

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**22/936 PRESENT:**

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman), Cllr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Cllr. R Maidment, Cllr. R Meecham, Cllr G. Hill, Mr. A Dance (County Councillor) & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were 3 members of the public present.

**22/937 APOLOGIES:**

M. Stanton (District Councillor)

**22/938 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

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

**22/939 MINUTES:**

A decision was made that the notes under 'Public Time' would be reduced in the July minutes and from now on a brief summary would only be written and no MOP would ever be named even if written request was received. New minutes were sent to all Parish Councillors for agreement and sign off.

Minutes for July were agreed and signed off on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Denley

Agreed unanimously.

**22/940 PUBLIC TIME**

**22/940/a Public Time:**

A member of the public wished for it to be recorded that she was not happy with the placement of the new notice board. The Parish Council were given full approval by the landowner to put it here where it was felt there was a good footfall of people to read the information placed on the board.

A member of the public felt the July minutes were not accurate. It was agreed to minimise the public time to a brief summary (as recommended by SALC) and never include any names of MOP, which has always been the Parish Council's policy in the first place.

SSDC 'Get Sussed' magazine to go on both noticeboards – Clerk had already printed off an A4 sheet for both.

**22/940/b District Councillor:**

District Councillor Stanton was not present at the meeting. He had sent a report beforehand which had been circulated. It included updates on the following:

**Planning and Phosphates update:** SSDC's District Executive will at last consider on 6<sup>th</sup> October a proposal to use the EnTrade Catchment Model for a phosphate credits market, to begin to unlock the more than 360 planning applications, related to 5,000 dwellings, which are currently blocked by Natural England's August 2020 imposition of a moratorium.

However, there is increasing recognition that a credits market doesn't solve the problem, merely moves it elsewhere, and takes farmland out of food production. SSDC has therefore been campaigning for government action at district and county level, but they are not hopeful that they will make Ofwat and the water companies start to take the necessary actions.

DEFRA has acknowledged the need for significant upgrades to all affected treatment works which would if made a requirement provide some benefit to larger scale projects but does not help with the immediate problem. Details of the proposals are on the SSDC website within the agenda and papers for the District Executive meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October, pages 4-16.

**Accounts:** whilst the district's auditors, Grant Thornton, are able to sign off our accounts as a true and accurate record, they have criticised the council on two counts: poor provision of accounting information several months ago, and a decision by the then Chief Executive of the council in 2021 to make a payment to a departing director without obtaining the proper permissions from the council's leader and finance head. This is unsatisfactory, we councillors are dissatisfied with the position, particularly the additional costs that have been incurred in getting the audit information correct.

**Environment:** our first Somerset Recycling Week ended yesterday: our rate is approaching 60%, so we're getting towards being in the top 10 in the country. our newsletter 'Get Sussed' is now available on the SSDC website.

**Covid-19** is increasing again, and pressure is growing on our hospitals, which are again having to postpone non-urgent operations. I've just had it myself and it's not pleasant, even when one has had four jobs.

**Dillington House & county finances:** the county council has decided to opt out of its lease of Dillington from its owners, because it is a drain on county finances; other venues for the education which takes place there can be found. This reflects the parlous state of Somerset finances, at county level, as a result of years of underbudgeting and freezing of council tax for eight years, now exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis which has his pay costs, material and energy costs, as it has for everyone and every business entity.

**Green Flag Scheme:** Webinar on 12<sup>th</sup> October 7-8 pm about this: parishes with parks or spaces could be entered for a Green Flag Award. SSDC has won one for the past 17 years for Ham Hill & Yeovil Country Parks, and Ash received one for its Millennium Wood.

**22/940/c County Councillor:**

County Councillor Adam Dance was present at the meeting. He said that a report would be sent in the next couple of days to the Clerk for circulation.

He spoke more about the poor financial position that County were in.

**22/940/d P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report

**22/941 MATTERS ARISING**

**22/941/a Joining an LCN:** with Curry Rivel, Langport, Drayton, Muchelney, Aller & Huish Episcopi  
It was decided to wait until we had a clearer idea as to which area LCN would most benefit the villages. Clerk to inform the above group. **Action: Clerk**

**22/941/b 161M - Rights of Way Modification:** addition and upgrade request. A resident has highlighted a possible request to upgrade the footpath that runs adjacent to the canal to be upgraded to a bridal way  
It was agreed that nothing could be done about this until an actual application had been received.

**22/941/c Parking concern at the top of Westmoor Lane leading to junction with B3168**

A white van has been left parked at the top of Westmoor Lane for several weeks now right on the junction with the B3168. A Parish Councillor will take a photograph and send it to the Clerk who will report it to the PCSO.

