing to report

21/755/e Benches – final bench for refurbishment:

The Parish Council were delighted with the work Paul Knight has done so far to refurbish the two benches and agreed unanimously for the third bench to be done. Chairman to inform Paul Knight. **Action: Cllr Denley**

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

21/7356 PLANNING:

21/756/a Matters for report:

Land Adjacent Burgum, Westport: The Chairman spoke about his annoyance and lack of confidence with the planning department at SSDC as nothing is being enforced. He feels the datum point was wrong, that a flat concrete platform was built that started off with a raised height so it makes the ultimate height higher. The Parish Council felt that the height of the building should have been taken with the level of the road as the datum point.

21/756/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

21/756/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

21/757 FINANCE:

21/757/a Matters for report:

Any further forward with VAT details?

Still no further forward. The Clerk is going to have to contact the HMRC for help

Update on Internal Audit:

The internal auditor has now checked the last three quarters of accounts. He does need to sign them off. However, he will soon have them back as the end of year accounts is at the end of March.

2. Matters for Resolution:

Nothing to report

3. Cheques Payable:

H&W Recreation Trust Hire of Hall for Jan/Feb/March 2020 £ 36.00 chq no:0500

This invoice has been paid – it was outstanding from 2020. The cheque was made out to be included in last month's invoices for payment but was left off the agenda in error. However, due to the small amount it was allowed to be paid.

Louise Brooks Salary for January 2021 £ 192.06 chq no:0502

HMRC PAYE payment for January 2021 £ 48.00 chq no:0503

Louise Brooks Expenses & Home office allowance for January 2021 £ 40.00 chq no: 0504

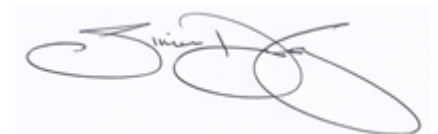
Rockwell Print and Sign Ltd Newsletter – December 2020 - 280 copies £ 101.70 chq no:0505

P Knight Repair 2 benches and refit to concrete slabs with bolts £ 335.00 chq no:0506

Proposed: Cllr. Lock

Seconded: Cllr. Masters

Agreed unanimously.



21/758 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

21/79 FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report

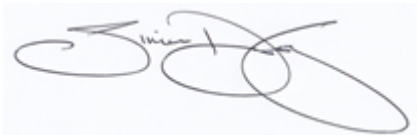
21/760 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Nothing to report

A planning meeting will probably need to be held before the March Monthly meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.36

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Wednesday March at 7.30pm



10th March 2021

Simon Denley
Chairman