

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2022
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

22/892 PRESENT:

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

22/893 APOLOGIES:

Nothing to report

22/894 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

22/895 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

22/896 PUBLIC TIME

22/896/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 is near completion. He produced the invoice with the remainder that's due for payment and will let the Clerk know when the HWRT are happy that the system is running smoothly and they are happy for it to be paid. This has been paid for with a grant from SCC.

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

Action: Chairman Cllr Denley

22/896/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:

Elections on 5th May

Cllr Stanton urged everyone to use their vote in these important elections to Somerset's new unitary council, which will determine the conduct of local government in our county for the coming five years. He reiterated that whatever anyone's political preference was, we should all register & vote. There's just time to register for anyone who hasn't yet, or who has recently moved house.

Phosphates

All Planning applications for dwellings are still on hold because of this issue. A detailed report by consultants Royal Haskoning was published in mid-March which contains 116 pages of interesting information.

It does not solve the problem, but sets out a range of solutions, including the installation of 'Package Treatment Plants' (small sewage works) on housing development sites. It also sets out the kinds of 'mitigation' arrangements that are being proposed and assesses their likely effectiveness. Thus far it is still the case that the local market in such mitigation arrangements proposed by Wessex Water EnTrade is still not functioning, over two and a half years after the problem arose.

Cllr Stanton had a motion passed by an almost unanimous Council on 17th March, which demands action by Ofwat and by the Government, as this is not a matter proving solvable locally, and it is one which is now arising in other parts of the country. Here in Somerset the River Axe catchment has just been given the same notice re phosphates as for the Parrett, Brue etc. catchments.


Ukrainian evacuees

All five Somerset District Councils are working with the Somerset NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, Avon and Somerset Police, and local charities and community groups to help both sponsors and refugees.

Those arriving from Ukraine are likely to need access to a range of services – from health and transport to schools and nursery places. It's a fast-moving situation and the initial priority is to identify local sponsors, carry out checks and help Ukrainian people settle safely in Somerset. Many have already offered living space.

A new webpage providing information and support can be found at www.somerset.gov.uk/Ukraine.

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This includes a digital form which should be completed by sponsors who are matched with refugees. This will help local services to carry out the checks sponsors need to safely welcome their guests.

On the webpage you will also find information on other ways Somerset residents can support Ukraine, with links to local and national charities and helplines.

Leisure Centre improvement

Work to improve facilities and energy efficiency in three leisure centres in Yeovil and Wincanton will begin this Spring. Goldenstones Leisure Centre, Westlands Sports and Fitness Centre and Wincanton Sports Centre will all benefit from refurbishments and new equipment – as well as the installation of new energy-efficient equipment which will improve efficiency and cut carbon emissions.

Somerset Rivers Authority

The SRA held a board meeting on 4th March, and will be holding an all-day consultative session of its members on 5th April to review its Flood Action Plan, which is at the heart of its work.

22/896/c County Councillor:

County Councillor Adam Dance was present at the meeting. He discussed that SSDC had now entered purdah and very little was happening other than election work. The Parish Council thanked their County Councillor as well for all his valuable advice and support over the past few years. Cllr Dance has always been very pro-active throughout his term with any issue that has arisen and the Parish Council wished him luck with the elections.

22/896/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

22/897 MATTERS ARISING

1. Speed Sensor – update:

The speeds sensor has now been changed for a completely new model after the Parish Council continued to have problems with its original one. It is now working perfectly. The Ranger will now include this as part of his fortnightly work schedule with the village under the SSDC Rangers scheme, as well as many maintenance jobs around the villages. Due to continuing cutbacks from SCC there will be more maintenance work to do which the Parish Council have budgeted for.

2. Jubilee:

The jubilee meeting took part on the 24th with a small turnout from both villages. Different events have been planned to run over the jubilee weekend.

The change of banks from Nat West to the Unity Trust bank is now set up and running well. The reserve account at Nat West has now been closed. Once the BT direct debit has been switched over to come out of the Unity Trust bank account, rather than the Nat West account, the remaining funds in the Nat West current account will be also transferred to the Unity Trust and that account will also be closed. All Parish Council funds will then be completely held with the Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk reported that she had also received confirmation from SSDC that the precept for 2022/23 had now been paid into the Unity Trust account as well.

Chairman to arrange with BT to change DD and then transfer final funds. **Action: Chairman Cllr Denley**

4. Parish Council Elections:

The Chairman thanked and congratulated all the Parish Councillors present for being successful with their nominations to stand on the Parish Council for another term. From May, Graham Hill will join the Parish Council as the fifth member.

