

**DRAFT MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL 2021**  
**VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.**

**21/771 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). 2 members of the public were present.

**21/772 APOLOGIES:**

Nothing to report

**21/773 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**21/774 MINUTES:**

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

Proposed: Cllr.Lock

Seconded: Cllr.Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

**21/775 PUBLIC TIME**

At the start of the meeting, The Chairman Simon Denley made an announcement to say the following: "The Parish Council of Hambridge and Westport were saddened to hear of the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Councillor Denley offered condolences to the Royal Family on behalf of the Parish Council and reflected on the incredible legacy Prince Philip leaves behind.

**21/775/a Public Time:**

A member of the public expressed his annoyance regarding the current road closure signs and the fact that not one sign states that businesses in Hambridge are still open. The member of the public asked County Councillor Adam Dance to intervene with Highways as he has had no luck when he has contacted them on numerous occasions and feels the answers he has received have been insufficient. Having spent nearly the last 12 months with the business shut to now have road closures when they are now allowed to open is not supporting local businesses at all. Councillor Dance reported that he had already spoken to Highways about this and was also not happy with the response he had received. He would pursue this further.

**Action: Cllr Dance**

A member of the public spoke on behalf of the Rec Trust to inform the Parish Council that they would withdraw the request for the money that was budgeted from 2019-2020, after it had been pointed out that they had applied after the financial year had ended. He thanked the Parish Council for all their support they give the village hall which has enabled them to carry out a number of improvements. He said that they would apply later in the year for the budgeted money in the 2021/22 precept. He explained that they have now expanded the village hall Facebook page which will keep members of the public updated about events and work being carried out. The Rec Trust will also make the accounts available for the Parish Councils viewing.

He also reported that they had unfortunately had some low level anti-social behavior from older teenagers around the Rec and village hall. The Rec Trust was of the attitude that this was just older teenagers who had nothing to do at the moment due to lockdown and the youth club being closed as well. He wondered if there were better facilities for the older teenagers whether this would help to entertain them. He mentioned a MUGA but was also aware of the cost. The Parish Council felt it was important to report this ASB to the police in case it increased to something more serious. Clerk asked to report it to the police so they are able to patrol the area in the evenings.

**Action: Clerk**

The member of the public was asked to do some research into what's available and costs. The Parish Council also said that a public consultation would be necessary to get any grants. The Chairman agreed that there was little to do for children in the village from the age of 13 years and upwards. Councillor Maidment said that the children needed to be consulted to see what they would like. A few years ago the skate park was created at great cost and nowadays it has very little use. They all felt there were pros and cons of creating a meeting place. The Parish Council felt it was difficult to cater for the children of today, when anything that would be agreed to raise funds for would take 18 months to 2 years before it came to fruition and then whatever had been installed might not be what the next generation of children would like.

**21/775/b District Councillor:** District Cllr. Stanton had emailed a report that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. Items included were:

Councillor Stanton reported that there is a hefty debate going on that whether there could be a referendum like poll so the residents of Somerset could have a vote of which proposal they prefer - The Unitary or Stronger

Somerset. However, the Secretary of state has made it very clear that he doesn't approve of a public vote/poll and feels he has all the information that he needs to make the decision.

Withy Patch: Councillor Stanton firstly wished to have it corrected that in the minutes from the November 2020 (20/723/g) Parish Council meeting, it was reported that Councillor Stanton had been in communication with the landowner. This was minuted incorrectly and in fact it was Tim Wills (The Enforcement Officer from SSDC), who had the communication with the landowner. Also, he asked it to be corrected that it was the landowner who had quoted the reference to a planning application in 1979 and not Councillor Stanton who had done this.

The landowner has suggested that he would like a site meeting with himself, Tim Wills, Cllr. Stanton and The Chairman, Cllr. Denley to explain what he is doing with the site and build good relationships with people.

Councillor Maidment commented that some vehicles had come back on the Withy Patch. The Chairman felt a meeting would be a good idea. The landowner explained that the land would be used as a meeting place for his family.

The Caravan at Westport: Councillor Stanton reported that Tim Wills (The Enforcement Officer from SSDC), now recommends that SSDC should now move forward to prosecution for noncompliance as communication has stopped. It will take some time as the courts are way behind with cases and the Covid regulations. Cllr.

Lock reported that a neighbour had approached her to see who owned it as they would like to buy it. Cllr.

Stanton told her to get them to contact him directly.

**21/775/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:

Cllr Dance reported the issue with road closures in Hambridge and the conversation he had had with the publican in the village. Councillor Dance said he wasn't happy with the reply from Highways regarding the issue of no signs saying Hambridge was still open for business and would pursue it for him. The publican would like to see brown signs for the village. Cllr Dance felt that brown signs should be put up and that the Parish Council should pursue it. There is history within the village (Hambridge is the original birthplace of folk music) and they felt there must be enough history to allow brown information signs.

