

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 8 August 2016 at 7 pm.

Present:

Cllr S Nicholas	Chairman
Cllr G Lock	
Cllr R Stranger	
Cllr J Wood	
Cllr F Pope	
Cllr B Horsgood	
Cllr J Seaton	
Cllr C Palmer	8.20pm - end
Cllr C Aparicio Paul	District Councillor
Cllr D Yeomans	County Councillor 7 – 8pm

Parishioners	Mr C Miller, Mr M Edwards, Mr and Mrs M David 7 – 7.40pm Mr V Derham, Mr J Taylor, Mr R Saunders, Mr J Gale, Mr G Edmunds
--------------	---

Non-parishioners	Mr D Mears (Langport Town Clerk) 7 – 8.50pm Ms H Lazenbury 7 – 7.25pm
------------------	--

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr J Fraser.

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

3. District Councillors' and County Councillor's Reports. Cllr Aparicio Paul was encouraged by progress on provision of a cover for the swimming pool. She made the Councillors aware that Area North now had a dedicated twitter feed. She was also continuing to address concerns about the deteriorating state of the former Brookland Road shops.

Cllr Yeomans remained concerned that core aspects of the County would be offloaded to private organisations with no money available to sustain the level of care. He asked that any failures be reported to him.

4. 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. Permission refused.
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. 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.

(4a)

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. Councillors strongly recommended refusal and that this application should be referred to Area North for a decision. Permission refused.

5b. Applications received since last meeting, or still in progress:

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.

16/030005/FUL Land opposite Wearne Court conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling and new vehicular access for residential and agricultural use. Although described as a “traditional barn” this had been designed ambiguously in the style of a two storey domestic dwelling. This isolated building did not enhance the immediate setting, while lying outside of the hamlet of Wearne’s current boundary and with no plans to connect it to the hamlet’s sewerage system. The proposed new vehicular access would totally alter the characteristic nature of the lane and, regularly used as a shortcut, was renowned for speeding vehicles and outside the 30 mph limit. This proposal was considered to be inappropriate and extremely dangerous. It was strongly advised that a decision on this planning application be deferred until this building has been fully surveyed and approved as meeting modern planning regulations.

16/03060/REM Land to rear of Orchard Bungalow, Newtown Road reserved matters for approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of development – no objections in principle, but the Council was concerned that the single storey two bedroom bungalows did not have a second separate toilet, maybe within a slightly extended lobby.

16/03273/FUL 11 The Beeches replacement UPVC windows – no objections.

16/03175/FUL Highfield Farm redevelopment of existing agricultural building to provide 2 semi-detached 1.5 storey dwellings – no objections.

16/03176/OUT Highfield Farm erection of 2 detached bungalows – no objections.

16/03302/FUL Merriotts Farm, Wearne conversion of 2 agricultural buildings into 3 dwellings - no objections in principle, however the Council questioned the necessity of saving two buildings in a very poor state, having been allowed to deteriorate over a number of years, rather than building new bungalows in a style that was consistent with other dwellings locally.

6. Matters arising from the minutes and raised by members.

a. Parish Survey. The Clerk was pleased to report that the Tesco voucher had been won by Mr Tilley. Cllr Wood spoke at length on his observations regarding the Parish Survey. The main concern was the lack of responses from the under 60s, however the results could impact on future decisions and priorities, especially a potential Community Hall. A committee would need be established to research possible sites before accessing grants. The Survey results would also feed into the next Neighbourhood Plan, offering a coherent plan for the area.

b. Village signs. After consultation with Mr Gary Warren of Highways, four sites had been selected at: Pibsbury, Somerton Road (near Kelways Garden Centre), Shires Garage and Newtown Road. This remained a work in progress and Councillors would consider further the style and content of the signs. An opportunity existed to include symbols for local facilities.

Action: Cllr Nicholas/Cllr Seaton

(6)c. Community Website charities. The Council agreed unanimously to make two grants of £200 each to the Forget-me-not Memory Café and the Ridgway Hall Group.