**Action: Parish Councillor/Clerk**

**22/941/d Speeding issues through the two villages:** Cllr Maidment reported the dangerous speed that is happening throughout the two villages and down Westmoor Lane. Clerk to email South Petherton Clerk and find out where they send their data from their speed sensor. Once the Clerk has this information to then inform Cllr Denley who manages the speed sensor, so he can pass on the data from the speed sensor to the same people to see if a Police mobile traffic speed check can be used. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Denley**

**22/941/e Post Office Outreach:** The Chairman Cllr Denley explained that he had been approached by Crewkerne Postmaster to see if Hambridge would be interested in a pop-up post office once a week for a couple of hours. This would most likely be on a Wednesday afternoon. They would need to be in a room in the hall and a volunteer would have to be present at all times, which might be difficult to find. The Chairman asked the MOP present if they felt this would be a benefit to the village and none of them were very enthusiastic. The H&WRT would charge a rent for the room which would need paying. The Parish Councillors agreed, they would be happy to trial this for a 6-month period and pay the rent for that time if their was any support/need from the village residents. Chairman Cllr Denley will put a post on SM to see if there is any interest before committing to this and report at the next PC meeting. **Action: Cllr Denley**

**22/941/f Churchyard Maintenance:** The contractor for the churchyard maintenance had been asked to quote for some work that was required at the churchyard. The Parish Council were in full agreement with his quotes but requested that all clippings be removed. Clerk to inform the contractor. **Action: Clerk**

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Denley

Agreed unanimously.

**22/941/g Wreath for Remembrance Sunday:** The Chairman reported that he had ordered a wreath for Remembrance. The Chairman would get an invoice for the Parish Council to pay

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

**Action: Cllr Denley**

**22/942 PLANNING:**

**22/942/a Matters for report:**

Nothing to report

**22/942/b Decisions Notified: The Clerk had been notified on the following -**

Ref. No: 20/03336/FUL - Land to The Rear of The Lamb And Lion The Green Hambridge TA10 0AT  
Proposed erection of a dwelling and detached outbuilding - Application permitted with conditions

Ref. No: 22/02272/HOU - Nutwood, Ruskway Lane Westport Langport Somerset TA10 0BW

Demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey side extension to dwelling. - Application permitted with conditions

**22/942/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report

**22/943 FINANCE:**

**22/943/a Matters for report:**

1. End of 2nd quarter accounts

Unity Trust Bank Current account £ 37,057.38

Total as cash book £ 37,057.38

A bank reconciliation, bank statement and spread sheet of all transactions was emailed to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

Cllr Maidment took the accounts file to give to the internal auditor for , approval and sign off.

2. 2 x oak trees to mark the Jubilee and Queen's Reign

A resolution was passed to purchase 2 x mature oak trees (one for the recreation field and one for Westport if a suitable location can be found) from Brimsmore Garden Centre and to be planted by Brimsmore. Cllr Denley to liaise with Brimsmore on where they are to be planted

**Action: Cllr Denley**

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

**22/943/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank

**AUGUST PAYMENTS**

**SIGNS OF CHESHIRE**

Louise Brooks

HMRC

Louise Brooks

SSDC

M Von Tyszka

M Von Tyszka

GLASDON UK Limited

SIGNS OF CHESHIRE

**All payments authorised in August & paid 09.08.22**

2 x Parish Notice Boards 50% deposit inv no 10090

Salary – July 2022

NI & PAYE July 2022

Expenses & home office Allowance – July 22

Ranger's hours for July 22

Churchyard mowing July x 1 @ £100.00 per session

Recreation ground maintenance July-3 x mowing @ £110 per session

4 x grit bins and scoops inv no S1845304

2 x Parish Notice Boards outstanding 50% after delivery of boards inv no 10090

£ 690.00

£ 411.93

£ 86.40

£ 40.00

£ 384.14

£ 100.00

£ 330.00

£ 818.01

£ 690.00

**SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS**

Louise Brooks

HMRC

Louise Brooks

SSDC

M Von Tyszka

M Von Tyszka

**All payments authorised in September & paid 12.09.22**

Salary – August 2022

NI & PAYE August 2022

Expenses & home office Allowance – August 22

Ranger's hours for August 22

Churchyard mowing August x1 @ £100.00 per session

Recreation ground maintenance August 1 x mowing @ £110 per session

£ 411.73

£ 86.60

£ 40.00

£ 192.07

£ 100.00

£ 110.00

<b>OCTOBER PAYMENTS DUE</b>			
Louise Brooks	Salary – September 2022	£	411.93
HMRC	NI & PAYE September 2022	£	86.40
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – September 22	£	40.00
M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing Sept x 1 @ £100.00 per session	£	100.00
M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance Sept 2 x mowing @ £110 per session	£	220.00
SALC & NALC	Affiliation Fee April 22 – March 23 (SALC £115.11 & NALC £32.88)	£	147.99
Squiggle Graphics	Yearly hosting of village website	£	240.00
Cox & Co Payroll Ltd	Payroll services for Oct, Nov, Dec 22	£	90.00
H&W Recreation Trust	Annual charge for room hire for meetings Sept 22 – July 23	£	154.00

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

**22/944 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**22/945 FOOTPATHS:**

Footpath L 9/22, Hambridge: Cllr Maidment reported that this is currently being dealt with by SCC who are continuing to make progress.

**22/946 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Items for next Agenda:

- School Parking when events are taking place
- Feedback on any public interest ref post office pop-up
- Budget

Cllr Meecham discussed his recent trip to Tinker's Bubble

Cllr Denley discussed his recent meeting with District Cllr. Stanton and the landowner of the Withy Patch

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05 pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.**