

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**  
**IN THE VILLAGE HALL & VIA ZOOM**

**21/836 PRESENT:**

Mr. S. Denley (Chairman), Mr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Mr. R Maidment, Ms. J Lock & Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk) via Zoom. There were no members of the public present.

**21/837 APOLOGIES:**

Mr. R Meecham (Work commitments)

M Stanton (District Councillor)

Mr. A Dance (County Councillor)

**21/838 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

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

**21/839 MINUTES:**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Lock

Seconded: Cllr. Masters

Agreed unanimously.

**21/840 PUBLIC TIME**

**21/840/a Public Time:**

No members of the public were present.

Cllr Masters asked if there was a possibility of obtaining some sand bags for the village? The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she would speak to SSDC who in the past have offered sand/gel bags to parishes that are at high risk of flooding to property. The Clerk will speak to SSDC and see if this was still possible.

**Action: Clerk**

**21/840/b District Councillor:**

Councillor Stanton was not present at the meeting but he did send a report that was circulated to all the Parish Councillors. It included:

**Planning:** A draft Supplementary Planning Document that will provide a guide to developers and landowners in developing countywide solutions to phosphate mitigation will shortly be made available to officers to enable the respective councils to begin a consultation process leading to eventual adoption.

**Unitary Authority:** Negotiations between the five councils continue; as I write a difference of opinion has arisen as to whether the elections to the new Unitary authority should be further postponed to May 2023. The District Councils prefer the elections to be held as (re)scheduled in May 2022, already a year late. A further year's postponement would mean that county Councillors have sat for six years instead of the usual four. One of the unresolved issues here is the definition of boundaries of whatever electoral Divisions are to be used, and how many Councillors are to be elected. The decision ultimately is in the hands of the Secretary of State, Michael Gove. It is not clear whether Parish & Town election currently expected in May 2022 will be affected if the Unitary elections are postponed.

District Councillor Stanton also emailed an update from the enforcement officer regarding the abandoned caravan at Westport. SSDC are now in the process of obtaining quotes for the removal of the caravan. The legal team requested a thorough search for the owner, which the enforcement team have now completed. They are now able to put a notice up stating if the enforcement notice is not complied with, SSDC will exercise their powers to remove the caravan.

**21/840/c County Councillor:**

Councillor Dance did not attend the meeting and no report was received.

**21/840/d P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report

## 21/841 MATTERS ARISING

### 1. Update on 2<sup>nd</sup> part of funding applied for on behalf of the village hall (SCC funding via SALC)

The Clerk reported that both grants the Parish Council applied for on behalf of HWRT had been successful.

The first grant awarded was for a hearing loop system to be installed into the village hall.

HWRT felt that the acoustics in the hall are poor and therefore people who have difficulty with hearing would benefit from a new hearing loop installed. The school also use the hall on a daily basis and on occasions have had young people, parents or others with hearing aids attending school events. This project will benefit many people, including the school, short mat bowls, WI, wedding receptions and the Parish Council for the monthly meetings. The Trust will accept ownership and give a guarantee of ongoing support for the technology.

The HWRT were awarded the full grant amount that was on offer of £1,500.00.

The second grant was for: Install wall cabinet, multi-functional amplifier and projector.

The Village Hall Committee also had an urgent need to repair and upgrade the audio-visual provision. The Committee felt that some residents of Hambridge and Westport, who had always led an active social life with village activities, had become very isolated during lockdown and were concerned about mixing again, so the HWRT were looking for projects that will support them to get out safely and re-engaged in community activities.

The committee were also planning to start their film nights again which have been well supported in the past. Some of the equipment is now 'aged' and not working and they have been recommended to upgrade the equipment to HD film quality standards.

In addition, the equipment needs to be made more 'user accessible' for the school, village events and functions.

HWRT requested that the Parish Council apply for £3,524.00, which was the total cost for the whole project.

The Clerk was asked to put in writing to HWRT that the received grant can only be spent on what was applied for. The Parish Council agreed to control the payment of invoices as and when the work was complete. The Clerk will write a full progress report that will be posted on the website plus updates need to be posted on the hall's social media.

### 2. Banking – progress on transfer to Unity Bank

The Chairman reported that so far the transfer of bank accounts to the Unity Trust Bank had been successful.

The Parish Council will now set up a second account – called the reserve account. The Clerk suggested we now need to transfer some funds across to the current Unity bank account and suggested we start with £5,000.00. As soon as the second account (Reserve Account) is set up, we need to then transfer another £5,000.00 across.

Once the Parish Council are happy that everything is working, then the final amount of money gets transferred and the Nat West account will be shut.

**Action: Chairman Cllr Denley**

### 3. Road safety mirrors:

The Ranger will install the posts and mirrors once they have been purchased.

### 4. SSDC Rangers Scheme:

The Chairman reported that the Rangers Scheme has now started and the posts for the speed sensor have been installed. The Clerk and Chair are working together to arrange a time for the speed sensor to be delivered, set up and appropriate training given. The Parish Council discussed the requirements for warning signs regarding speed sensors being present.

The Parish Council are compiling a list of jobs that are required for the Ranger to carry out. It was suggested that a piece be added to the newsletter asking if any residents feel that there is some maintenance to either village that is need of being added to the list, to let the Parish Chairman know. Chairman to add to next newsletter.

**Action: Chairman Cllr Denley**

### 5. Dog Bins for Westport:

The Clerk reported that she had chased this with SSDC but the Localities Manager that would be making the decision was away on leave.

### 6. Trees:

All Parish Councils have been offered free trees from eforests.co.uk for woodland projects. The normal quantity is 150 trees. The Parish Council felt they would decline this offer at the moment and wait until next year to look into planting more.

**21/842 PLANNING:**

**21/842/a Matters for report:**

APPEAL IN RESPECT OF APPLICATION DECISION REFERENCE: 21/00181/S73A

Proposal: 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.

Location: Land Adjacent Burgum. Westport, Langport, TA10 0BH

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had now written to the Inspectorate dealing with the appeal, outlining the objections the Parish Council had.

**21/842/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report

**21/842/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report

**21/843 FINANCE:**

**21/843/a Matters for report:**

Councillor Maidment reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of accounts had now been checked and verified as being correct, by the internal auditor, Richard Clarke.

**21/843/b Matters for Resolution:**

Nothing to report

**21/843/c Cheques Payable:**

Louise Brooks	Salary for Oct 2021	£ 384.13	chq no: 555
HMRC	PAYE payment for Oct 2021	£ 96.00	chq no: 556
Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance Oct 2021	£ 40.00	chq no: 557
M Von Tyszka	October - Recreation ground maintenance 2 x mowing @ £110 per session	£ 220.00	chq no: 558
M Von Tyszka	October - Churchyard mowing x 1 @ £100.00 per session	£ 100.00	chq no: 559
HWRT	Room rental Sept 2021 – July 2022	£ 132.00	Chq no: 560

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr.Lock

Agreed unanimously

**21/844 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**21/845 FOOTPATHS:**

Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge:

Cllr Maidment reported that Cllr Denley had now signed his part of the consent and there were just two parties left to sign before the application can be submitted.

**21/846 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Items for the next meeting: Any of the above which require follow-ups from this meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the village hall.**