

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**24/1101 PRESENT:**

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

**24/1102 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. J. Roundell-Greene (Unitary Councillor)

Cllr A. Dance (Unitary Councillor)

**24/1103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1104 MINUTES:**

The Minutes from the January meeting had been circulated. They were agreed as being an accurate account of the meeting and signed.

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1105 PUBLIC TIME**

**24/1105/a Public Time:**

A MOP asked the Parish Council to consider organizing a meeting to start a community group. The MOP had tried before but with little success. The Chair informed the MOP that the Parish Councillors do an awful lot for the village already and with the changes to services starting this year, it would be putting even more pressure on the Councillors. All the Parish Councillors work, as well as volunteer by being Parish Councillors. The PC felt that they would not have any more success than the MOP had when she tried to set up a community group. The PC would be happy to support her in her attempts to try again if she so wished. The Chair suggested she used the success of the village hall committee by attending events they put on and speak to other village residents then.

Another MOP asked if it was possible to erect cameras in different areas of the village to catch the culprits who litter drop. The PC said they would not be able to do this (cost and GDPR). It was also pointed out that a lot of litter is dropped from cars that just drive through the village – not necessarily from people who live here. The same MOP also enquired about installing compostable dog bins. The PC responded that they are great for people's back garden's but wouldn't be practical on a larger scale. Trying to educate people to use these where no bags would be used would be very difficult. People want to be able to walk their dogs with the least amount of effort in picking up after them. If they couldn't use dog bags to collect the waste (wouldn't be able to do so with compost bins) then people just wouldn't bother to pick it up at all, leading to an increase in dog mess being left on the ground which would create further issues.

**24/1105/b Unitary Councillor report:**

No Unitary Councillor was present and no report received.

**24/1105/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1106 MATTERS ARISING**

**24/1106/a Services – any updates on: provision of/ what will be statutory/costs?**

The Clerk reported that there had been no further updates on costing and provision of services. The next date for decisions to be made on all the proposed cuts would be 20<sup>th</sup> February. This is the meeting where Somerset Council would try and sign off their budget.

**24/1106/b Defibrillator**

Cllr Meecham reported that he had now received the defib for the hall. It would be installed as soon as possible. It was suggested that the old defib could be offered to the pub to be installed there but it would then be their responsibility to pay for replacements parts in the future. Clerk to add the new defibrillator to the list of assets and update the insurance.

**Action: Cllr Meecham/ The Chair/Clerk**

**24/1106/c January LCN Meeting – anything to report?**

Cllr Meecham, Cllr Maidment, Cllr Hill and the clerk all attended this meeting that was changed at the last minute to being online only. Cllr Meecham called the meeting 'pathetic' and everyone else thought it was a

complete waste of time with nothing being achieved. Cllr Meechem will attend the next LCN meeting in person and will voice his feelings regarding the LCN groups. **Action: Cllr: Meecham**

**24/1106/d Recreation Field Tender**

The Chair and clerk had received 3 quotes for the tender of the recreation field. They were discussed in great details. The Parish Council agreed to accept Max Von Tyszka's quote. The contract would be for 1 year and then revalued. Clerk to write to Mr Von Tyszka to inform him. **Action: Clerk**

**24/1106/e Grit bin and purchase of grit/salt**

It was agreed to buy a bulk amount of grit/salt during the summer and store this at Cllr Masters farm to be distributed by the Councillors before winter '24. **Action: Clerk**

**24/1107 PLANNING:**

**24/1107/a Matters for report:**

The Chairman reported that he had been approached by a MOP regarding a breach to a planning which was situated next door to him (application no: 23/00316/FUL – Park Farm, Crabtree Lane). The Chair had been to have a look and agreed it was larger than what had been passed. He would send an email to the enforcement team at planning. **Action: Chair Cllr Denley**

**24/1107/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1107/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report.

**24/1108 FINANCE:**

**24/1108/a Matters for report**

**24/1108/b Matters for Resolution**

Nothing to report.

**24/1108/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

| FEBRUARY PAYMENTS |   |   |        |
|-------------------|---|---|--------|
| Louise Brooks     | Salary – January 2024                           | £ | 452.17 |
| HMRC              | NI & PAYE January 2024                          | £ | 119.00 |
| Louise Brooks     | Expenses & home office Allowance - January 2024 | £ | 40.00  |
| Somerset Council  | Ranger's hours for January 2024                 | £ | 442.51 |
| BT                | Direct Debit - BT services for the hall         | £ | 49.14  |
| NEST Pension      | Direct Debit - Pension contribution             | £ | 83.30  |

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1109 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**24/1110 FOOTPATHS:**

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

**24/1111 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Cllr Hill reported some fly-tipping which he would report via the SC website.

**Action: Cllr Hill**

**24/1112 Items for next Agenda:**

Services

March LCN

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**