Action: Clerk

d. Amendment to Financial Regulations regarding de minimis. Councillors agreed the amendment to Financial Regulations, proposed by the Clerk and clarifying practice, that the Responsible Financial Officer, in conjunction with the Chairman of Parish, might authorise expenditure for any items below £1500 (de minimis level).

e. Memorial Field Management Committee – request for increased grant. Langport Town Clerk Mr David Mears explained the present situation regarding the Memorial Field. A new Charitable Incorporated Organisation would be set up with probably 12 Trustees, who would no longer be personally financially responsible for decisions made by the Committee. The Town Council's solicitor would provide advice and the Town Council's grant, now increased to £4500, would be withheld until the new Constitution and Trustees were in place. Huish Episcopi Parish Council had provided its agreed grant (£6000) but would not consider any additional grant proposal likewise until these matters were resolved. Councillors reiterated their disappointment that the Committee had not approached the Councils for grants when unexpected costs, such as cutting back trees, had arisen.

f. Dropped kerb at St Mary's Church corner. The Clerk had approached three local builders for quotations to do this work.

g. Brookland Road signage. Mrs Denise Wallace of SSDC had met with Cllr Pope to discuss the essential new signage required at Brookland Road.

h. Data Protection Act. Following a request from Cllr Seaton, the Clerk had sought advice from the SALC and SLCC both of which recommended signing up to this Act at an annual cost of £35 and therefore had paid for this online, reimbursement thus required (see item 8).

i. The Avenue cherry trees. Cllr Lock was working on obtaining at least two quotes.

Action: Cllr Lock

7. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments, including increase in rent. One tenant had left due to ill health and three new ones had joined. A further inspection was planned. Tenants would be informed that the rent would increase from February 2018 to £33.

b. Lengthsman, including monthly Standing Order arrangements. The new monthly salary arrangements were in place with effect from 25 September, both for the Lengthsman and the Clerk.

c. Youth Club. Cllr Horsgood reported all was well with the Youth Club. Interviews were planned for a replacement Youth Leader.

d. Church car park wall. The Clerk reported that, yet again, the entrance pillar to the church car park had been damaged. A quotation for the work was being arranged. The Clerk would also write to Wessex Water to request that its HGV drivers take more care as, in a local builder's opinion, this recent damage was clearly caused by an HGV tyre.

Action: Clerk

e. WW2 Somme wreath and Remembrance Sunday wreath. The Council agreed to reimburse Mrs Michell with £20 for a small Somme wreath to lay on behalf of Huish Episcopi war dead, as she would also be doing for Langport and her family when she visits the Somme shortly. The Council also agreed £25 for the Clerk to order a Somme wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

Action: Clerk

(7)f. **Crocus planting in the parish.** The Council was happy to endorse the Rotary Club's offer to plant purple crocuses at Church corner and by Broadmeads to highlight the End Polio Now campaign. **Action: Clerk**

g. **Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment session (21 September).** Cllrs Palmer and Horsgood expressed an interest in attending this session.

8. Accounts.	Current Account	Savings
Receipts since last meeting		
FBTA (Board)	248.94	
(since 1 April 2016)		
total receipts	53314.97	
total payments	24564.67	
balance at	28749.30	
Business Reserve		46297.52
Parish Charities		1745.74
Payments to be authorised		
Clerk - salary (August)	500.00	
Lengthsman salary (August)	178.22	
Somme Wreath (item 7e)	20.00	
Clerk – Data Protection Act	35.00	

9. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. **Chairman.** Nothing further to add.

b. **Clerk.** The Clerk made Councillors aware that Tesco was planning a Sunday charity car boot sale at 4pm, conditional on agreement from the Town Council. The SALC AGM would be held on 17 September at the Edgar Hall 9.30-3.30. The Community Council for Somerset Workshop would be held on 6 October. Further to comments about the swimming pool cover, it was hoped that the Council would have the opportunity for some discussion on this before the planning application arrived.

c. **Members.** Following Cllr Horsgood's mention of trees overhanging the new wigwag sign, Cllr Lock would approach the present tenant of Church Field. Cllr Seaton informed members that there was a new community bus, carrying out a contract for pupils of Fairfield School, which would also take parishioners from the town and church car parks to and from Yeovil in term time.

10. Confidential item. This item was removed from the agenda.

11. Date of next meeting. The next meeting would be held on Monday 19 September 2016 at 7pm in the Huish Episcopi Academy Auditorium.

Meeting ended at 9.10pm

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Parish Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Parish Council