

**MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**  
**IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**25/1245 PRESENT:**

Acting Chairman - Cllr. R Meecham (Vice-Chair), Cllr. P. Masters, Cllr. R Maidment, Cllr G. Hill, & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There was 1 member of the public present.

**25/1246 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman)  
Somerset Cllr. Jo Roundell-Greene  
Somerset Cllr Adam Dance

**25/1247 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Nothing to report

**25/1248 MINUTES:**

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

Proposed: Cllr. Maidment

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously.

**25/1249 PUBLIC TIME**

**25/1249 Public Time:**

Nothing to report

**25/1249/b Unitary Councillor report:**

Neither Somerset Councillor was present and no report was received.

**25/1249/c P.C.S.O. Report:**

Nothing to report.

**25/1250 MATTERS ARISING**

**25/1250/a Somerset Progressive School - School parking complaints and lights left on.**

The Parish Council had received complaints regarding parking of vehicles (mainly taxis), along the main road and blocking driveways, whilst waiting for the school gates to open before the school starts and also in the afternoons, when taxis are waiting to collect after the school has finished. The clerk will write to the school and request they consider opening the school car park gates earlier to stop the disruption on the road – both morning and afternoon.

There have also been complaints received that lights at the school are being left on late in the evening and local residents have requested they get switched off. Clerk to mention this as well.

**Action: Clerk**

**25/1250/b Defib for pub**

Cllr Meecham reported that the defibrillator offer with DHSC has now closed and therefore Hambridge and Westport were unsuccessful on this occasion. The clerk will contact London Hearts to see if they have any availability. She will report back to the PC and if there is availability then one will be purchased before the end of this financial year.

**Action: Clerk**

**25/1250/c Restoration of railings by the war memorial**

The Parish Council were keen to put this project on hold to see if any grants are available from the War Memorial Trust or Historic England.

The clerk will speak to The Chairman who has already started the application process.

**Action: Clerk/Chairman**

**25/1250/d S137 grant**

The Parish Council listened to a report presented by Kate Attebury on the progress of the Toddler Group. The parish council were unanimous in their decision to donate the remaining £250 to the group. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to transfer the payment.

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously.

**25/1251 PLANNING:**

**25/1251/a Matters for report:**

Planning breaches: Nothing to report.

**25/1251/b Decisions Notified:**

Nothing to report.

**25/1251/c Applications for consideration.**

**Application Number: 25/00045/FUL**

Location: Land At Dinhams Westport Langport

Proposal: Erection of a dwelling following demolition of agricultural buildings (revised submission)

The Parish Council SUPPORTED this application.

**Application Number: 24/02469/FUL**

Location: 2 Playses Green Hambridge Langport

Proposal: Demolish existing double garage and erection of a new dwelling

The Parish Council OBJECTED to this application due to the following reasons:

- The overall impact it would have to the street scene of Playses Green.
- Impact to neighbouring property: The impact to no 4 Playses Green, who would be overshadowed by this proposal, suffer loss of privacy plus the rear access to their property would be restricted.
- Increased traffic congestion and parking issues: The parish council felt there was inadequate parking.
- Layout and density of buildings: The overall size of the plot is not big enough and would completely change the aesthetics of the close.

**25/1252 FINANCE:**

**25/1252/a Matters for report**

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

**25/1252/b Matters for Resolution**

Nothing to report.

**25/1252/c Cheques Payable:**

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

PAYMENTS DUE		
Louise Brooks	Democratic services – Feb 2025	£ 716.64
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – Feb 2025	£ 14.65
Louise Brooks	Home Office Monthly Allowance – Feb 2025 - Government set	£ 26.00
Louise Brooks	Feb Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£ 15.40
Hambridge Bumps and Babes	S137 grant payment	£ 250.00
London Hearts	New defibrillator and cabinet to be installed outside the Lamb and Lion	£ 966.00

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously.

**25/1253 CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

**25/1254 FOOTPATHS:**

Clerk reported that any footpath issues to be reported straight to SCC Rights of Way Officer. The clerk informed the parish council about a new RoW Officer for this area. Cllr Maidment would complete the registration documents that are required for the Footpath Liaison Officer. The clerk will speak to SC for a decision on the strimming schedule for Hambridge and Westport and push for SC to complete the first cut and the second cut would be the responsibility of the parish council. Cllr Maidment would get the strimmer back.

**25/1255 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

Cllr Maidment asked if a letter had been sent to the church informing them of the parish council's support for 2025-26 grass cutting. The budget for this would be the same as last year, £1,250.00 and once this amount had been reached it would be the churches responsibility to pay for any further costs for the financial year. Chair to send the details to the clerk, whom he wrote to last year and the clerk will send a letter/email.

**Action: Clerk/Chairman Cllr Denley**

Cllr Maidment asked what was happening with the speed sensor as it appeared this was not being utilised. Cllr Maidment reported that he had been asked by residents about its whereabouts. It was understood that following the loss of the Somerset Council ranger service, The Chairman was responsible for positioning it in the desired location where it would then be switched to a 2 week on/2 week off period. Clerk to check with the Chairman what is happening.

**Action: Clerk**

**Confirmation of recreation field maintenance contract with Maximilian von Tyszka for 2025-26:** This was discussed at the meeting. The Clerk will renew the contract with Mr von Tyszka stating the contract would run from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

The contract includes:

- To cut the grass of the recreation ground excluding the football pitch but including the middle bank and play area.
- To cut the grass either side of the hall entrance.

The Parish Council had budgeted for an increase per visit for this season due to rising costs of fuel and maintenance of machinery. The Parish Council raised it to £150.00 per cut.

The Parish Council felt that they would like to keep the grass cut to twice a month. However, on the occasion when the grass has got very long OR there is an event planned at the hall or recreation and Mr Von Tyszka felt the grass would benefit from an extra cut, then the Parish Council were more than happy for him to do this.

**25/1256 Items for next Agenda:**

Railings

Somerset Progressive School - School parking complaints and lights left on.

Defibrillator

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

**The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**