

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
12th JANUARY 2022 BY VIDEO CONFERENCE - ZOOM

22/858 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). There were no members of the public present.

22/859 APOLOGIES:

Ms. J Lock - non-attendance – (no apologies received)

22/860 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

22/861 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

22/862 PUBLIC TIME

22/862/a Public Time:

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council had any plans to organise anything for the Queen's Jubilee. If an event is decided then it will need someone to co-ordinate it. Cllr Maidment suggested that maybe an open meeting is called where representatives from all clubs/societies etc attend and discuss together what to do. Cllr Stanton suggested some of the local businesses might be interested in sponsoring something. The Clerk was asked to include something on the next Agenda and in the meantime the Parish Councillors were all asked to think of ideas.

Action: Clerk

22/862/b District Councillor:

Councillor Stanton reported that very little had happened in the last month. The focus is now on the elections and the New Somerset Council.

The phosphates strategy is still delayed and now approx. 7 months late. Cllr Stanton will embark on a campaign to try and get Wessex Water to invest in removing phosphates and nitrates at source from the sewage works but this is a long term project.

Cllr Maidment asked Cllr Stanton if there was any progress regarding the removal of the caravan at Westport. He reported that it was in the queue with legal to go into court.

22/862/c County Councillor:

Councillor Dance attended the meeting.

The Unitary elections will happen in May 22. The Parish Council elections are looking likely to take place as well in May 2022 but this has yet to go through Government. Cllr Dance expressed his concerns regarding the future of planning when the new Council is formed. At the moment there are 4 planning committees throughout Somerset. With the new Council they are proposing only 1 planning committee for the whole of Somerset. This would mean that there may be Councillors from as far as Minehead and Porlock for example, looking at planning applications in Hambridge or Westport, when they have no idea of this area. The other concern Cllr Dance has is with Highways. Highways is currently all contracted out. He would like to see some of the Highways work brought in house.

Cllr Dance was pleased that he'd been able to help get the sandbags sorted from SSDC in order to build a floodstore for the villages. He explained this was due to moving some budgets around so there was some funding available to cover this. The Parish Council thanked him for his help.

22/862/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

22/863 MATTERS ARISING

1. **Speed Sensor – training and installation**

The speed sensor training and installation will take place on Thursday 13th January. The Chairman, Cllr Meecham and Cllr Masters will attend the training session. The SSDC Ranger will change the location of the

speed sensor every two weeks. The Chairman asked for a list of jobs that the Ranger can do so he makes the best use of his time when he visits.

2. Dog Bins for Westport:

The Clerk reported that she had chased again for an answer. SSDC have responded that they are currently visiting Westport on a weekly basis to check the requirement for the bin.

****Post meeting update**** The Clerk has got SSDC to agree to a bin for Westport. Both this bin and the replacement bin for Hambridge will be supplied by SSDC and fitted by the Ranger. The price for each bin and post is £310 each.

3. Replacement dog bin for Hambridge

The Clerk had obtained a quote for a new dog bin for Hambridge Green, to replace the one that is now rusted out at the bottom. The price is £281.46 plus VAT (Total: £337.75)

The Parish Councillors were in complete agreement to accept this quote. Clerk to proceed to order and pay for this and delivered to Cllr Masters. The SSDC Ranger will install.

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

****Post meeting update**** see explanation above.

4. Flood store

Councillor Masters reported that this was now set up and the sandbags had been delivered by SSDC. The Chairman thanked Cllr Meecham for helping with the unloading of all the sandbags. The Clerk reported she had since written to SSDC thanking them for their support. The Parish Council were delighted that they are now prepared for when the villages have problems with flooding and are able to offer immediate help to anyone in Hambridge or Westport. The Clerk stressed the importance of monitoring who had sandbags so they could make sure they were returned afterwards. A notice will go on the notice board with contact details for anyone who needs them.

22/864 PLANNING:

22/864/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 they had now heard that the Duarte's appeal had been successful. The Parish Council was very disappointed and frustrated with the planning system and the mockery of this outcome. The clerk was asked to share the details of the appeal on the website so that local people can see our efforts on their behalf.

Action: Clerk

22/864/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

22/864/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

22/865 FINANCE:

22/865/a Matters for report:

End of third quarter accounts:

Current account	£	8,564.65
Reserve account	£	31,653.07
	£	40,217.72

There was 1 chq

outstanding	£	147.43
-------------	---	---------------

Total as cash book	£	40,070.29
--------------------	---	------------------

The accounts will now go to the internal auditor for checking and sign off.

Action: Clerk

22/865/b Matters for Resolution:

Transfer of funds from Nat West to new bank account at Unity Bank – via cheque. Set up second bank account at Unity – Reserve account.

The Chairman reported that he had gone into Nat West with a signed letter of authorisation to transfer funds from Nat West to Unity Bank. However, Nat West refused to do this and said it had to be done via cheque.

The Chairman will now transfer funds via cheque. A second bank account still needs to be set up at Unity Bank.

Action: Clerk

22/865/c Cheques Payable:

HWRT	Agreed money from precept 21/22 for repairs and maintenance to village hall	£ 1,500.00	chq no: 565
Louise Brooks	Salary for Dec 2021	£ 384.13	chq no: 566
HMRC	PAYE payment for Dec 2021	£ 96.00	chq no: 567
Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance Dec 2021	£ 40.00	chq no: 568
Rockwell Print and Sign	December 21 newsletter	£ 145.00	chq no: 569
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll services for January, February, March 2022	£ 90.00	chq no: 570

Proposed: Cllr. Denley

Seconded: Cllr.Masters

Agreed unanimously

22/866 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

22/867 FOOTPATHS:

Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge:

Cllr Maidment reported that HWRT had now signed their part of the form regarding the proposed diversion of the footpath. The form was now ready for submission.

Action: Cllr Maidment

22/868 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

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

- Banking
- Jubilee

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.