

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY 2021
VIA ZOOM AT 7.30 P.M.

21/803 PRESENT:

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

21/804 APOLOGIES:

No apologies received.

21/805 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

21/806 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Masters

Agreed unanimously.

21/807 PUBLIC TIME

21/807/a Public Time:

Nothing to report

21/807/b District Councillor:

District Cllr. Stanton had emailed a report that had been circulated to the Parish Councillors before the meeting. The report included updates on the following:

Unitary Authority: SSDC are awaiting the Secretary of State's decision on whether Somerset will have one or two unitary authorities: he has indicated that he will decide before parliament's summer recess, which begins on 22nd July. In our local poll, 65% voted for two councils and 35% for one, but the low turnout may allow the Secretary of State to judge he can ignore it, as he said he would before it was conducted.

Planning: Applications within the rainfall catchment area which feeds the Somerset Levels are still delayed by the requirement for phosphates control through a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA).

Methods for housing development applicants to prevent or mitigate phosphate pollution remain under research, review, discussion and development by the four district councils, the county council & Wessex Water, & still may not be available for some time.

Environment minister Rebecca Pow has confirmed that the Environment Bill will include legislation to cut the amount of raw sewage which water companies discharge into waterways, but has made no mention of the phosphates issue.

Wessex Water, are working actively with SSDC planners on this, but so far there is no reported progress; they remain deeply reluctant to invest more in removal at sewage plants.

Area North Committee did not meet on 23rd June as there was insufficient business, but our July meeting has been brought forward to the 14th. To allow it to be a Zoom meeting it will be an 'informal' meeting, with decision powers delegated to council officers, who will follow the meeting's view.

Covid-19: A third wave is happening with the Delta (India) variant accelerating. We have 450 active cases in South Somerset, up by 141 from last week. Nationally it is doubling every nine days.

We will gradually adjust to a new normal, but would be wise to remain vigilant, particularly wearing masks voluntarily to prevent aerosol transmission of the virus when we are in indoor places with people we don't know: shops, public transport, etc.

The variant causes fewer deaths than flu, so in that way it presents a lower kind of threat, but is more virulent (easier to catch) and can lead to Long Covid; it's especially bad still for asthmatics.

Waste

The new recycling arrangements, with blue bags for additional plastic and waxed/tetrapak recycling, began at the end of June; Somerset Waste has struggled to keep up with collections, partly because of the new national shortage of lorry drivers and partly because Suez is using ten fewer than its predecessor. We're told that collections have got back on track using overtime and Saturday collections. For larger households, the blue bags are only big enough if all plastic and cans are properly flattened. Note that paper and card now go into the same box, but should be separated within it.

 08/09/21.

New CEO

The candidate originally appointed to succeed Alex Parmley, decided not to take up the role. Following further interviews, SSDC selected Jane Portman, an outstanding and experienced interim local authority CEO, who will hopefully be approved at our upcoming full council meeting:

5 Year Housing Land Supply: Cllr Stanton reported that they have heard that an appeal ruling now states they do not have a 5 year land supply as previously informed, so when applications start coming through again the standard line will be back in place stating that this council do not have a 5 year land supply.

Caravan at Westport: All details have now been forwarded to the new enforcement officer, Heather, to progress.

N 21/00181/S73A - Land Adjacent Burgum Westport Langport TA10 0BH. District Councillor Stanton confirmed that this application had been refused at the end of May 2021. The Parish Council had received reports that building work had resumed. Cllr Stanton reported that Planning will be keeping a close eye and that all complaints should go direct to planning. They do have 6 months to appeal the decision.

21/807/c County Councillor: County Cllr. Dance had not emailed a report but was present at the meeting. He discussed the amount of complaints he is receiving regarding recycling not being collected. There is a national shortage of HGV drivers due to Covid and Brexit, which is causing the issues. If you still need a blue bag then keep reporting it to SWP and if no success then email Adam Dance:

Unitary - Public consultation – Cllr Dance reported that only 5,000 people replied to the public consultation organised by the Government (where more than 111,000 voted on the poll organised by the District Councils - with 65.3% voting in support of the two Authorities). The figures for the Government consultation regarding who supported a unitary authority and who supported a 2 Council authority don't seem to have been publicly displayed. Cllr Dance informed the Parish Council that the decision from Government should be announced next week, but he really hoped that they actually listened to the people of Somerset as to what they want.

