

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council held in the Huish Sixth Auditorium, Huish Episcopi Academy, on Monday 18 July 2016 at 7 pm.

Present:

Cllr G Lock	Acting Chairman	
Cllr R Stranger		
Cllr J Wood		
Cllr J Fraser		
Cllr F Pope		
Cllr B Horsgood		
Cllr J Seaton		
Cllr C Palmer	8.00 - end	
Cllr C Aparicio Paul	District Councillor	7.00 – 8.20pm
Cllr D Yeomans	County Councillor	7.00 – 7.55pm

Parishioners: Mr V Derham, Mr R Saunders
7-7.20pm - Mr R Pearce
7-7.55pm - Ms P O'Malley, Mrs M Walls, Mrs M Hoare
7-8.20pm Mr R Tilley

Non-parishioners: Mr A Lee (The Leveller), Mr F Pengelley (7-7.20pm)

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Frank Pengelley and Mr Roger Pearce addressed the Council concerning the request from the Memorial Field Management Committee to double its annual grant. The Committee had revised its Constitution, created a Mission Statement, and provided cash flow projections. Councillors were concerned that the Committee had not requested grants in support of one off costs in the previous year, rather than dipping into reserves. A major project was also planned to improve the changing rooms using S106 monies, grants and self-help. This request would be discussed as an agenda item at the August meeting.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr S Nicholas.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (18 May 2016). Agreed and signed.

3. Declarations of interest. Cllr Seaton declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Langport Town Council, as Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes and raised by members, to include:

a. Extraordinary General Meeting, Parish Survey and Draw. The Chairman had called an EGM to discuss the Parish Survey data at length and a number of other matters which had arisen since the July agenda was fixed. Non-parishioner attendees were invited to draw tickets representing those questionnaires which had included a telephone number to go into the prize draw for a £50 Tesco voucher.

b. Village signs. Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Seaton had met with Mr Gary Warren of Highways to discuss signage and four probable locations. This would also be discussed at the EGM.

c. Pedestrian Crossing at Somerton Road. Cllr Yeomans confirmed that the costs for a pelican and belisha beacon crossings would be in the region of £200,000 and £50,000 respectively. It was clear that the Parish Council could not fund this and he would include it in the minor works programme. The Council planned to insist on a new pavement opposite Old Kelways and a pedestrian crossing as conditions of the eventual Trial Ground full planning approval.

(4)

d. Brookland Road new signs. An SSDC engineer would be meeting Cllr Pope at the site shortly to assess the requirements.

Action: Cllr Pope/Clerk

e. Hastoes parking at Old Kelways. Hastoes' response to the Clerk's letter was that they had no control over parking at Peony Road and suggesting the Council request double yellow lines. Cllr Yeomans thought it highly unlikely that yellow lines would be imposed on a housing estate.

Action: Clerk

f. Neighbourhood Plan. The Town Clerk was organising an initial seminar (funding available) for all Councillors from both Councils as a starting point to consider possible processes.

g. Cherry trees The Avenue. Cllr Lock was meeting with a tree surgeon to discuss the work needed on these cherry and other trees and obtain a quotation in due course.

Action: Cllr Lock

h. Dropped kerb at St Mary's Church corner. The Council unanimously agreed that the Clerk should pursue this matter which would benefit disabled parishioners and pram pushers. It was expected that the cost would be less than £250.

Action: Clerk

i. Appeals – Land North of Old Kelways and Old Mill Cottage. Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Wood had attended the Land North of Old Kelways Appeal but felt the eventual outcome was too close to call. Ms Trish O'Malley spoke about her family's continuing concerns about the Old Mill Cottage application and its associated Appeal. The Council would also send a further letter of support, reiterating its concerns about the inappropriate use of the land in this primarily residential location and ambiguity regarding trading already taking place.

Action: Clerk/Chairman/Cllr Fraser

j. Primary School Christmas tree. The Clerk had spoken with Ms Gillian Islip, Head of Huish Episcopi Primary School, who was delighted with the proposal of a Christmas tree to be positioned outside the front of the School. The Clerk would approach Kelways Garden Centre about provision.

Action: Clerk

5. District Councillors' and County Councillor's Reports. Cllr Yeomans said it remained to be seen how the Referendum and creation of a new post, Minister for Communities, would impact locally. Somerset County Council would shortly approve in principle the combined authority with 22 partners, subject to detailed devolution management and negotiation. Cllr Aparico Paul, now Area North Chairman, encouraged all Councillors to attend her "pool party" on 28 July, which would be attended by Rt. Hon. David Warburton MP, as a starting event towards raising £20,000 from the community for the proposed cover for the swimming pool. Area North was planning to resurrect the annual gathering of Chairmen and Clerks and she hoped to organise several social media seminars.

6. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments including inspection. Cllrs Fraser and Horsgood has carried out the inspection, with Cllr Pope, and on the whole the allotments were looking good, with just two follow up letters required. The remaining four vacant plots would be sprayed to reduce weeds spreading. The difficulty in persuading tenants to pay separately for the petrol for the water pump led Cllr Wood to propose, Cllr Fraser to second and it was agreed unanimously, that the allotment rent would go up by £3 at the first available opportunity to forego separate payments.

b. Lengthsman including contract. The Council agreed that with effect from September monthly Standing Orders would be set up for both the Lengthsman and the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

(6)

c. Youth Club. Cllr Horsgood reported that the annual Air Day stall had again been very successful, Nine youngsters would be visiting London overnight in August. Youth Worker Vicky was sadly leaving and an advert for her replacement had been forwarded to the Leveller. The Warhammer Club had restarted. The Council commended the beautiful new town banners created through a youth club workshop, partly funded by the Council.

d. Community Website – possible grants. Councillors were asked to consider possible beneficiaries, suggestions included the Ridgway Hall Group and the Forget-me-not Memory Café.

e. SCC Corporate Parents’ Responsibilities Meeting. Cllr Yeomans regretted that no progress had been made on this proposed meeting, as the Town Council did not feel its involvement was appropriate and the Academy had not replied at all. 520 children in Somerset receive virtual schooling alongside mentoring from 14-18 years, but often then leave college and care very vulnerable, with little or no qualifications. He hoped to there might be some way to provide continuing local support and encouragement.

7. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

16/00621/FUL	Long Orchard Farm Pibsbury conversion of double garage into one bedroom dwelling - no objections, Councillors were happier with the amended, if retrospective, application but noted that this dwelling must remain an agricultural tie.
16/01756/FUL	Land at Duck’s Hill three market dwellings and one affordable dwelling with associated parking and domestic curtilage, landscaping works and formation of vehicular access serious concerns recommended refusal - application withdrawn.
16/01822/OUT	Land adjacent Hamdown Lodge dwellings and garages (High Ham PC) - concerns about the excessive size of the proposed two further dwellings alongside Hamdown Lodge in this location.
16/01091/FUL	Somerleigh Somerton Road rear extension no objections – permission granted.
16/01488/FUL	19 Parsonage Close rear extension and extension over garage no objections – permission granted.
16/01490/S73	Highfield Farm vary condition with revised plans no objections – permission granted.
16/01683/FUL	Pandora, The Avenue proposed parking area and associated retaining walls no objections – permission granted.
16/01868/FUL	Westover Garage extension no objections – permission granted.
16/01295/OUT	Old Nursery Farm, Windmill Lane outline redevelopment of farm buildings to provide 4 single storey dwellings no objections, the Parish Council would certainly prefer bungalows as shown - permission granted.
16/02144/S73	Windfall Orchard - without a better understanding of what was planned, the Council felt unable to make any informed observations and therefore recommended that the application be refused in order to clarify the effects of such an amendment. Permission granted

b. Applications received since last meeting, or still in progress:

16/02412/FUL	Old Kelways removal of former sales office and erection of detached dwelling. Huish Episcopi PC felt that a domestic dwelling would be totally incongruous on this corner. The plot falls within the remaining business area of Old Kelways and therefore should be developed as one/two business units. It was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Horsgood, and agreed unanimously to recommend refusal and referral to Area North Committee for a decision.
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(7b contd.)

16/02411/S73A Old Kelways amend condition 2 of approval 14/03943/FUL - no objections, providing that this building remained a garage/store.
16/02550/FUL Park Lane Engineering Works conversion and extension of existing commercial buildings to form a dwelling - no objections.

8. Accounts.	Current Account	Savings
Payments authorised by Chairman		
Knight Electrical defibrillator cabinet	178.80	
Receipts since last meeting		
VAT refund 15/16	363.37	
FBTA (Board)	1300.02	
Allotments	335.00	
(since 1 April 2016)		
total receipts	53066.03	
total payments	24564.67	
balance at 6 Jul 16	28501.96	
Business Reserve		46297.52
Parish Charities		1745.74
Payments to be authorised		
Clerk - reimbursement re Parish Survey	50.00	
Clerk - salary June/July	1000.00	
Clerk - administration	12.17	
Lengthsman June/July	356.44	
HMS Ltd (PAYE)	90.00	
Huish Episcopi Academy	67.50	
Lengthsman materials	39.00	

9. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. Chairman. Nothing further to add.

b. Clerk. Nothing further to add.

c. Members. Cllr Lock asked the Clerk to contact Chesterton's concerning the Trial Ground which was overrun with weeds, predominantly ragwort. The footpath behind Old Kelways had now been strimmed. Cllr Palmer remained very concerned about children crossing the Somerton Road and wondered if a lollipop lady could be arranged. A further site visit by Highways would be requested.

10. Date of next meetings (8 August EGM and 19 September 2016).

Meeting ended at 8.40 pm

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Parish Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Parish Council