

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2022
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

22/869 PRESENT:

Mr. S. Denley (Chairman), Mr. R Maidment, Mr. R Meecham, M Stanton (District Councillor), Mr. A Dance (County Councillor) & Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk). There was 1 member of the public present.

22/870 APOLOGIES:

Mr. P. Masters (Vice Chair) (Personal)

Ms J Lock

22/871 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

22/872 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

22/873 PUBLIC TIME

22/873/a Public Time:

A member of the public and a Cllr Meecham discussed an email both they, and all parents' from Hambridge with children at Huish Episcopi secondary school had received, informing them of a meeting that had been arranged to take place the following day, with the local PCSO to discuss some issues that are apparently occurring in the neighbourhood. The parents were unaware of any 'issues' in the neighbourhood and felt the school should have contacted them first regarding the issues. Cllr Meecham explained that he had attempted to contact the school but had yet to receive a reply. *Update* - Cllr Meecham had received an email from the school apologising for any worry the email may have caused and explained the meeting had been proposed by the PCSO to build relationships in the communities. The meeting was subsequently cancelled and the school would reconsider their approach.

22/873/b District Councillor:

District Councillor Stanton was present at the meeting. He discussed the ongoing phosphate issue. He explained how all the District Councils across Somerset are affected by the problem of excessive phosphates in our water. So far the Government has expected local authorities to find a way to mitigate the damaging practices of private water companies. In the meantime, almost the entire planning system has ground to a halt. South Somerset District Council has worked hard to achieve a 5+ year Housing Land Supply, but all of this is in jeopardy because water companies are allowed to discharge treated sewage into our waters that contains dangerous levels of phosphates.

He reported that the way to solve this problem is with the right legislation, so SSDC are calling on the Government to enhance Philip Dunne MP's Sewage (Inland Waters) Bill and accelerate its passage through Parliament. They want the Bill to set out clear timetables for when water companies must improve their treatment plants, as well as strict limitations regarding the levels of untreated sewage and phosphates they are allowed to discharge into Somerset's rivers and streams. Water companies have been too slow to upgrade and improve their wastewater treatment plants; their forward plans add further delay.

Cllr Maidment asked Cllr Stanton for an update on the caravan at Westport. Cllr Stanton had emailed the enforcement officer dealing with this for an update. She informed him that it was in the system and they were waiting for costings.

22/873/c County Councillor:

County Councillor Dance discussed the elections which will take place on May 5th, including elections for Parish Councils. Ordinarily, the next round of Town and Parish and Council elections would be due to take place in May 2023. However, due to the recent decision made by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, the Town and Parish Council elections will be brought forward to 5 May 2022 so that they align with the Somerset Unitary Council elections.

Councillor Dance informed the Parish Council that he would be re-standing as Councillor. He also introduced Jo Roundell-Greene to the Parish Council. Jo has a long history with SSDC (including being a previous Deputy

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Leader as well as past portfolio holder for business development, environment and waste and transformation, as an elected member of South Somerset District Council. Jo will also be standing for election.

22/873/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

22/874 MATTERS ARISING

1. Speed sensor – update

The Chairman explained that following the January Parish Council meeting the speed sensor had been delivered and training had been given. However, after it was installed there seemed to be an issue with the sensor detecting inaccurate speed readings. The Chairman is in talks with the company about putting this right.

Action: Chairman Denley

2. Dog Bins for Westport and replacement bin for Hambridge – update

The Clerk reported that the bin for Westport had now been agreed by SSDC. Both this bin and the replacement dog bin for Hambridge Green had been purchased via SSDC. The SSDC Ranger would be installing both bins when he was next out to Hambridge for work.

3. SSDC Ranger – list of work that is required. The Parish Councillors had compiled a list of jobs for the Ranger to carry out over the next few months which is now with the Chairman. He will also be responsible for moving the speed sensor once this is working properly.

4. Jubilee

The Chairman reported that the HWRT had met the previous evening to discuss the prospects of a village event to celebrate The Queens Platinum Jubilee. They were keen to work with the Parish Council and other groups in the village to make something happen to mark this special occasion. So far the ideas are to have a beacon, BYO picnic on the Rec, have the hall bar open, music and videos playing in the hall and cream teas from the WI. They were also considering games on the bottom field (Tug-O-War and Rounders) and maybe a band and BBQ in the evening. They felt it would be good to set up a committee involving all the groups in the village. The Parish Councillors were keen to support their ideas but felt it needed some of the older residents in the village to support it and get involved too. The Clerk suggested a good way to get people's interest would be via a mail drop through every letterbox in the two villages with a date for a public meeting to be held in the village hall. The Parish Councillors would be happy to help with delivering the flyers door to door. Regarding funding, the Parish Council felt that they could not just give money towards the event without having an exact cost for what they would be funding. The Parish Council felt that most of the things that were being discussed did not involve funding as each family would bring their own picnic and drinks. The Rounders and Tug-O-War equipment had already been purchased.

5. Banking – update

The Chairman expressed his annoyance with Nat West regarding the transfer of monies from the Nat West account to the new Unity Trust Bank account. The Clerk would speak to Unity Trust Bank to get their advice and also to get a paying in book sent to enable a cheque be allowed to be paid in to transfer funds.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Denley

22/875 PLANNING:

22/875/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

22/875/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

22/87/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

22/876 FINANCE:

22/876/a Matters for report:

The clerk reported that the Internal Audit was now complete for the third quarter and the internal auditor, Richard Clarke had signed everything off.

22/876/b Matters for Resolution:

Nothing to report

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22/876/c Cheques Payable:

Louise Brooks	Salary for Jan '22	£ 384.13	chq no: 569
HMRC	PAYE payment for Jan '22	£ 96.00	chq no: 570
Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance Jan '22	£ 40.00	chq no: 571

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously

22/877 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

The Clerk reported that she had just received an email from Karl Templeman from Keys Group, regarding the start to the planned works at The Old Vicarage for the new progressive school. Keys Group provide innovative care and education services to children and young people who have complex needs, emotional and behavioural difficulties or who display challenging behaviour. The Old Rectory has already received planning approval to be converted. Work is planned to start on 21st February and contractors estimate it will be a 20 week conversion programme so the school will be fully operational by September 2022. The Clerk reported that she had emailed Karl regarding both himself and Emma Robbins, who will be the new Deputy Head, attending a Parish Council meeting to update the Parish Council on their exciting plans, after the May elections. Clerk will be in touch with Karl in April.

Action: Clerk

Parish Council Elections: The Clerk reported that she had now received notification regarding the Parish Council elections due to take place on May 5th. She has also received a guidance leaflet to explain the process and key dates, as well as application forms. She has emailed all the information to each of the current Parish Councillors.

22/878 FOOTPATHS:

Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge:

Cllr Maidment confirmed that he had now sent the application form to the Rights of Way Area Warden at Somerset County Council, Sarah Cresswell and Footpaths Diversion Officer, Vicky Taylor. Sarah had confirmed receipt of the application.

22/879 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
- Speed sensor
- Jubilee
- Elections

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

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



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