

MINUTES OF HAMBRIDGE AND WESTPORT PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2025
IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, HAMBRIDGE VILLAGE HALL

25/1233 PRESENT:

Cllr. S. Denley (Chairman), Cllr. R Meecham (Vice-Chair), Cllr. P. Masters, Cllr. R Maidment, Cllr G. Hill, Somerset Cllr. Jo Roundell-Greene, Somerset Cllr Adam Dance & Mrs. L. Brooks (Clerk). There was 1 member of the public present (planning agent).

25/1234 APOLOGIES:

Nothing to report

25/1235 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing to report

25/1236 MINUTES:

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

Proposed: Cllr. Meecham

Seconded: Cllr. Hill

Agreed unanimously.

25/1237 PUBLIC TIME

25/1237 Public Time:

Nothing to report

25/1237/b Unitary Councillor report:

Both Cllr Dance and Cllr Roundell-Green were in attendance. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Dance and said it was nice to see him after such a long time. Councillor Dance spoke about how he is still our County Councillor and discussed the ways he has been helping Somerset Council and using his position as MP to get media attention for issues that have arisen in our County – in particular with the flooding the local area had recently been dealing with. Cllr Dance spoke about another drainage and jetting company that might be a little cheaper to use for future jetting of drains, that Shepton Beauchamp PC were in contact with. The clerk would investigate and speak to the Shepton Beauchamp clerk. Both Councillors spoke about the reasons for the increase in council tax and the need to get a balanced budget for 2025-26, which hopefully would be signed off at the end of this month. They spoke about the full council meeting that both had attended earlier that day and the redundancy of another 500 plus staff and the re-structuring that would be following. They spoke about how the restructuring would hopefully improve communications between Parish Councils and Somerset Council and the clerks would receive a list of who to contact regarding specific issues. Cllr Dance confirmed that he would not be re-standing as a County Councillor at the next elections. The clerk asked them both to chase the still outstanding planning breach and also the re-direction of a footpath. Cllr Dance said he would look forward to attending another PC meeting soon.

25/1237/c P.C.S.O. Report:

Nothing to report.

25/1238 MATTERS ARISING

25/1238/a Street Lighting:

The Chairman had reported two street lighting issues to SC but had not received a response. The clerk reported one again to SC and one to National Grid, as she felt it was an electric pole issue. National Grid had been out to assess the issue and reported that they did not feel there was a problem. The pole had been replaced 18 months ago. Cllr Hill reported another pole that was leaning to the clerk. The clerk asked if he could take a photo, and she would report it.

Action Clerk/Cllr Hill

25/1238/b Defib for pub

Cllr Meecham updated the Parish Council on a defibrillator for outside the pub. He had applied to The British Heart Foundation scheme for defibrillators and was waiting to hear if we had been successful. If successful, this would be a fully funded defibrillator. He had also applied to the DSC for a part funded one as a backup. He would let the Parish Council know if we were successful. The pub had agreed to install the defibrillator at their expense using a registered electrician.

Action: Cllr Meecham

25/1238/c Village general maintenance jobs:

Cllr Maidment reported that the hedge approaching the Ruskway Lane entrance off the B3168, needed cutting back again around the street sign. Clerk to get a quote from Max. **Action: Clerk**

25/1238/d Cllr Maidment – update with regards to resident at Westport

Cllr Maidment reported that the property at Westport, that he had discussed at the January meeting had started to be cleared. Much of the furniture had been burned, subsequently covering neighbouring properties and vehicles with soot and ash. However, the access that had been previously blocked had been cleared, so progress had been made.

25/1238/e Quotes for consideration for the restoration of railings surrounding the war memorial

Cllr Maidment had received two quotes for the work to the railings that surround the war memorial. One quote was for £1,100 and the other was £850. The Parish Council will consider both quotes and the clerk will include the item on the agenda for March. Cllr Maidment will get back to both companies that quoted and inform them that a decision would be made at the March meeting. The Chairman stated that he would speak to the War Memorial Trust and see if we could apply for a grant. **Action: Cllr Maidment/ Chairman Cllr Denley**

25/1239 **PLANNING:**

25/1239/a Matters for report:

Planning breaches: The neighbour of the planning breach had chased once again with Somerset Council. Both the clerk and chair had been copied in (the clerk forwarded to all the Parish Councillors, so they were all up to date with the situation). The enforcement specialist responded informing us that he is currently covering both the old South Somerset District and Mendip Council areas with some 350 investigations, many of which are quite challenging. He apologised for the delay and informed the neighbour that he would attempt to bring this matter forward to try and resolve it without delay. He assured the neighbour that the investigation was still ongoing and would not be closed until resolved to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

25/1239/b Decisions Notified:

Nothing to report.

25/1239/c Applications for consideration.

Application Number: 25/00190/HOU

Location: Rose Cottage The Green Hambridge

Proposal: Proposed demolition of existing two storey extension and detached store and the erection of replacement side and rear extensions and renovations to front elevation

Planning agent Helen Lazenby was present at the PC meeting and gave a brief report on the proposed plan. Cllr Maidment asked if there would be any eco features included, for instance solar panels and car charging points. Ms. Lazenby informed the PC that these features were only required for new builds and not property renovation projects, although she would speak to the landowner if it was an issue. There would be no change to the street scene with this planning application. The Parish Council had no objection. **Action: Clerk**

25/1240 **FINANCE:**

25/1240/a Matters for report

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

25/1240/b Matters for Resolution

Nothing to report.

25/1240/c Cheques Payable:

All paid via Unity Trust Bank – direct online transfer.

PAYMENTS DUE			
Louise Brooks	Democratic services – Jan 2025	£	716.84
HMRC	Employee NI & PAYE & Employer NI to pay – Jan 2025	£	14.45
Louise Brooks	Home Office Monthly Allowance – Jan 2025 - Government set	£	26.00
Louise Brooks	Dec Office supplies – Includes paper, ink and other office consumables, postage.	£	15.40

Proposed: Cllr. Masters

Seconded: Cllr. Maidment

Agreed unanimously.

25/1241 CORRESPONDENCE:

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

25/1242 FOOTPATHS:

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

25/1243 MEMBERS' REPORTS/ITEMS FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Cllr Maidment asked if a letter could be 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 of whom he wrote to last year and the clerk will send a letter/email.

Action: Clerk/Chairman Cllr Denley

25/1244 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 12th MARCH 2025 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.