

# *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 20 March 2017 at 7.20pm on completion of the Annual Meeting of the Parish.**

**Present:**

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

Cllr G Tucker                      District Councillor      (7.20-8.30pm)  
Cllr D Yeomans                      County Councillor      (7.20-7.50pm)

Parishioners                      Mr R Saunders, Mr V Derham, Mr R Manning and Mrs J Rule  
Others                              Mr A Lee (Leveller)

**1. Apologies for absence.** Cllr C Aparicio Paul and Cllr J Fraser (no reason given).

The Clerk reminded Councillors that they were required to give a reason for non-attendance in advance of meetings and any Councillor missing meetings held over six months, without providing a reason accepted by the Council, would be automatically disqualified, as had happened with Cllr R Stranger. Reasons would be recorded discreetly by the Clerk.

**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 Yeomans was attending his last meeting with Huish Episcopi PC and, after apologising for the generally unavoidably depressing tone of his County Councillor letters in recent years, he thanked the Council for its patience and the Chairman thanked him for his support of the parish over many years.

Cllr Tucker noted that the local crime figures were noticeably reduced, other than theft of, and from, vehicles. He reminded parishioners of the opportunity to sign up for a green gardening bin and the reduction if taking up the two year offer. SSDC was intending to run a mock on line census as a test for 2019. In Spring 2018 the Boundary Commission would be reviewing wards, when voter numbers and housing development could have an impact.

**4. Planning.**

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

16/05436/COL                      The Lodge, Wearne Court application for Lawful Development Certificate for change of use and residential occupation as a single dwelling. The Council remained strongly opposed to retrospective planning approval, but understood that the four year rule precluded objections - permission granted.

16/05437/FUL                      The Old Farm House, Wearne detached single storey double garage no objections – permission granted.

16/04807/FUL                      67 Garden City erection of detached building. With one abstention, Councillors voted to support this application, no objections - permission refused.

- 17/00205/S73 Land at Station Close vary condition no objections – permission granted.
- 17/00019/REM Old Nursery Farm reserved matters - previous comments stand. The permission should continue to require all mobile homes to be removed before building commences. Permission granted.

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

- 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.
- 16/05547/FUL Land South of Union Drove 2 bedroom contemporary dwelling for home office, parking, bat rehabilitation flight cage/shed and change of agricultural use (High Ham PC). The Council supported Wagg Drove residents in that, despite all the best intentions expressed, this dwelling would be very visible from Wagg Drove and would set a precedent of unacceptable development in open countryside. Recommend refusal.
- 17/00454/FUL The Retreat, Windmill Lane until the lawfulness of this dwelling had been fully established (or not) in law, no extensions should be approved to what was originally a very small barn. Strongly recommended refusal of this retrospective application.
- 17/00455/COL The Retreat, Windmill Lane - until the lawfulness of this dwelling had been fully established (or not) in law, no certificate of lawfulness should be approved. Strongly recommended refusal.
- 17/00413/FUL Wagg Meadow Farm temporary building replacing existing caravan. Huish Episcopi Parish Council has no objections to this application, but did have concerns about the viability of the present agricultural business.
- 17/00167/FUL Plot 1 land opposite Autumn Leaves Pibsbury - no objections, Council strongly recommended that a TPO be made on the oak tree prior to building. (also see below)
- 17/00166/FUL Land opposite Autumn Leaves Pibsbury conversion of storage barn to holiday accommodation - no objections.
- 17/00167/FUL Plot 1 Land opposite Autumn Leaves Pibsbury, amended to allow oak tree to be felled - Council concurred with local parishioners' concerns and its previous comments applied that the "Council strongly recommended that a TPO be made on the oak tree prior to building".
- 16/04174/REM 36 dwellings at Newtown Road reserved matters regarding drainage – Council had no objections, providing the drainage authorities had approved the new scheme.
- 17/01270/TPO81A Brookland Road permission to fell tree – no objections as tree had been judged unsafe by a qualified tree surgeon.
- 17/01217/CPO Bowdens Quarry – Council had no objections to this extension to the quarry, providing all the present conditions, especially regarding noise and traffic, remained in place.

