

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE 2022
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

22/914 PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman), Cllr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Cllr. R Meecham, Cllr G. Hill, M. Stanton (District Councillor), Cllr. Jo Roundell-Greene (County Councillor), & Mrs L. Brooks (Clerk). There was 1 member of the public present.

22/915 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. R Maidment (family commitments)

Mr. A Dance (County Councillor) (work commitments)

22/916 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

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

22/917 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

22/918 PUBLIC TIME

22/918/a Public Time:

A member of the public discussed the new diocese magazine that is in the planning stage of being produced. He wondered if this would be a good idea for the Parish Council to use this publication to write updates in, instead of the newsletter that is currently produced under some difficulty by the Parish Council Chairman. The Parish Councillors felt that the newsletter was a better way to communicate with the village, although a new editor was still being sought.

The member of the public also discussed the success of the jubilee celebrations.

22/918/b District Councillor:

District Councillor Stanton was present at the meeting. He had also sent a report beforehand which had been circulated. It included:

Elections: alongside our newly-elected parish councils, the newly-elected County Council is now running in parallel with the four District Councils until 1st May 2022, under Liberal Democrat control. The new Somerset Council (unitary authority) will then come into being with the same Councillors. Cllr Stanton was elected for Curry Rivel & Langport, along with Richard Wilkins, and is now Associate Lead for Adult Social Services. Its itinerary is at: somersetwaste.gov.uk/fixy.

Environment: our 2022/12 Action Plan is available on the SSDC website. No Mow conservation is a key part of it, so verges will now be cut six times per annum instead of 16. And the announcement of Somerset Wetlands as England's second 'super nature reserve' is welcome news for those of us – most – campaigning for reduction in nitrate and phosphate pollution and raw sewage discharge into watercourses.

Solar panel installation at our Leisure Centres is being done during June.

EV Charging Stations are being installed in council car parks during June and beyond.

Planning: changes in the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill. The government's proposed changes include creating area design codes, a new levy to replace S106 and CiL, giving more weight to Neighbourhood Plans, which will be simple to prepare, a 'Street Votes' system, and some 20 other proposals. The NPPF will be updated to reflect the changes when enacted.

Fly-tipping: a fly tipper has been given a suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £775 costs. This was on council land covered by CCTV. Otherwise it's really difficult to secure convictions, but we must keep trying. Please keep reporting fly tipping wherever you see it.

Cllr Staton also updated the Parish Council regarding Westmoor Lane. He had made contact with the landowner and would have a meeting with him in the near future.

22/918/c County Councillor:

County Councillor Jo Roundell-Green was representing SCC for this meeting. She discussed the fantastic training they are currently all being given by SCC. Once the training is out of the way, they will all have a

better understanding of their goals and who is doing what. Once all the training has taken place there will be more to report at the next meeting.

22/918/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

22/919 MATTERS ARISING

22/919/a Mirrors at junctions – Highways information

The Clerk has been in contact with our Highways Manager for clarification on placing mirrors at junctions. His response was:

‘I can advise that Somerset County Council do not place mirrors on the Public Highway. Mirrors of any kind placed on the Highway are regarded as “unauthorised signs”. Somerset County Council as the Highway Authority does not allow the use of traffic mirrors as they are considered by the Department for Transport (DfT) as a non-prescribed sign and special permission must be given by the DfT for their use. Somerset County Council would not seek this special permission from the DfT as mirrors can give a misleading impression of vehicle movements, particularly motorcyclists who will be inconspicuous in a mirror. If not positioned correctly, they can also cause dazzle to approaching motorists, they also require regular maintenance to keep them clean, they are ineffective during inclement weather and they are often the subject of vandalism or accidental damage.

Should an individual wish to place a mirror on private property, then they are able to do this with the landowners permission, but they will also need to take on the liability for this and apply to the District Council for the necessary planning permissions.’

22/919/b Grit Bins

The Clerk has been in touch with the Highways Manager for clarification of the current situation with regards to placing grit bins on the side of roads. The Highways manager gave the Parish Council a plan of the Parish so we could annotate it with the locations we felt would benefit a grit bin. The Highways Manager will then look at the places we’ve suggested and have these locations inspected for suitability by a member of his team. He explained that they do need to be at certain location, on hills, sharp bends, busy junctions etc otherwise they would not give permission for them to be on the highway.

The Parish Council felt there were 4 places in Hambridge and Westport that would benefit from the installation of a grit bin and marked these places on the map. These places would complement the existing grit bin situated in Hambridge. Clerk to place the order for the correct quantity of approved bins when this has been confirmed by Highways. The Parish Council went for the larger of the two bin choices in yellow.

Clerk to discuss the proposed placings with the Highways Manager.