21/807/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

21/808 MATTERS ARISING

1. Banking – update: The Chairman has been in-touch with the Unity Trust Bank and has received all the forms to start the process to change banks. The Parish Council were in full agreement for this to happen. The Chairman will progress this so hopefully by the September Parish Council meeting it should be up and working. **Action: Chairman Cllr. Denley**
2. Road safety mirrors – nothing to report
3. SSDC Rangers Scheme – report from meeting. The Chairman and Parish Cllr Masters, had a successful meeting with Steve Fox from SSDC in June and talked through the options with the Rangers Scheme. It was felt that the Parish Council would try it for a 3-4 month period and then re-assess it after that time, although, the Parish Councillors felt there would easily be enough work to contract the rangers scheme for one day a month. They would also be responsible to installing the posts for the speed sensor and changing the location of the speed camera. Cllr Masters and The Chairman would be responsible for informing The Ranger of work that was required every month. The Chairman will set this up with Steve Fox **Action: Chairman Denley**
3. Speed sensor – ordering and installation. The Clerk will now put in a purchase order for three posts and speed sensor. She will arrange for the posts to be delivered first so they can be installed before the speed sensor is delivered, set up and training given to one Parish Councillor. The goods will all be delivered to Cllr Masters. This will probably be on a pro forma invoice so the Clerk will be requiring a cheque to be signed by two Parish Councillors as soon as the invoice has been raised, as there is no meeting in August.
4. Updated Code of Conduct
The Clerk has updated the Code of Conduct for Hambridge and Westport Parish Council and each Parish Councillor has been sent a copy. A copy will be uploaded onto the website as a flip book. **Action: Clerk**

08/09/21

21/809 PLANNING:

21/809/a Matters for report:

Westport – Noise and traffic disturbances

There have been many complaints regarding a rental property in Westport at the Barn Owl conversion. The property is being advertised and rented out as a 'party house' with parties being held most weekends. There was a large wedding reception being held in June which caused many complaints regarding noise, parking and people felt that Covid restrictions were not being adhered to. The original planning was for three separate dwellings and now they're all being offered as one property.

County Councillor Dance has requested the details being advertised be forwarded to him and if they are having regular parties then maybe they should have applied for change of use. He will look into it. **Action: Cllr Dance**

21/809/b Decisions Notified:

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
Application **APPROVED**.

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. Application **APPROVED**

21/809/c Applications for consideration.

20/03336/FUL Land To The Rear Of The Lamb And Lion The Green Hambridge TA10 0AT

Ecological Appraisal submitted. The Parish Council had no objections.

21/810 FINANCE:

21/810/a Matters for report:

End of 1st quarter figures

Current account	£ 5,611.83
Reserve Account	£ 41,651.34
Total	£ 47,263.17
There were 2 cheques outstanding/unbanked:	£ 180.00
Total as cash book	£ 47,083.17

The books will now be given to the Internal Auditor for examination

21/810/b Matters for Resolution:

Nothing to report

21/810/c Cheques Payable:

Louise Brooks	Salary for June 2021	£ 384.13 chq no: 530
HMRC	PAYE payment for June 2021	£ 96.00 chq no: 531
Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance June 2021	£ 40.00 chq no: 532
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Payroll services July/Aug/Sept 2021	£ 90.00 chq no: 533
M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance 6 x mowing @ £110 per session - Plus cut hedge, spray car park	£ 705.00 chq no: 534
M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing x 3 @ £100.00 per session plus spray around church	£ 310.00 chq no: 535

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

21/811 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

21/812 FOOTPATHS:

Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge: Cllr Maidment reported that he is the final stages of getting the application ready for signing. This should hopefully be in place for September's meeting.

21/813 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Items for the next meeting:

- Dog waste bins for Westport

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th September at 7.30pm