**5. Minutes of the last meeting (23 January 2017).** These were agreed and signed.

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

**a. Dropped kerb.** The project had been completed successfully and parishioners were very happy with the outcome.

**b. Village signs.** The five signs were all in place and the Council and parishioners were again very pleased with the result. There had been some queries regarding the placement, but Highways had advised on positioning, mostly on the site of previous signs, and clarified that village signs generally indicate the areas of main habitation rather than the actual parish boundary, which in the case of Huish Episcopi was extensive and frequently well away from development. Councillors thanked the Chairman and Mr Taylor for their hard work in completing this project and especially in sourcing an appropriate protective finish for the signs.

**c. Willow at Brookland Road.** The tree had been felled by a qualified tree surgeon at no cost to the Council.

**d. Proposed bus shelter near Travis Perkins.** Cllr Lock and Cllr Horsgood agreed to liaise with Langport Town Clerk and two Town Councillors on this proposal.

**Action: Cllr Lock/Cllr Horsgood**

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

**a. Allotments, including proposed amendments to Rules.** The Allotment Rules were amended to clarify include tenants' responsibility for sheds and equipment, fencing and interference with Council property. The Rules would be added to the Community Website.

**b. Lengthsman, including possible extra hours.** The Council agreed, on the recommendation of Cllr Lock and Cllr Nicholas, a raise of 25p in the hourly rate in line with the other parishes within the original scheme and an increase to the Lengthsman contract by one day (7 hours) overall, mainly to cover upkeep of footpaths where ownership was no longer established. The new contract would be signed by Craig Howe, the Chairman and Vice Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk.

**Action: Cllr Lock/Cllr Nicholas/Clerk**

**c. Youth Club.** Following the report given at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Cllr Horsgood had nothing further to add, other than that the Youth Club was thriving and another London trip was planned shortly.

**d. Somerton/Langport train station feasibility study.** The MP's letter was an exploration of support for this project. The initial study would be a technical stage to identify sites, passing places and additional signalling; the second stage would look at local service and benefit prospects. If the Council decided to support the study financially, any costs would be refunded if the station eventually materialised.

**e. SSDC Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment.** Cllr Wood had read this report in depth and made several points, which Cllr Yeomans asked him to forward so that he could raise these at County Council.

**Action: Cllr Wood**

**f. Community Links Transport meeting (22 February 2017).** Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Seaton had attended this meeting which they felt had been largely positive. Dialogue should be maintained to find a way to reduce users' costs. Cllr Horsgood volunteered to attend the Area North Meeting, as this would be part of the Transport Report.

**g. Lighting at Newtown Road.** This had been reported again with mention of the continuing problems with them.

**h. Casual Vacancy.** The Clerk would announce the casual vacancy (see item 1) the following day, both on the noticeboards and the Community Website.

*Post meeting note: Cllr Fraser's resignation was received the following day, so the notices advertised two casual vacancies.*

<b>8. Accounts.</b>	<b>Current Account</b>	<b>Savings</b>
<b>Payments authorised by RFO in consultation with Chairman</b>		
R Moore Contractors	1290.00	
<b>Receipts since last meeting (since 1 April 2016)</b>		
<b>total receipts</b>	<b>55015.15</b>	
<b>total payments</b>	<b>39765.64</b>	
<b>balance at 11 Mar 17</b>	<b>15249.51</b>	
<b>Business Reserve</b>		<b>46309.11</b>
<b>Parish Charities</b>		<b>1746.10</b>
<b>Payments to be authorised</b>		
Clerk – administration	30.43	
Clerks and Councils Direct	12.00	
HEA Hall hire	101.25	
<b>Payments by Standing Order (25<sup>th</sup> of the month)</b>		
Clerk	500.00	
Lengthsman	178.22	

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

**a. Chairman.** Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Horsgood attended an informal event to celebrate the refurbishment of the Scout Hut, to which the Council had contributed.

**b. Clerk.** Councillors were made aware of an invitation from the Heart of Wessex Local Action Group to a meeting to discuss investment in local businesses and organisations on 28 June at 6pm in the East Coker Village Hall.

**c. Members.** Cllr Horsgood was concerned that the wig wag lights were still not working correctly.

**10. Date of next meeting.** The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would take place Monday 15 May 2017 at 7pm in the Huish Sixth Auditorium.

**Agreed:**

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

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