

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th JANUARY 2023
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

23/968 PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman), Cllr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Cllr. R Maidment, Cllr. R Meecham, Cllr G. Hill.

M. Stanton (District Councillor), J. Roundell-Green (County Councillor) & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk) were present via Zoom due to flooding. There were 2 members of the public present.

23/969 APOLOGIS:

Mr. A Dance (County Councillor)

23/970 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

23/971 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Hill

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

23/972 PUBLIC TIME

23/972/a Public Time:

A MOP discussed how she is trying to get members from all the core groups in the villages to come together for a meeting to try and create a better community. She asked the Parish Council if they would pay for the room hire at the village hall for this initial meeting? The Clerk/RFO said there was money in the budget for this. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to pay for the room hire for the initial meeting.

A MOP asked if there was any news on the closed footpath? The Clerk responded that all footpath issues were dealt with by the Rights of Way officer at SCC. The Clerk will get an update for the PC.

23/972/b District Councillor:

District Councillor Stanton was present for part of the meeting via Zoom. A report had been received and forwarded which included the following:

Planning update: arrangements are now being set up for continuing with planning committee work after 1st April, at which point the four Area Committees currently working in South Somerset will cease to exist, and new committees of the new Somerset Council will replace them. The number of committees, and their makeup, is expected to be announced during January 2023.

Accounts: The Revenue Budget Monitoring Report and Capital Budget Monitoring Report for Q2 were approved at December's full Council meeting. Sign off of the previous year's audit is expected imminently, giving the council a clean bill of health.

Local Government Re-organisation: an announcement on the number and delineation of Local Community Networks is expected on Tuesday 10th January, for consideration at SCC'S Executive Meeting the following week. He updated the PC at the meeting they are proposing to have 18 different LCN's across Somerset. Hambridge and Westport are in Area 16 which is called 'The levels and Moors'. Area 16 will be made up of 33 Parishes and Town Councils.

Ham Hill has been awarded a grant of £1.6 million for its Uncovering the Past project. This £2.4 m project will seek to conserve and protect the wealth of archaeology at this Iron Age hillfort.

Octagon Theatre redevelopment: a final decision to proceed to tender stage with this important development in our local arts provision will be made by SSDC on 19th January. The proposals include an increase in seating capacity from 622 to 900, two new cinema/studio spaces, a dance studio, an improved café bar area, and construction of a much-needed fly tower, with will enable larger visiting theatre companies to use the venue.

23/972/c County Councillor:

Both Cllr Stanton and Cllr Roundell-Green discussed the recent announcement for the LCN boundaries. As stated above, there will be 18 different LCNs throughout Somerset. Hambridge & Westport PC will be in LCN Area 16 Levels and Moors. More information will follow.

23/972/d P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report

23/973 **MATTERS ARISING**

a) Toddler Group – support from PC?

A Hambridge resident has set up a new Toddler Group which will be based in the village hall. She spoke at the PC meeting regarding the great number of children and parents who turned up for the first meeting of the group. She asked if the Parish Council could support her with a financial donation towards the insurance. The Parish Council were keen to offer their full support for setting up such a worthwhile group which will really benefit the community. They unanimously agreed to grant £300.00 towards the group. They also agreed to follow the progress of the group and if needed, offer more support on an annual basis.

Clerk to inform the MOP and set up payment to the sum of £300.00 from Unity Trust Bank once a group bank account has been set up. **Action: Clerk**

b) Ranger – list of work required around both villages

The Parish Councillors are constructing a list of jobs that are required for the Ranger.

Action: All Parish Councillors

c) Fly tipping

The recent fly-tipping on the Moor has now been removed after being reported to SSDC.

d) Emergency Plan review: The emergency plan has now been updated and the Clerk will update the website. Clerk has also produced a poster for the notice boards detailing the locations of the defibrillators and emergency contact details for sand bags, SSDC and SCC.

23/974 **PLANNING:**

23/974/a **Matters for report:**

Nothing to report

23/974/b **Decisions Notified: The Clerk had been notified on the following –**

Nothing to report

23/974/c **Applications for consideration.**

22/03486/HOU - Bridge Cottage, Hambridge, Langport, TA10 0BP

Convert existing storage area over garage to an annex which can be used when family and friends visit.

The Parish Council discussed this application in detail.

The Parish Council would like to point out that having only just had a planning application passed in 2015 for: Bridge Cottage Hambridge Langport Somerset TA10 0BP

Ref. No: 15/05568/FUL - Two storey extension to existing property and enlargement of existing garage. (GR: 339741/122132), which was only recently completed. Now, a second planning application has been submitted to convert over the garage into an annexe. The Parish Council felt this had obviously been the plan in the first place.

However, as the Parish Council have no planning reason to object against it, they support this application.

Action: Clerk

23/975 **FINANCE:**

23/975/a **Matters for report**

a) End of 3rd quarter accounts

Unity Trust Bank Current account £ 31,206.05

Total as cash book £ 31,206.05

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

Clerk to give Cllr Maidment the accounts file to give to the internal auditor for approval and sign off

b) Confirmation precept has been applied for.

Clerk confirmed the precept for 2023-24 was applied for on the 22nd December 2022.

23/975/b Matters for Resolution

Nothing to report

23/975/c Cheques Payable:

All paid via Unity Trust Bank

JANUARY PAYMENTS DUE			
Louise Brooks	Salary – December 2022	£	446.90
HMRC	NI & PAYE December 2022	£	95.20
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – December22	£	40.00
Cox & Co Payroll Services Ltd	Payroll services Jan, Feb & March 2023	£	90.00
SSDC	Ranger's hours for December	£	192.07
Hambridge Bumps and Babes	Grant for toddler and baby group	£	300.00

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

23/976 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

23/977 FOOTPATHS:

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

23/978 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Members' Reports:

Cllr. Maidment reported another accident had occurred on the Westport straight. He asked about speed reductions on this road. Cllr Dance has previously asked for a log to be kept of all speeding incidents. The PC have already put a speed sensor along this stretch of road.

Cllr Maidment reported about the bad state of Ruskway Lane with very deep potholes. Clerk said if he could mark the exact place of the potholes as dangerous on the website this would help although she pointed out that Highways have little money left in this year's budget for repairs. Cllr Maidment also reported that the landowner is also using the verges as an extension to his farm by parking farm vehicles and leaving silage bales out which is making the situation worse. Clerk to report on <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/>

Action: Clerk

Cllr Maidment reported that a footpath in Westport was now un-walkable following farm animals that had been driven up there to a field. Clerk to find out the status of this part of the footpath with the Rights of Way Officer.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Maidment asked if everyone could please fill out the Church questionnaire.

Items for next Agenda:

Currently nothing to add

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45pm

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.