

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**  
**VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.**

**21/792 PRESENT:**

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

**21/793 APOLOGIES:**

M Stanton (District Councillor)

Mr. R Meecham (Work Commitments)

Ms. J Lock (Apologies received after meeting – mix up of dates)

**21/794 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Councillor Denley declared an interest regarding footpaths - Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge

**21/795 MINUTES:**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment      Agreed unanimously.

**21/796 PUBLIC TIME**

**21/796/a Public Time:**

Nothing to report

**21/796/b District Councillor:** District Cllr. Stanton was not present at the meeting but had emailed a report that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors. The report included updates on the following:

**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.

**Area North Committee** met on 26<sup>th</sup> May on Zoom: this was officially an informal meeting, with decision powers delegated to officers, because this is now the only way we can legally continue to meet online. Our next meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

**Covid-19**

Locally the pandemic is now retreating and things are gradually returning to our new normal. We must however remain vigilant, wear masks and maintain social separation, to prevent aerosol transmission of the virus, which is still mutating: the India variant is more contagious than earlier variants, and a third wave looks to be beginning. It may however cause sufficiently few hospitalisations and deaths for it henceforth to be regarded as presenting a similar level of threat to that of annual Influenza.

**Waste**

The new recycling arrangements, with blue bags for additional plastic and tetrapak recycling, begin at the end of June; remainder rubbish will be collected three-weekly for environmentally-friendly incineration at SWP's new treatment plant instead of the landfill solution used in the past.

**21/796/c County Councillor:** County Cllr. Dance had not emailed a report but was present at the meeting. Councillor Dance reported on the recent online/postal poll that was run by all four district councils. The results were: 65.3% voted for two Authorities delivering services close to the communities of Eastern and Western Somerset. Just 34.7% supported a proposal for a single unitary with a turnout of more than 111,000. He hopes the secretary of state takes note of the results and will make the right decision and listen to the people of Somerset. He is asking people to write to the secretary of state and requesting that he does look at the results of the poll. Councillor Dance also reported that the Government had done a review of the Parliamentary boundaries and created a new MP position for Somerton, Glastonbury and Wincanton.

**21/796/d P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report

**21/797 MATTERS ARISING**

1. **Banking – update**

Nothing to report.



2. Road safety mirrors

Nothing to report.

3. SSDC Rangers Scheme – meeting arranged 10<sup>th</sup> June.

The date for the meeting has changed now until the 17<sup>th</sup> June.

4. Adoption of new Standing Orders

The Clerk has now updated the Parish Council with new standing orders (NALC version). They were adopted and signed by the Chairman. They will now go on the website.

**21/798 PLANNING:**

**21/798/a Matters for report:**

Nothing to report

**21/798/b Decisions Notified:**

N 21/00181/S73A - Land Adjacent Burgum Westport Langport TA10 0BH

Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of planning approval 18/02149/FUL and as amended 19/02771/S73 to allow a minor increase in roof height, to ensure buildability and a continuous parapet

**APPLICATION HAS BEEN REFUSED BY SSDC PLANNING DEPARTMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

Allowing the variation of Condition 02 of 18/02149/FUL and as amended by 19/02771/S73 to change the height of the building would, in combination with previously approved changes, result in a top-heavy structure that would appear lopsided and top-heavy to the detriment of the character and appearance of the building as approved and dominate nearby properties and the street scene contrary to Local Plan Policy EQ2 and Paragraphs 124 and 130 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.

**21/798/c Applications for consideration.**

21/01282/FUL - The Old Vicarage Hambridge Langport TA10 0BG

Proposed change of use of Class C2 residential care home to Class F1(a) non-residential educational use, including extension of the site to provide for a school farm, the siting of two outdoor classroom pods and improvements to the existing access.

Due to timescales to respond to this planning, The Parish Council had already stated they have no objections to this application and are in full support of it.

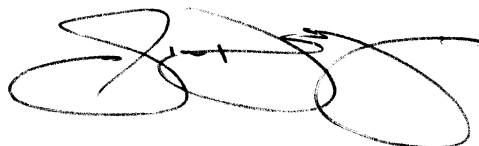
The headteacher, Karl Templeman attended the meeting to give the Parish Council some more details on the proposal to turn the Old Vicarage from an old peoples home to a day educational unit replicating the school already at West Hatch. The school will be for children who have either been excluded, are school phobic or are non-attendees, who are predominantly on the AS or autistic spectrum. They will be looking to accommodate 30 young people (based over the next 3years, although they intend to keep the intake at that figure in the future).

Young people attending will be mainly from Somerset, and predominantly from the South Somerset and Sedgemoor area and will arrive either via taxi or parent/carer transport. The age range will be from 7-19 years (although after 16, they do place students in a higher education establishment close to where they live). School times will be outside the 'normal' school hours – 9.15 – 2.45, therefore having no impact on the village primary school at 'drop off' and 'pick up' times when the road here is very busy. They intend to work closely with the primary school. Staffing wise they intend to eventually employ approx. 30 people - a mixture of teachers and tutors who live in the South West (predominantly from Somerset). As well as covering normal educational learning they plan to start other school therapy including animal care.

One of the Parish Councillors asked why there are so many classrooms planned? The new part of the build will be for the younger children (key stage 2) where they will work in a similar way to a primary school - work will be brought to them. These groups will mainly be taught on a 1:1 basis and also in small groups, due to the nature of the young people. To the left of the building will be larger classrooms where the teaching of main curriculum based subjects will take place. To the rear, where they intend to put in two pods – this will be for animal care and horticulture.

Councillor Masters offered any help with opening up his farm to the young people and would be keen to work with the school.

A company called Nine Points is buying the property (subject to planning) and then they will lease it to Key Groups on a 15 year renewable lease.



The building work will be done before the pupils start and then it will only be a question of maintenance work. They will cap the student number at 30 so they will not need to extend the facilities in the future. The Parish Council completely support this project. They hope to recruit local people for staffing, administrator and grounds maintenance roles. Mr Templeman informed the Parish Council that he will keep them informed with any progress, as it happens.

**21/799 FINANCE:**

**21/799/a Matters for report:**

Nothing to report

**21/799/b Matters for Resolution:**

Nothing to report

**21/799/c Cheques Payable:**

Louise Brook	Salary for May 2021	£ 384.13 chq no: 525
HMRC	PAYE payment for May 2021	£ 96.00 chq no: 526
Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance May 2021	£ 40.00 chq no: 527
M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance 3 x mowing @£110 per session	£ 330.00 chq no: 528
M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing x 2 @ £100.00 per session plus spray around church	£ 230.00 chq no: 529

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

**21/800 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**21/801 FOOTPATHS:**

Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge:

Councillor Maidment reported that he had spoken to Vicky Taylor, the Rights Of Way Diversion Officer at SCC, and they now have the application ready for the rerouting of the footpath. Vicky Taylor recommended that the Parish Council re-present the revised route to the Rec Trust committee (as they have nearly all changed since the last time this was raised), for their approval, which they did at the Rec Trust meeting in June. The Rec Trust voted and agreed to the rerouting of the footpath through the Recreation field but want it listed as a right of way rather than a permanent transfer as a footpath, so if there are any problems in the future, they can then take the right away back.. They have also asked Councillor Maidment to make sure that other people whose land is adjacent to the boundary are aware of the proposed changes.

**21/802 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Rangers Scheme Update

Footpath rerouting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

**The next VIRTUAL meeting will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm**



14/07/21.