

# *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 21 November 2016 at 7 pm.**

**Present:**

Cllr S Nicholas Chairman  
Cllr G Lock  
Cllr J Wood  
Cllr J Fraser  
Cllr F Pope  
Cllr B Horsgood  
Cllr J Seaton

Parishioners Mr V Derham, Mr R Manning, Mr R Saunders, Mr N Bown and  
Mr M Dunlop  
Others Mr A Lee (Leveller)

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

Parishioners expressed their concerns about the Post Office's move to Fosters Newsagents, regarding confidentiality at an open counter, parking and disabled access.

**1. Apologies for absence.** Cllr C Palmer, Cllr R Stranger, Cllr D Yeomans and Cllr C Aparicio Paul.

**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.** No reports available, other than those previously circulated by email.

### **4. Planning.**

#### **a. Decisions notified since last meeting:**

16/03755/S73A	Highfield Farm vary condition for plots 1 and 2, no objections – permission granted
16/03005/FUL	Land opposite Wearne Court conversion of redundant barn to a dwelling and new vehicular access for residential and agricultural use, recommended refusal - permission refused.
16/02550/FUL	Park Lane Engineering Works conversion and extension of existing commercial buildings to form a dwelling no objections - permission refused.
16/03175/FUL	Highfield Farm redevelopment of existing agricultural building to provide 2 semi-detached 1.5 storey dwellings no objections – permission refused.
16/03176/OUT	Highfield Farm erection of 2 detached bungalows no objections - permission refused.
16/03467/FUL	Hay Close, The Hill replacement domestic garage no objections - permission granted.
16/03370/S73A	Land adjoining Highfield Farm – amendment to erect car port and turning area no objections – permission granted.
16/03268/FUL	Ablake, Pibsbury creation of new access point from A372 no objections, providing Highways was in agreement – permission granted.
16/03605/OUT	Land East of Ablake no objections in principle, although one larger dwelling might be more appropriate, and concerns remained regarding proximity to flood area – permission refused.
16/03522/FUL	Wagg House extension no objections – permission granted.

(4a contd.)

- 16/03638/S73A Station Close amendment to materials no objections, providing material colour(s) tone in with existing Chapel Court – permission granted.
- 16/03954/FUL Land adjacent Hamdown Lodge (High Ham PC) Council continued to feel that proposed building was overlarge at this site – permission granted.
- 16/03755/S73A Highfield Farm amendment no objections – permission granted.
- 16/03942/FUL Great Western House, Westover replacement windows no objections – permission granted.

**4b. Applications received since last meeting, or still in progress:**

- 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. Application withdrawn.
- 16/03673/OUT Land adjacent Fouracre (High Ham PC) - no objections in principle, however the Council felt that Fouracre should retain its own independent entrance onto Union Drove remaining separate from proposed new development, and that Highways should consider the entrance onto Picts Hill for the new dwellings very carefully as road calming measures might be required.
- 16/04174/REM 36 dwellings at Newtown Road – Council, while recognising that the application as a whole was sympathetic to the terrain, required a number of concerns to be addressed with stringent conditions imposed before permission was granted.
- 16/04284/FUL Huish Episcopi Academy swimming pool cover – no objections.
- 16/04427/FUL Ducks Hill 4 dwellings – Council continued to have serious concerns about flooding implications and setting a precedent outside line of growth, therefore recommended refusal.
- 16/04766/FUL 15 The Beeches replacement UPVC windows – no objections.
- 16/04807/FUL Land adjacent 67 Garden City erection of detached dwelling – with one abstention, Councillors voted to support this application, no objections.

**c. Review of protocols during planning discussion.** Cllr Seaton suggested that displaying all plans immediately before meetings could allow parishioners the opportunity to view them. It was decided that there was no requirement to alter present procedure. Parishioners already had access to the plans on line or by request to the Clerk and the display of all plans, especially major applications, could be both unwieldy and time-consuming. It was however acknowledged that the speedy transfer of plans between Councillors was essential.

The Council also agreed that in the case of locally contentious applications, parishioners should be asked, where practicable, to elect one or two spokespeople to convey the neighbours' views.

**5. Minutes of the last meetings (19 September and 24 October 2016).** Agreed and signed.

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

**a. Village signs.** Five signs had been ordered, including an extra one to be placed near the abattoir on Muchelney Road and were expected to be forwarded within the fortnight. Highways would then install them at a cost of £1000.

**b. Neighbourhood Planning.** Cllrs Nicholas, Horsgood and Fraser had attended this session with Langport Town Councillors. They remained unconvinced that a Neighbourhood Plan, at seemingly major expense, would provide the Councils with any control over development and would not extend to community facilities such as halls and reopening the station. It was thought that another area community survey might be useful, the last being in 2007.