Action: Clerk

22/919/c Notice Boards - At the May meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council need two new Notice Boards – one for Hambridge and one for Westport. (The second one at Hambridge, located in front of the Village Hall had previously been donated to the Rec Trust for their use as it was felt that the Parish Council did not need two in Hambridge)

The Clerk had got a quote of a new slightly larger notice board that the Parish Council liked. The Parish Councillors were in complete agreement that this was acceptable. The Chairman will speak to the landowner where the existing board currently is situated to make sure they are happy for a lightly larger board to be installed. Once the Chair has confirmed this with the clerk, she will order the two boards.

Action: Chairman/Clerk

22/919/d S137 payment – The S137 payment was discussed. Last year The Parish Council supported the Curry Rivel Food Bank and the Parish Council felt that it would be a really good charity to support again – especially with the price of food increasing. The Clerk had been in touch with the leader of the Food Bank and he explained that they were getting more families referred to them due to the rising costs of living, plus they were starting to support Ukrainian families who were joining our communities. Councillor Masters also commented that we now had 4 Ukrainian pupils at Hambridge school. Councillor Masters proposed that the Parish Council supported the food bank again, by donating £200.00, instead of the usual £100.00.

The Parish Councillors were all in complete agreement for this. A resolution was made to donate £200.00 towards the Curry Rivel Food Bank. Clerk will also request a poster to put in both of the parish council notice boards which will have the contact details for the foodbank. Clerk will also pass this on to admin of the village Facebook page to publicise as well as it being included in the newsletter. Clerk to arrange payment.

22/920 PLANNING:

22/920/a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

22/920/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report

22/920/c Applications for consideration.

22/01437/S73 - The Old Vicarage Hambridge Langport Somerset TA10 0BG

PROPOSAL: S73 application to vary/discharge conditions 2, 6 and 8 of planning permission 21/01282/FUL to enable a modification to the route of the internal driveway and parking area.

The Parish Council had no objections to these amendments and support the planning application.

22/01409/HOU - Lights Bungalow Westport Langport Somerset

PROPOSAL: To raise and replace part of the roof to create a first-floor family space suitable for wheelchair users. Erection of canopy to the rear of the dwelling and a glazed extension to the porch.

This was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. The following comments were made for the planning team to consider:

- 1) The wooden cladding is not consistent with the rest of the Bungalow or various previous extensions, which are brick finished. The Parish Council propose that the wooden cladding is replaced with brick finish. Wooden cladding would not fit in with the current street scene.
- 2) The rear balcony will overlook the two houses behind Lights Bungalow, which includes September Cottage. This should be removed from the plans.
- 3) They had concerns about the parking provisions. The plans show parking for four cars. This does not take into account the Caravan that is also parked there and that the garage is unusable. Also, there is often more than four cars parked around the bungalow opposite the junction with Ruskway Lane. This is a very dangerous junction with poor visibility.

As long as the above comments are assessed accordingly by the planning team, then the Parish Council of Hambridge and Westport would support this planning application.

22/921 FINANCE:

22/921/a Matters for report:

VAT update – now the banking is in place, the clerk has been able to make progress with the VAT claim. All the clerk's details have now been updated with HMRC. The Clerk has to now wait 10 days for the system to be updated before starting the claim.

Action: Clerk

22/921/b Matters for Resolution:

Nothing to report

22/921/c Cheques Payable:

Louise Brooks	Salary – May 2022	£	411.93	Pd via Unity Trust
HMRC	NI & PAYE May 2022	£	86.40	Pd via Unity Trust
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – May 22	£	40.00	Pd via Unity Trust
M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing May x 1 @ £100.00 per session	£	100.00	Pd via Unity Trust
M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance April 3 x mowing @ £110 per session	£	330.00	Pd via Unity Trust
SALC	Good Councillor Guides	£	25.50	Pd via Unity Trust
BT	Hall Wifi		£	Pd via Unity Trust
S137 Payment	Curry Rivel Food Bank	£	200.00	Pd via Unity Trust

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Masters

Agreed unanimously

22/922 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

22/923 FOOTPATHS:

Footpath L 9/22, Hambridge:

Cllr Maidment had informed the clerk prior to the meeting that he was still in talks with the Footpaths team regarding access to Footpath L9/22.

22/924 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

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

Cllr Hill reported that he had been asked about the old speed sensor at Underhill. The Chairman reported that would chase the removal of this.

The Chairman reported that the village would like the Parish Council to purchase two established oak trees for the village to mark the jubilee year. One will be for Hambridge and one for Westport. Locations for the trees will be confirmed. This will not happen until the autumn, when it is a better time to plant them. The money set aside for the jubilee celebrations will be used to pay for them. **Action: Clerk**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

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