22/898 PLANNING:

22/898/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

22/898/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

22/898/c Applications for consideration.

22/00602/FUL - Land Adj Goosemead Cottage Westport Langport

Erection of a four-bedroom detached dwelling with attached double garage and forecourt parking. (Amended scheme to approval 19/00887/FUL).

Although this application had arrived too late to be included on the Agenda, due to time restraints on getting comments back to planning at SSDC, this was discussed after the meeting.

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The Parish Councillors had all received copies of this before the meeting. Although the Parish Council support the application, two points were raised - which related to the previous application for a smaller dwelling which don't look as if they have been addressed on this application:

1. Insufficient space for parking & turning of a vehicle considering that with 4 bedrooms there could potentially be 4 cars?
2. Additional toilet (compared to previous application) which may be affected by the current phosphate issue?


Clerk to report to SSDC planning with this information.

Action: Clerk

22/899 FINANCE:

22/899/a Matters for report:

1. End of final quarter accounts for 21-22

NAT WEST Current account	£	17,145.97	
NAT WEST Reserve account	£	.56	
UNITY TRUST BANK Current account	£	16,004.02	
Total	£	33,150.55	
There was no outstanding cheques that hadn't been banked:	£	0.00	
Total as cash book	£	33,150.55	

2. End of year audit

The Clerk has now completed the receipts and payments for 2021/22. They had been circulated before the meeting to all the Parish Councillors. The Chairman signed them off as being accurate. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the accounts will now go to the internal auditor and then the AGAR form for the external audit will be completed ready for sign-off at the Annual May Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the receipts and payments for 2021/22 as being accurate.
 Proposed: Cllr. Denley Seconded: Cllr. Maidment Agreed unanimously.

22/899/b Matters for Resolution:

Nothing to report

22/899/c Cheques Payable:

Louise Brooks	Salary – March 2022 plus back pay from 2021 (Government agreement)	£	467.37	Pd via UNITY
HMRC	NI & PAYE March 2022	£	116.80	Pd via UNITY
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – Mar 22	£	40.00	Pd via UNITY
M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance March 4 x mowing @ £110 per session	£	440.00	Pd via UNITY
M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing March x 2 @ £100.00 per session	£	200.00	Pd via UNITY
Cox & Co	Payroll services for April/May/June	£	90.00	Pd via UNITY
SSDC	SSDC Ranger scheme – hours for March 2022	£	186.48	Pd via UNITY

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously

22/900 CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received, had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors. There were extra items that the clerk discussed.

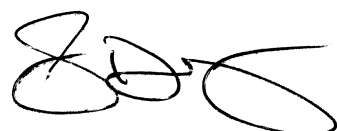
1. New Parish Councillor training – The Clerk had circulated training seminar dates for both new and existing Parish Councillors. The Clerk will arrange the dates Councillors have chosen to attend. **Action: Clerk**

2. The Clerk reported that she had received and circulated an email from The Old Vicarage regarding the progress with the school. The head informed the Parish Clerk that there would a number of vacancies available. The Parish Council was happy for the vacancies to be included in the next newsletter. Clerk to respond to the email. Chairman Cllr. Denley to add it to the newsletter. **Action: Clerk/Chairman Cllr Denley**

3. Mobile Grocery Shop – The Clerk had received an email which had been forwarded to all Parish Councillors from a lady who runs a mobile shop. She was wondering if the Parish Council thought this would be something both Hambridge and Westport residents would be interest in. The Parish Council though it would be good idea due to the loss of the village shop in December 2021. Clerk to respond to the email. An article will be included in the newsletter. **Action: Clerk/Chairman Cllr Denley**

4. FOI requests: The Clerk informed the Parish Council that she was currently working on 3 FOI that had been requested by a member of the public.

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22/901 FOOTPATHS:

Proposed diversion of footpath L 9/22, Hambridge:

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that due to the new owner of Hambridge Farm withdrawing consent from the proposed diversion, the diversion application would now have to be withdrawn. The Clerk had spoken to the Footpaths Diversion Officer who confirmed that the existing footpath would have to be unblocked and made accessible. The case would now be handed over to the Area Warden to deal with the obstruction issues.

22/902 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 update / BT direct debit changed

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall. The Annual Parish Council will be held beforehand starting at 7pm.

11-05-22

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a horizontal line, positioned to the right of the date.