**21/775/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report

### **21/776 MATTERS ARISING**

1. Banking – There is still no developments with this. The Chairman will look into changing banks.
2. Face to Face meetings – update: Face to Face Parish Council meetings are meant to resume from the 8th May. However, whether this will happen is another matter. Many Parish Councils are up in arms about this as they do not feel it is safe yet to start face to face meetings. The Parish Council felt that it was too early to even be considering this as some Parish Councillors had yet to receive their first vaccination. The likelihood is that the ruling of a May return will be overturned as it is now going to High Court at the end of April. The Parish Council could not understand why Government were pushing to have face to face meetings again, when we were all still being told to work from home where possible still.

It was agreed to hold the May meeting (along with the annual meeting beforehand – starting at 7pm) a week earlier so the meeting could be legally held virtually still. The date for the May meeting will be:

**WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY** with Agendas sent out on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April – 1 week beforehand). The Parish Council are perfectly entitled to do this.

A resolution was made for the May meeting to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Proposed: Cllr. Denley

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

3. May meetings – Annual and Monthly – see above
4. Road safety mirrors – nothing to report
5. Speed sensor and posts – model already agreed at previous meeting. Councillor who will be responsible for it? The Parish Council have already agreed to purchase a Truvelo speed sensor. They agreed to purchasing three posts @ £75 per post plus NAL sockets which the Clerk was still waiting for a price for. Councillor Meecham agreed to be the main person who will take responsibility for the machine. However, the other Parish Councillors will all be taught how to use the machine and will make up some Rota system where they are all responsible for moving the machine around to different locations. Clerk to inform the rep from Truvelo and pass on Cllr. Meecham's contact email. **Action: Clerk**

6. Benches – update on refurbishment: This work is ongoing
7. S137 Payments: The Chair explained that the S137 payments had been missed in the last financial year. Normally they have different local charities email them with applications although this had not happened. Clerk to contact the local food bank in Curry Rivel, The blood bikers in Yeovil, Somerset and Dorset Air ambulance and let them know and see who applies. Clerk to put this on the next Agenda **Action: Clerk**
8. H&WRT request: The Trust agreed that it was an administrative error that they had not applied for the funding in the financial year 2019-20. They will wait to see what projects come along this year and will apply when funds are required in the appropriate way with quotes etc.

**21/777 PLANNING:**

**21/777/a Matters for report:**

Nothing to report

**21/777/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report

**21/777/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report

**21/778 FINANCE:**

**21/778/a Matters for report:**

VAT update: The Clerk reported that she was no further forward with this.

End of final quarter accounts

Current account	£ 9,369.09
Reserve Account	£ 28,150.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 37,519.42</b>
There was 1 cheque outstanding:	£ 90.00
<b>Total as cash book</b>	<b>£ 37,429.42</b>

**End of year audit**

The Clerk reported that she was getting through it but was trying to sort out the fixed assets. The Clerk will get the books and audit forms to the internal auditor within the next week.

**2. Matters for Resolution:**

Nothing to report

**3. Cheques Payable:**

Louise Brooks	Salary for March 2021	£192.06 chq no:510
HMRC	PAYE payment for March 2021	£ 48.00 chq no:511
Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance March 2021	£ 40.00 chq no:512
Cox & Co	Payroll services for April/May/June	£ 90.00 chq no:513
Rockwell Print and Design	March newsletter 260 x A4 booklets 12pp	£102.00 chq no:514
M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance 2 x mowing @£110 per session	£220.00 chq no:515
M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing x 2 @ £100.00 per session plus pruning trees @£25	£225.00 chq no:516

Proposed: Cllr.Meecham      Seconded: Cllr. Master      Agreed unanimously.

**21/779 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**21/780 FOOTPATHS:**

Nothing to report

**21/780 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Cllr Meecham reported that he had attended two webinars – one by The Levels Climate Forum. He discussed Parish Online to see if it would fit with the Environmental work the forum are trying to achieve with regards to the digital mapping. They discussed tree planting. They also use a package neighbourhood plans and discussed

this. He discussed whether the village should create a green charter although it was felt this was more for towns rather than villages. He will be doing a talk on 19<sup>th</sup> June to talk about agronomy and the farming and the environment. Cllr. Meecham also discussed the need for an Environmental Champion for the village which he would be happy to be for the village. The other webinar was run by Local Government which discussed the Unitary and Stronger Somerset bids. He did feel that the One Somerset came out stronger, although he is in favour of the Stronger Somerset bid.

Cllr Masters asked what if there was any progress with the iPads for the school. The Clerk said that she had emailed the Friends of the School and was waiting for a response. The Chairman, Cllr Denley felt that if the Parish Council had now missed the need for the iPads we could donate for another cause or worthy project for the school.

The Chairman reported that he had collected 15 oak trees from Bridgwater and some will be planted in the Rec. There would still be some available if anyone would like one.

The Chairman mentioned that they were approached a few years ago about having a blue plaque erected on the Vicarage that recognises the history of folk music with the village.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm

**The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm**

DRAFT