

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

21/781 PRESENT:

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

21/782 APOLOGIES:

Mr. R Meecham (Work commitments)

Mr. A Dance (County Councillor) – other meeting to attend

21/783 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest.

21/784 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr.Maidment

Seconded: Cllr.Lock

Agreed unanimously.

21/785 PUBLIC TIME

21/785/a Public Time:

A member of The H&W Rec Trust asked the Parish Council if they would be prepared to donate some money towards a Rounders Kit and Tug-O-War rope. This is for a community event to be held on June 26th to be held on the recreation field that will be free for the residents of Hambridge and Westport.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to donate £200.00 towards this community event as they felt it very important to bring the communities together again.

Proposed: Cllr.Denley

Seconded: Cllr.Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

21/785/b District Councillor: District Cllr. Stanton had emailed a report that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. Items included were:

Unitary Authority: The Government's consultation process on whether we should have one or two authorities (councils) in Somerset ended on 19th April. The idea of a referendum (poll) has been actively resisted by the County Council and by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Robert Jenrick. Nevertheless, all four district councils, after seeking legal advice, decided yesterday by large majorities to conduct an online/postal Poll. It cannot begin until 7th May, after the local elections. High turnout is crucial, because the SoS has written that he does not see it as necessary or valid.

Planning: Planning applications within the rainfall catchment area which feeds the Somerset Levels are still delayed by the requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs).

Methods for housing development applicants to prevent or mitigate phosphate pollution remain under research, review, discussion and development by the four district councils and the county council and still may not be available for some time; some developers are working up their own solutions.

Cllr Stanton is working with SSDC's Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Sarah Dyke, to meet with Wessex Water to press them to add phosphate removal processes to their local sewage works in the short term.

From 7th May meetings may no longer be held remotely/virtually: they must be face-to-face. SSDC with the Local Government Association took our case to the High Court for allowing hybrid meetings of the kind parliament are using, but this was determined to be possible only if the government legislate for it, which they say they do not have parliamentary time to do.

21/785/c County Councillor: County Cllr. Dance had not emailed a report and was not able to be present at the meeting.

21/785/c P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

21/786 MATTERS ARISING

1. Banking – There is no progress with Nat West. The Chairman is looking into online banking for the Parish Council.

2. Increase to Clerks hours

The Clerk explained that with the amount of work to update all the out of date documentation for the Parish Council plus all the week to week work, she is unable to do this in the 5 hours she is currently being paid for. The Parish Council unanimously agreed that to do all the work the hours needed to be increased. They unanimously agreed to increase the hours to 10 a week with immediate effect. This will be reviewed every May.

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Lock

Agreed unanimously.

3. Face to Face meetings

The Continuation of Virtual meetings update – The Clerk reported that following the decision the Government had made informing Councils that virtual meetings would no longer be acceptable after 8th May, this was taken to the High Court on the 27th April. The High Court has ruled against allowing Council meetings to continue virtually after the 8th May.

However, this news has not been well received. Logistically many Parish Councils have nowhere suitable to hold meetings safely within the guidelines being set, unless they move the meetings out of the village and to a larger location. Hambridge and Westport Parish Council unanimously agreed to continue with Zoom meetings for the time being until they feel it is safe to go back to face to face meetings. They all felt that it was far too early to be putting people at risk. Some Parish Councillors have yet to have their first vaccine and the majority are still waiting to have their second. The June meeting will definitely be held virtually. There is no Parish Council meeting held in August. The Parish Council agreed to reassess the situation month by month, but would hope to hold a public meeting in September. A resolution was made in agreement of the above.

Proposed: Cllr. Denley

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously

4. Road safety mirrors: Nothing to report

5. SSDC Rangers Scheme: The Clerk explained that she'd had a long meeting with Chris Cooper from SSDC regarding joining the SSDC Rangers Scheme. The Parish Council felt this would be a good idea, but needed guidance as to how many hours would be required a month. Some of the jobs would include: cementing posts in for the new speed sensor, cementing posts for the new road safety mirrors at two junctions, moving the new speed sensor from location to location – fortnightly, giving the Parish Clerk the information that's been recorded, strimming of footpaths, twice yearly road sign cleaning, monthly War Memorial maintenance, cutting back overhanging branches etc that are encroaching on to pavements from gardens and hedgerows, plus other general maintenance jobs.

Clerk to pass on information to the Chair and to arrange a walk around the village with Jon Brown from SSDC to take a look at the work that's required.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Denley

5. Speed sensor and posts and NAL sockets. A resolution has already been made at a previous meeting to go ahead with the purchase of a speed sensor for Hambridge and Westport. The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the latest costs involved to set the whole system up. Costs would include, 3 posts at £75.00 each, plus installation of posts (cost currently unknown until a decision is made on who is doing this), speed sensor and batteries £3,275.00, training and installation £200.00. As soon as The Chairman has discussed with SSDC Ranger Scheme and confirmed who will be installing, the clerk will then place the order.

Action: Cllr Denley/Clerk

6. S137 Payments – The Parish Council had received 3 applications for the S137 payment. The Parish Council was unanimous in their decision to support the Curry Rivel Food Bank with the full £100.00.

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Lock

Agreed unanimously

8. Updating of Standing Orders plus other documents: Clerk will be updating the Standing orders for sign off at the June meeting. **Action: Clerk**

21/787 PLANNING:

21/787/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/787/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

21/787/c Applications for consideration.

21/00970/HOU – Sorrento, Ruskway Lane, Westport, Langport TA10 0BW

Demolition of detached garage and erection of side and rear single storey extensions to dwelling

The Parish Council had no objection to this planning application and were in full support of their plans.

Clerk to report feedback to SSDC planning department.

Action: Clerk

21/788 FINANCE:

21/788/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

21/788/a Matters for Resolution:

Nothing to report

21/788/a Cheques Payable:

Louise Brooks	Salary for April 2021	£192.06 chq no:517
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HMRC	PAYE payment for April 2021	£ 48.00 chq no:518
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Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance April 2021	£ 40.00 chq no:519
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BHIB Insurance	Annual Insurance Policy for 2021	£685.52 chq no:520
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M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance 2 x mowing @£110 per session. Weed killer on carpark	£260.00 chq no:521
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*This figure is £20 cheaper than the price shown on the Agenda due to a miss calculation by M Von Tyszka.

M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing x 2 @ £100.00 per session	£200.00 chq no:522
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HWRT	Donation towards the community fun day	£200.00 chq no:523
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S137 Payment	To help towards a rounders kit, Tug-O-War rope and sanitizer Curry Rivel Food Bank	£100.00 chq no:524
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Proposed: Cllr. Denley Seconded: Cllr.Maidment Agreed unanimously.

21/789 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

21/790 FOOTPATHS:

Nothing to report. Cllr Denley reported that he had had a positive conversation with a neighbour regarding relocating the footpath at the back of his property.

21/791 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Update on the Ranger Scheme meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th June at 7.30pm