

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**25/1221 PRESENT:**

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

**25/1222 APOLOGIES:**

Unitary Cllr. Jo Roundell-Greene

**25/1223 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Maidment declared an interest with reference to AOB

**25/1224 MINUTES:**

The Minutes from the December 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.

**25/1225 PUBLIC TIME**

**25/1225/a Public Time:**

Nothing to report

**25/1225/b Unitary Councillor report:**

There was no Unitary Councillor present, and no report received.

**25/1225/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report.

**25/1226 MATTERS ARISING**

**25/1226/a Budget and precept:** The clerk informed the PC that the precept had now been applied for with SC. She had received no further information with regards to prices of services and has yet to receive clarification of what services will be statutory, especially related to Highways. The PC discussed the recent consultation on the Somerset Council Budget. Cllr Masters questioned why MP Adam Dance was still claiming his Unitary Councillor Allowance as stated in a recent news article. Cllr Dance was a UC for H&WPC and hasn't been seen since he became an MP and no monthly report has been received either. The clerk questioned this.

**25/1226/b Reminder - Consultation on division boundaries for Somerset Council**

The clerk reminded the Parish Councillors that the closing date for The Local Government Boundary Commission was January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Cllr Meecham considered it to be pointless as there were no new boundary maps to view.

**25/1226/c Grit for bins**

The clerk reported that she had been chasing this with Highways. UC Jo Roundell Greene has also been chasing on our behalf. The latest update from the assistant highways manager was that the grit should be delivered within the next week. The Clerk asked the Parish Councillors to keep her updated as to when it had been received.

**Action: All Parish Councillors**

**25/1227 PLANNING:**

**25/1227/a Matters for report:**

Planning breaches: Cllr Roundell Green is chasing.

**25/1227/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report.

**25/1227c Applications for consideration.**

Nothing to report.

**25/1228 FINANCE:**

**25/1228/a Matters for report**

Budget – monthly update: The clerk gave a monthly update to the Parish Council

End of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of accounts

|                                            |   |                  |
|--------------------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Unity Trust Bank Current account           | £ | 9,277.00         |
| Unity Trust Instant Access Savings account | £ | <u>25,076.58</u> |
| TOTAL IN BANK                              | £ | 34,353.58        |
| Total as cash book                         | £ | 34,353.58        |

The accounts were passed to Cllr Maidment to give to the internal auditor.

**25/1228/b Matters for Resolution**

Nothing to report.

**25/1228/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

| PAYMENTS DUE  |                                                                                  |   |        |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Louise Brooks | Democratic services – Dec 2024                                                   | £ | 716.64 |
| HMRC          | Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – Dec 2024                               | £ | 14.65  |
| Louise Brooks | Home Office Allowance – Dec 2024 - Gov set                                       | £ | 26.00  |
| Louise Brooks | Dec Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage. | £ | 15.40  |
| PATA          | Quarterly charge for payroll and pension management Oct-Dec 24                   | £ | 54.45  |

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously.

**25/1229 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**25/1230 FOOTPATHS:**

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

**25/1231 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Defib: Cllr Hill reported that he had spoken to the landlord at the Lamb and Lion. He informed the PC that he was still keen to have a defibrillator. The clerk didn't think the PC were able to fund a defib for a commercial building. Cllr Meecham disputed this. Clerk to investigate **Action: Clerk**

Westport Resident enquiry: (Cllr Maidment declared an interest). A resident in Westport had contacted Cllr Maidment to inform him that her neighbours derelict property is becoming a health hazard. Both her and her other neighbour have a right of way over the property that is reportedly blocked by rubbish. She also reported that she had seen vermin on the site. The clerk pointed out that this is a neighbour dispute and therefore not a Parish Council matter. The right of way is a private right of way and not a public one. The clerk spoke to Cllr. Maidment after the meeting and will try and find out a contact for environmental health at SC and pass it on. The clerk recommended that if all attempts of contact with the landowner's family had broken down then it may be advisable for her to get some legal advice.

**25/1232 Items for next Agenda:**

Railings at war memorial – Chair S Denley to get quotes

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**