

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**24/1113 PRESENT:**

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman), Cllr. P. Masters (Vice Chair), Cllr. R Maidment, Cllr. R Meecham, Cllr G. Hill, Cllr A. Dance (Unitary Councillor), & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There was 1 member of the public present.

**24/1114 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. J. Roundell-Greene (Unitary Councillor)

**24/1115 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1116 MINUTES:**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1117 PUBLIC TIME**

**24/1117/a Public Time:**

A MOP request explained that she is hosting a 'drop in' community day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 7pm. She asked the Parish Council for some financial help with this. The Parish Council agreed to pay (max £100) for the rental of the hall.

Proposed: Cllr. Denley

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1117/b Unitary Councillor report:**

Cllr Dance gave a brief update on the situation regarding the ongoing financial situation at Somerset Council. The Parish Council raised their concern and disapproval regarding the LCN groups. They asked what had been achieved by them and how much they were costing. Cllr Dance suggested that the Parish Councillors who were going to the next meeting questioned this and asked for an item to be included on the next agenda for them to be discontinued.

**Action: Cllr Meecham/Cllr Hill**

Cllr Dance also confirmed that the Rangers Scheme would be continuing but doubling in cost. The Clerk questioned why she is not receiving any correspondence about this. Cllr Dance said he would investigate. He said many Parish Councils had already decided not to continue with this service at the new charge. Clerk to email Cllr Dance.

**Action: Clerk**

**24/1117/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1118 MATTERS ARISING**

**24/1118/a Services – any updates on: provision of/ what will be statutory/costs?**

The Parish Council discussed the latest letter received by Highways. The provision of grit would hopefully be supplied for this year (sufficient funding dependent) and hopefully the verge would be cut on the B road that runs through the village. The clerk pointed out this would not be guaranteed as it was not a statutory service.

**24/1118/b Defibrillator**

The Chair reported that the new defibrillator would be installed at the entrance to the hall this weekend. The old defib had been offered to the pub and the landlord was very keen to take this on.

**Action: Chair Cllr Denley**

**24/1118/c March LCN meeting new date – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Cllr Meecham and Cllr Hill will attend the meeting and request a review of the LCNs to go on the next agenda. The Parish Council feel the LCNs are a complete waste of money and time and have achieved nothing. Cllr Meecham and Cllr Hill will report back at the next PC meeting. The Clerk will also attend online.

**Action: Cllr Meecham/Cllr Hill**

**24/1118/d Recreation Field Tender**

The Chair reported that a contract had now been sent to Max for the recreation field maintenance for this year.

**24/1118/e Churchyard maintenance**

The Chair reported that he had now sent a letter to the Church to inform them of the decision the Parish Council have made regarding the grass maintenance for the open churchyard. The Parish Council capped this cost at £1,250.00.

**24/1119 PLANNING:**

**24/1119/a Matters for report:**

**24/1119/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1119/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report.

**24/1120 FINANCE:**

**24/1120/a Matters for report**

**24/1120/b Matters for Resolution**

Change to Payroll company: The Clerk reported that after the current Payroll company informed her of a 20% rise, she had found a much cheaper company to take over. The Parish Council agreed for the clerk to set it up.

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously

**24/1120/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

<b>MARCH PAYMENTS</b>		
Louise Brooks	Salary – February 2024	£ 452.17
HMRC	NI & PAYE February 2024	£ 119.00
Louise Brooks	Expenses & home office Allowance - February 2024	£ 40.00
Somerset Council	Ranger's hours for February 2024	£ 442.51
Cox and Co	Final termination payment	£ 60.00

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1121 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**24/1122 FOOTPATHS:**

Clerk reported that any footpath issues to be reported straight to SCC Rights of Way Officer. The Clerk reported that she had been informed that the ROW Warden will be leaving SC at the end of this month.

**24/1123 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Nothing to report

**24/1124 Items for next Agenda:**

March LCN

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**