

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

22/947 PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman), Cllr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Cllr. R Meecham, Cllr G. Hill, J. Roundell-Green (County Councillor) & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were 2 members of the public present.

22/948 APOLOGIES:

Cllr. R Maidment

M. Stanton (District Councillor)

Mr. A Dance (County Councillor)

22/949 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

22/950 MINUTES:

The Minutes from the October meeting had been circulated. They were agreed and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously.

22/951 PUBLIC TIME

22/951/a Public Time:

A member of the public enquired about how to get items included on the Agenda.

A member of the public asked if the Parish Councillor email addresses on the website were working correctly.

A member of the public enquired about a PCSO attending meetings or providing a report of regarding local crime.

A member of the public offered the village two oak trees to plant in Honour of the Queen. Chairman Cllr.

Denley to liaise with the MOP.

Action: Chairman Cllr Denley

22/951/b District Councillor:

District Councillor Stanton was not present at the meeting and no report had been received.

22/951/c County Councillor:

County Councillor Jo Roundell Green was present and gave us an update on the financial situation at Somerset County Council and the seriousness of the issue. She explained that this would have a knock on effect to Parish Councils as many services would be cut and passed down to Parish Council level to provide. The Parish Council reported that it was very hard to budget for services they still had no idea what they would have to be responsible for. County Cllr Roundell Green urged the Parish Council to precept for as much as possible and use the current rate of inflation (currently 10%) as a guide. She explained that things would very likely get worse over the next two years before there would be any improvement and the Parish Council need to be prepared for more expense.

She also spoke about Somerset's Warm Welcome Initiative. The Warm Welcome initiative is a network of venues that will offer an inviting place for people to keep warm. These venues will offer optional activities, or a place to get some work/homework done, or even just see a friendly face for a chat.

Spark Somerset is being funded to develop the programme and build a framework, identify appropriate spaces and co-ordinate the project moving forward. Somerset Libraries will be open as usual to offer a warm and welcoming space to all. Once all of the warm spaces have been confirmed, a public map will be made available.

22/951/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

22/952 MATTERS ARISING

22/952/a School Parking when events are taking place

The Clerk was asked to email the Headmaster and inform him that we have received some complaints regarding parking when there have been events taking place at the school (inter-school cross country running competition being the worst) and to ask parents and visiting schools to park with some consideration to residents in the village. Cllr Masters reported that he had offered the school extra parking in Manor Farm when events were due to be held but they had not informed anyone. Clerk to ask him to include something in the school newsletter when they have an event due.

Action: Clerk

22/952/b Feedback on any public interest ref post office pop-up

The Chairman had a site meeting with the Pop-up Post Office when they had visited to see if the site would be suitable. They had trouble to login to their own remote wifi and the Chairman was unconvinced by this visit. Chairman will ask them to send a report from their visit to see what their opinion was. Parish Councillors to ask MOP if they would be interested in this service. Clerk to include on next Agenda. **Action: All**

22/952/c Village website

The Chairman reported that parts of the website needed updating. The Clerk was responsible for updating the Parish Council page and uploading the newsletters to the relevant page. The Chairman will speak to Squiggle and a MOP regarding updating other parts as some of it is locked for updating by the company that set it up.

Action: Chairman Cllr Denley

Website – Newsletter updates – The clerk asked if there was any further newsletters being produced as this is such a good way informing the residents of events, especially after the last couple of years as people may feel very cut off. The Chairman reported that no one had come forward to offer to be ‘editor’ of the newsletter and after producing the newsletter for the last few years he didn’t have the time. Cllr Hill reported that the HWRT were looking to produce a small leaflet to let residents know what events were planned at the hall over Christmas. It was agreed that this is the best form of letting people know what is going on and when as many don’t have access to the internet. Clerk to include it on the next Agenda.

Action: Clerk

22/952/d Code of Conduct – change to LGA Model

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that they are required to change their Code of Conduct to the LGA model. The Clerk has sent a copy of the LGA Code of Conduct to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting to read through. The Parish Council made a resolution to accept the new Code of Conduct, which was signed and dated by the Chair.

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Masters

Agreed unanimously.

22/952/e Speed sensor info update – where to send

The Clerk had obtained the information from South Petherton PC as to where they occasionally send their speed sensor data. This was passed to the Chairman. She also explained that South Petherton Parish Council had not been able to get a Police Officer with a mobile camera to set up a patrol in their Parish. The Chairman said he would contact our PCSO directly and see what could be done.

Action: Chairman Cllr. Denley

22/952/f Budget – planning

The Clerk/RFO had completed the first draft of the budget for 2023/24. She explained that she has attended a training session recently and everyone was in the same boat where they still do not know what extra services they have to budget for. She gave an example of future charges to the Parish Council – dog bin emptying is likely to be charged for in the future (current charge by SSDC is £6.75 per week per bin. H&W PC have 4 dog bins which would mean that if it stayed at the current rate, an annual charge of £1,404.00). She explained the figures for the year and it was looking like the estimated spend for 2022/23 would be circa £25,075.00. Cllr Meecham mentioned that following County Councillor Roundell Greene report about the state of County’s finances we needed to at least be raising the precept in line with the current rate of inflation (currently 10%). The Clerk/RFO reported that she would wait until the December meeting for final approval and maybe in that time the Parish Council will be given more information on services they will be charged/responsible for.

Action: Clerk

22/953 PLANNING:

22/9453a Matters for report:

Nothing to report

22/953/b Decisions Notified: The Clerk had been notified on the following -

Ref. No: 22/01409/HOU - Lights Bungalow Westport Langport Somerset TA10 0BN. 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. Application permitted with conditions.

22/9453/c Applications for consideration.

Nothing to report

22/954 FINANCE:

22/954/a Matters for report

Clerk reported that the National pay rise for Clerks has now accepted by Unions – to be backdated from 1st April 2022. (Will be inc.in Dec payments)

22/954/b Matters for Resolution

Nothing to report

22/954/c Cheques Payable:

All paid via Unity Trust Bank

NOVEMBER PAYMENTS DUE			
Louise Brooks	Salary – October 2022	£	411.73
HMRC	NI & PAYE October 2022	£	86.60
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – October 22	£	40.00
M Von Tyszka	Churchyard mowing Oct x 2 @ £100.00 per session	£	200.00
M Von Tyszka	Recreation ground maintenance Oct 3 x mowing @ £110 per session plus cut brambles in hedge - back to fence	£	410.00
SALC	Clerks Training Part 1	£	30.00
SALC	Clerk's Training Part 2	£	30.00
SSDC	Rangers hours for October		£

Proposed: Cllr. Hill

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

22/955 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

22/955 FOOTPATHS:

Clerk reported that any footpath issues to be reported straight to SCC Rights of Way Officer.

22/956 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Items for next Agenda:

Newsletter

Budget

Post Office Pop Up

PCSO

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th December 2022 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.