

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**23/1044 PRESENT:**

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman), Cllr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Cllr. R Meecham, Cllr G. Hill, Cllr. J. Roundell-Greene (Unitary Councillor) & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

**23/1045 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. R Maidment

Cllr A. Dance (Unitary Councillor)

**23/1046 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report.

**23/1047 MINUTES:**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Denley

Agreed unanimously.

**23/1048 PUBLIC TIME**

**23/1048/a Public Time:**

Nothing to report

**23/1048/b Unitary Councillor report:**

Unitary Councillor, Jo Roundell-Greene informed the Parish Council that Somerset Council is warning that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to fund the rising cost of both Adult and Children's social care. Papers published ahead of a meeting of the Council's Executive on 6<sup>th</sup> September describe the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The warning comes as other councils in the UK are raising concerns that their budgets are unsustainable. The papers reveal that the Council drew £18 million from reserves last year to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets in Adult and Children's care services. The Council has a legal obligation to fund these services, which have seen an unprecedented rise in both overall demand and complexity of need since the Covid-19 pandemic. These two social care services are currently projected to overspend by £21 million again in the current financial year. This is despite significant increases in budgets in the two previous years. Other challenges faced by the new unitary Council include the rising cost of processing an increasing amount of household waste and the cost of refinancing loans taken out by five predecessor councils. The current and next two years will be particularly challenging until the benefits of transformation of services at the new Council can be realized.

**23/1048/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report.

**23/1049 MATTERS ARISING**

**23/1049/a Next LCN meeting – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

The Chairman will report back at the October meeting following this LCN meeting held at Westonzoyland.

**23/1049/a Grit Bin filling for this winter**

An email from Somerset Council had been circulated regarding the filling of grit bins for this winter.

**23/1050 PLANNING:**

**23/1050/a Matters for report:**

Nothing to report.

**23/1050/b Decisions Notified:** The Clerk had been notified on the following:

Nothing to report.

**23/1050/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report.

**23/1051 FINANCE:**

**23/1051/a Matters for report**

Nothing to report

**23/1051/b Matters for Resolution**

Nothing to report

**23/1051/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

<b>PAYMENTS MADE IN AUGUST</b>		
Louise Brooks	Salary – July 2023	£ 419.36
HMRC	NI & PAYE July 2023	£ 110.20
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – July 2023	£ 40.00
Max Von Tyszka	Mowing of churchyard - July 2023	£ 200.00
Max Von Tyszka	Mowing of recreation field – July 2023	£ 440.00
Somerset Council	Rangers hours for July 2023	£ 211.26
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Pension set-up fee	£ 50.00
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Pension monthly management July/Aug/Sept 23	£ 18.00
Cox & Co Payroll Solutions	Payroll monthly services July/Aug/Sept 23	£ 90.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Charge for 2022-23	£ 252.00
Monthly Direct debits		
BT	July 23 – still in credit	£ 0.00

<b>PAYMENTS MADE FOR SEPT</b>		
Louise Brooks	Salary – Aug 2023	£ 419.16
HMRC	NI & PAYE Aug 2023	£ 110.40
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance – Aug 2023	£ 40.00
Max Von Tyszka	Mowing of churchyard - Aug 2023	£ 200.00
Max Von Tyszka	Mowing of recreation field – Aug 2023	£ 550.00
Somerset Council	Rangers hours for Aug 2023	£ TBC

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

**23/1052 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk reported that all correspondence received, had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors.

The Clerk had sent an email received from Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley requesting funding for an event at the school. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to not fund this as many children at the school do not come from the Parish. The Parish Council are also waiting to hear from Somerset County Council regarding which services they will be charging the PC for in the future and therefore the PC felt it would be prudent to currently keep any spending to a minimum until we are informed of extra costs.

**23/1053 FOOTPATHS:**

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

**23/1054 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

**Members' Reports:**

Nothing to report.

**Items for next Agenda:**

Tender

LCN report

Defib

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**