

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

22/880 PRESENT:

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

22/881 APOLOGIES:

Mr. A Dance (County Councillor)

Ms J Lock (no apologies received)

22/882 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

22/883 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Denley

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

22/884 PUBLIC TIME

22/884/a Public Time:

A member of the village hall committee attended the meeting to update the Parish Council on the new hearing loop system and audio visual system that are due to be installed following the success of the grant from SCC. The Clerk was given the invoice and will pay 50% of the total costs now via the Unity Trust Bank Account, with the remaining amount to be paid after the total installation.

Clerk asked the Chair for some photo documentation of the installation so it can all be recorded for SCC.

Action: Clerk

22/884/b District Councillor:

District Councillor Stanton was present at the meeting and had sent a report which had been forwarded to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. The report included the following:

Council Leadership: at a full Council meeting on the evening of 28th February, Val Keitch was confirmed as Leader of South Somerset District Council, following a No Confidence motion tabled by the leader of the Conservative Group. It was defeated by 30 votes to 8, with one (Conservative) abstention. Two of the Independent Group voted for it, two against.

Planning: still held up by the phosphates saga. There was no Area North meeting in February.

Phosphates: my new motion demanding that Wessex Water, Ofwat, the government, the EA and Natural England act to remove phosphates from sewage at source in all sewage works will go before SSDC's March Council meeting, on 17th March. Cllr Stanton went into more detail at the meeting on the effect this is having on planning applications in the area.


Budget and Council Tax: a balanced budget which commits to almost £118M of capital investment through to 2024 in South Somerset was approved by Council on 28th February. It includes the already planned massive revamp of the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil, completion of Chard, Wincanton & Yeovil revamps, decarbonisation of most council buildings, and many other items. Many more Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points will be installed across the district. Ham Hill Country Park's infrastructure and facilities will be considerably improved. CCTV in Yeovil town centre will be improved, as will Yeovil Crematorium.

It was also unanimously agreed that the district council's precept for Council Tax bills will rise by £5 per household per year (for a typical Band D property) in 2022/2023 (a 2.8% increase).

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – new unitary Somerset Council: The necessary Structural Changes Order was approved by the House of Commons on 23rd January and goes before the Lords by 14th March; first elections to the new authority together with Town and Parish elections will be held on 5th May 2022. The next meeting of the LGR Joint Committee of the five existing councils is on 18th March.

Somerset Waste Partnership is starting a 'repair and re-use' service to reduce discarding of electrical goods.

SSDC achievements in 2021-22 include delivering over £10M in grants to support business through the pandemic, planting 1,650 trees, providing a new leisure centre for Chard, almost £90,000 in Community Grants covering arts, community transport, sports, community buildings and more, setting up the South Somerset



1
14-4-22

Opportunities Hubs to provide employment support for businesses and individuals and preventing hundreds of vulnerable people from facing homelessness through dedicated support.

22/884/c County Councillor:

County Councillor Adan Dance was not present at the meeting.

22/884/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

22/885 **MATTERS ARISING**

1. Removal of Caravan at Westport – Thanks to SSDC

The Parish Council thanked both Mike Stanton (District Councillor) and Adam Dance (County Councillor) for all their hard work over the last 3 plus years to finally get the caravan removed from Westport. The Chair is in talks with SSDC regarding getting the remainder of the site cleared.

2. Speed Sensor – update

The Chair reported that this is still not working and the company was suggesting that he try something else as they couldn't quite work out what was wrong with the machine. The Clerk said that it was not the responsibility of the Chair to keep trying different things that the company was suggesting that might fix the issue. It was the responsibility of the company to either come back themselves and fix it, or better still, to come back and replace the machine with a new one. It was installed in January and hasn't worked from day 1 when they installed it. It was agreed to wait to see what the latest response to The Chairman's email that he had just sent to the company was, before going any further.

Action; Clerk

3. Dog Bins for Westport and replacement bin for Hambridge – fitting update

The dog bins (one for Westport and one replacement for Hambridge Green) have now arrived and have been installed by the SSDC Ranger.

4. Jubilee:

A jubilee village planning meeting has been arranged for March 24th to take place in the village hall where everyone will be made welcome to come and share their ideas and plans or contribute to the event.

5. Banking – update

The Chair has now transferred £20,000.00 from Nat West bank to the new bank account at Unity Trust. The remaining amount will now be transferred after the BT direct debit has also been transferred. As soon as this has been done the Nat West bank account will then be closed.

The Clerk reported that all the invoices for payment had been conducted through the new Unity bank. She reported that the authorisation on the account needed rectifying.

6. Update on the audio/visual installation at the hall

See Public Time

7. May Parish Council elections – forms

The Clerk collected all the application forms from the Councillors in attendance and will take them to SSDC after the 21st March.

22/886 **PLANNING:**

22/886/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

22/886/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

22/8786/c Applications for consideration.

22/00178/LBC | Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of an extension in its place and internal reconfiguration. - The Dairy House Hambridge, Langport, TA10 0AJ

The Parish Council had no objection to this planning application.

Action: Clerk

22/887 **FINANCE:**

22/887/a Matters for report:

The Clerk reported that at the end of March would be the end of the financial year for 2021/22. April would be a busy time preparing the accounts and completing the forms for both the internal and external auditor.

14-4-22



22/887/b Matters for Resolution:

Nothing to report

22/888/c Cheques Payable:

The Clerk reported that she had paid some of the invoices below via the Unity Trust Account to make sure it was all working correctly. The others were paid via Nat West.

Louise Brooks	Salary for Feb '22	£ 384.13	Pd via UNITY
HMRC	PAYE payment for Feb '22	£ 96.00	Pd via UNITY
Louise Brooks	Expenses & Home office allowance Feb '22	£ 40.00	Pd via UNITY
SSDC	2 x dog bins and fixings	£ 744.00	Pd via UNITY
Audio Visual Direct Ltd	50% of invoice no: AVD1330 for new audio/visual equipment for the village hall (grant funded from SCC)	£ 2,695.20	Pd via UNITY

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr.Meecham

Agreed unanimously

22/889 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the April 2021 National pay increase for Parish Clerks had finally been agreed by the Government and Unions – 1 year late. This payment was authorised by Government to be backdated. Clerk will liaise with the Payroll Company to get this done.

22/890 FOOTPATHS:

Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge:

Cllr Maidment reported that he had chased this and was informed by the footpaths manager that they would begin to look at the application next week.

22/891 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

Cllr. Maidment reported tht some of the 40mph signs between Hambridge and Westport are blank (due to age). Cllr Meecham will take photos of them and get exact locations and pass on to the Clerk for reporting to Highways.

Action: Cllr Meecham/Clerk

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

14 - 04 - 22