**(6)c. Proposal to open local railway station.** Cllr Seaton would circulate the Town Council reports on this to Huish Episcopi Parish Councillors. David Warburton MP was investigating the possibility of central government funding.

**d. Langport and Huish Episcopi Memorial Field Management Committee change to constitution and AGM (29 November 7pm).** The Council was made aware of the changes to the constitution which would bring the committee up to date and protect trustees.

**e. Dropped kerb at St Mary's Church corner.** The Clerk was still awaiting a final quotation for this. The District Council had agreed to waive the contractor's licence fee for the work.

**Action: Clerk**

**f. Brookland Road signage.** New signage had been installed three days previously, however local Councillors remained concerned that these did not address the fact that some bungalows could only be accessed by emergency services through their rear entrances. The emergency services' views had been sought by Cllr Pope and fire service at least had amended details on its website.

**g. Cherry trees at The Avenue.** Cllr Lock would chase up the third quotation for this, which was looking increasingly costly for work that had not been the responsibility of the Parish Council in the past.

**Action: Cllr Lock/Clerk**

**h. Possible grant for Swimming Pool Project.** In Cllr Apario Paul's absence, there was no update on this.

## **7. Correspondence received and other matters.**

**a. Allotments, including application for beehives.** There had been no response to the last letters of concern sent to two tenants by the Clerk. It was understood that there could be no objection to one tenant setting up beehives on the edge of the allotments.

**b. Lengthsman.** The hedgerows at Bishops Drive and Station Path verges had been tidied up. There had been no reply from Hastoos regarding the hedgerow by the Old Kelways estate.

**c. Youth Club.** Finances were sound, bringing PAYE in house had reduced costs, and the Club had received a surprise £1000 grant from ABP, which might go towards funding a minibus. All was going well at the club and youngsters were involved with Tesco's Fare Share and the Christmas Fair at Ridgway Hall. They were also working in partnership with the Town Council on requirements for the possible new skate park. The Council thanked Cllr Horsgood and Ms Annie Shillabeer for all their hard work, contributing to the continuing success of the club.

**d. LTC request for Christmas Lights grant.** The Council confirmed the grant of £1000, as agreed in the budget. Kelways Plants had also agreed to provide a Christmas tree to the Primary School this year, at the Council's request.

**e. Planning Negotiation training.** The Council agreed to fund the £95 cost of Cllr Palmer attending this SALC training session.

**8. Initial Precept and Budget discussion, including annual grants level and Allotments rent from 2018.** It was proposed by Cllr Pope, seconded by Cllr Wood, and agreed unanimously that the allotments rent would go up to £36 with effect from 1 February 2018. The Community Group would meet on 6 December to discuss the budget in preparation for the January meeting, by which time the SSDC figures would be available.

<b>9. Accounts.</b> <b>(since 1 April 2016)</b>	<b>Current Account</b>	<b>Savings</b>
<b>total receipts</b>	<b>53419.97</b>	
<b>total payments</b>	<b>29451.98</b>	
<b>balance at 14 Nov 16</b>	<b>23967.99</b>	
<b>Business Reserve</b>		<b>46307.22</b>
<b>Parish Charities</b>		<b>1745.96</b>

**Payments to be authorised**

Clerk – administration	24.39
Lengthsman materials (October)	19.50
CPRE subscription	36.00
HMS Ltd (PAYE)	20.00
Langport TC – Christmas lights	1000.00
SALC – training	95.00

**Payments by Standing Order (25<sup>th</sup> of the month)**

Clerk	500.00
Lengthsman	178.22

**10. Matters of report and items for next meeting.**

**a. Chairman.** The Chairman would email all Councillors when the village signs were installed.

**b. Clerk.** The dates for 2017 were confirmed as follows:

- 23 January
- 20 March (and Annual Meeting of the Parish)
- 15 May (and Annual General Meeting)
- 17 July
- 18 September
- 20 November

Consideration of a suitable name for the small development of bungalows near Kennel Lane produced a united suggestion of “Kings Orchard Close”, which the Clerk would forward.

**Action: Clerk**

**c. Members.** Cllr Wood was concerned by the impassability for the footpath from Wearne to Bowdens. It was hoped that SSDC could follow this up.

**Action: Clerk**

**11. Date of next meeting.** This would take place on Monday 23 January at 7pm in the Huish Sixth Auditorium.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

**Agreed:**

**S NICHOLAS (Mrs)**  
**Chairman of the Parish Council**

**J M REDFEARN (Mrs)**  
**Clerk to the Parish Council**