

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**24/1173 PRESENT:**

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

**24/1174 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr G. Hill

**24/1175 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1176 MINUTES:**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1177 PUBLIC TIME**

**24/1177/a Public Time:**

Two MOP discussed the maintenance of the churchyard and how they were keen to start a volunteer's group to do some general maintenance – weeding and cutting back. They asked the Parish Council for their view. The Chairman and clerk responded that they thought it was a great idea although they would have to speak to the PCC as the churchyard was not the responsibility of the PC. The PC granted money each year towards grass cutting, but that was it. It was suggested that they should attend the community coffee morning that was being organised and held at the church to see if they could get some support. It was also suggested that maybe springtime would be a better time to drum up some support.

**24/1177/b Unitary Councillor report:**

Unitary Councillor Jo Roundell Greene was present. She gave an update to the Parish Council on the latest financial situation at SC. She discussed how more houses would have to be built within the next 5 years than what Somerset had originally been allocated (from 2,669 to 3,891). Cllr Roundell Greene talked about the LCN and asked us our view. She reminded the Parish Council to have their say on possible changes to the Council Tax Reduction scheme which ended on 1st October. (link via Somerset Council website)

**24/1177/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1178 MATTERS ARISING**

**24/1178/a Jobs for village maintenance ranger**

The Clerk was asked to get a quote from Max to cut the hedge at the front of the recreation field. **Action: Clerk**

**24/1178/b Services price list – litter and dog bins**

The Parish Council currently have 6 litter bins and 4 dog bins within Hambridge and Westport. The current price to empty the bins is £7.82 per bin per week, but this is likely to increase. Charges will start from April '25. The Parish Council decided to cut the number of litter bins down to 3 from 6 (the HWRT will empty the 3 bins instead, that have been removed from SC's list). Clerk to inform SC of the changes. **Action: Clerk**

**24/1178/c Grit Bins**

The grit bin for Westport will be installed by the Chairman Cllr Denley and Cllr Masters within the next 10 days, in time for a complete refill by SC.

**Action: Chair/Cllr Masters**

The remaining grit bins will be emptied of all grit and the grit that is currently in the bins will be bagged and stored for a later date, so we have some in reserves. This will be done before the end of September when the new grit will be delivered.

**Action: Chair/Cllr Masters**

**24/1178/d Highways – enhance highway maintenance pilot and volunteer training launch**

The Clerk had forwarded all the information she had received regarding the new charges for Highways plus the volunteer scheme. The clerk said she would get more information as she felt it was extremely vague. UC Roundell-Greene also felt it needed a lot of work and had very mixed feelings about it.

**24/1178/e churchyard maintenance – 24-25 budget nearly reached**

The clerk highlighted that the budgeted amount of £1,250.00 had nearly all been allocated. She felt there would be enough to pay for September but after that it would be down to the church to pay for any more until April 2025 when the new budget would come into effect. The Chair would inform the PCC of the situation of the clerk would inform Max that after September all invoices would have to go to the church for payment.

**Action: Clerk & Chairman**

**24/1179 PLANNING:**

**24/1179/a Matters for report:**

Planning breaches:

The Chairman and clerk discussed the planning breaches that had been raised. The clerk had pushed for the case to be moved forwards but the enforcement team at SC said they had a large backlog of investigations and this case would remain open and will not be closed until regularised.

**24/1179/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report.

**24/1179/c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report.

**24/1180 FINANCE:**

**24/1180/a Matters for report**

Monthly finance update - The clerk provided a monthly expenditure report

**24/1180/b Matters for Resolution**

Nothing to report

**24/1180/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

AUGUST PAYMENTS MADE – 08.08.24

PAYMENTS DUE		
Louise Brooks	Democratic services – July 2024	£ 690.18
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – July 24	£ 7.20
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – July 2024 - Gov set	£ 26.00
Louise Brooks	July Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£ 15.40
Max Von Tyszka	Mowing of recreation field – July 24 – 2 cuts	£ 280.00
Max Von Tyszka	Churchyard maintenance - July 24 – 2 cuts	£ 240.00
Max Von Tyszka	Village maintenance – Ranger jobs (Max Von Tyszka) June 24	£ 50.00
The Somerset Association of Local Councils Ltd	Affiliation Fees For April 2024 – March 2025 SALC - £128.65 NALC £35.33	£ 163.98

SEPTEMBER PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS DUE		
Louise Brooks	Democratic services – August 2024	£ 690.38
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – August 24	£ 7.00
Louise Brooks	Home Office Allowance – Aug 2024 - Gov set	£ 26.00
Louise Brooks	August Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£ 15.40
Max Von Tyszka	Mowing of recreation field – August 24 – 2 cuts	£ 280.00
Max Von Tyszka	Churchyard maintenance - August 24 - 1 cut	£ 120.00

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

**24/1181 CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk reported that all correspondence received had been forwarded to the Parish Councillors. The clerk had received an email prior to the meeting which had been circulated. It was a funding request from Life Education regarding their work of providing health, well-being and drug prevention education to Hambridge School. The Parish Council agreed to pay £145.00 towards the cost of this from the S137 grant fund. The clerk was asked to respond to the request but also state this was a one of grant and there would not be any funding available for another year due to the rise in service charges for the parish.

Proposed: Cllr Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Meecham

Agreed unanimously

**24/1182 FOOTPATHS:**

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

**24/1183 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Nothing to report

**24/1184 Items for next Agenda:**

Painting of the War Memorial railings – Chair to get quote

**Action: Chairman**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**