

(3)

Having assessed options to reduce speeding at Wearne, she asked Cllr Wood to canvass the residents to ascertain which small improvement scheme solution they would support though, depending on this decision, funding might still be problematic. The Academy Summer Festival, to raise funds towards the swimming pool cover project, went very well. She continued to work on the improving the state of the disused Brookland Road shops.

4. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

- 17/02082/FUL Larkwood Barn single story extension to rear of property, no objections. Permission granted.
- 17/01301/FUL Merriotts Farm Wearne demolition of farm buildings, erection of 2 dwellings – no objections, proposed buildings would blend sympathetically within the hamlet. Permission granted.
- 17/01935/FUL Land East of Ablake one dwelling and garage – no objections. Permission granted.
- 17/02019/FUL Demolition of farmhouse, erection of replacement dwelling – no objections. Permission granted.
- 17/01577/FUL Park Lane Engineering Works residential dwelling. Council continued to support development of this largely derelict site and the new application appeared to have addressed previous concerns. Nevertheless the proposed dwelling, attempting to retain an existing farm building wall, did not do justice to the site and an appropriately designed new build might be a far better option. Permission refused.
- 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. Permission granted.

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

- 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.
- 17/02453/S73A Land at Iris Way detached garage/store – amendment to Condition 2 of approved application 14/03943/FUL. This building's footprint was larger than shown on the original application, with an appearance resembling a bungalow rather than a garage/store, and was also not built in the correct place according to the 2014 plans. Even with the reduction in roof height proposed, it would continue to be overpowering and affect neighbouring dwellings. Recommended refusal.
- 17/02694/FUL Trial Ground 94 dwellings and associated public space and external works. The Council discussed this application at length regarding: reduction in number of dwellings, layout especially opposite Old Kelways, provision of two pedestrian crossings on Somerton Road and Field Road, extended pavement and bus layby on Somerton Road, reinstatement of public footpath L13/55, a central feeder lane on Field Road, positioning of green space within development, retention of hedgerow boundaries, and concerns about the water system.

- (4b) The Council agreed that an entrance off the roundabout was not feasible and that creating a community hall on the land by the cricket field remained an aspiration. The Council was disappointed that the developer had not chosen to meet before submitting the application and asked the Clerk to try and arrange a meeting with Persimmon Homes to discuss the points raised, if possible before making the Council's observations to SSDC.
- 17/02680/FUL Southcote, The Hill single storey rear extension and repositioning of front entrance gates – no objections.

c. Appeal decisions.

- 16/00621/FUL Long Orchard Farm, Pibsbury conversion of double garage to one bedroom dwelling. Appeal dismissed.
- 16/03175/FUL Highfield Farm redevelopment of existing agricultural building to provide two 1.5 storey semi-detached dwellings. Appeal dismissed.

5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council (15 May 2017). These were agreed and signed.

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

a. Parish Council By Election. Chairman Shirley Nicholas officially welcomed newly elected Councillors Richard Stranger and Robert Crumb.

b. Parish Council Responsibilities (deferred from May meeting). The roles and responsibilities were agreed as follows:

i. Working Groups:

- Staffing - Cllr Nicholas Cllr Lock
Community - Cllr Nicholas Cllr Lock Cllr Wood Cllr Crumb
Development Control - Chairman/Vice Chairman and 1/2 Councillors nearest application
Farming - Cllr Lock Cllr Stranger
Environment - Cllr Palmer

ii. Local Committee Representatives:

- Memorial Field - Cllr Nicholas Cllr Horsgood
Abattoir Liaison - Cllr Horsgood
Allotments Liaison - Cllr Pope Cllr Crumb
Lengthsman Liaison - Cllr Lock
Youth Club - Cllr Nicholas Cllr Horsgood
Annie Tite Fund - Cllr Wood
LTC Tourism and Marketing - Cllr Palmer

c. Somerton/Langport Train Station feasibility study (deferred from May meeting). Cllr Aparicio Paul made a case for supporting this study, as recommended by the MP. The study would cost in the region of £30k and SCC would provide officer support. It was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Palmer and carried 5:2, that the Council would match Langport Town Council's agreed contribution of £5000.

note: Cllr Seaton abstained from this discussion, as per item 2.

d. Bus shelter. Cllr Horsgood informed members that the joint working party had met and the Queensbury shelter was the only version that would fit the pavement width. The working party would be providing its recommendation, including financial implications, to both Councils' September meetings. The Council thanked Cllr Horsgood for his work on this project.

Action: Cllr Horsgood

(6)

e. Grouped Parishes Scheme. The Town Clerk was trying to arrange a date for both Chairmen and Clerks to meet with a Dorset Clerk to discuss how the scheme had worked in their area.

f. Speeding problems at Wearne. This item had been discussed earlier at item 3.

g. White lining at Church car park. Councillors agreed that a simple "Keep clear" wording was all that was required and the Clerk would liaise with the company. The Chairman remained concerned at the continuing use of the Council's car park by Academy staff, parents and students throughout school term time with no contribution to its upkeep and rates, while charging the Council to use the auditorium for its meetings. She would speak to the new Head about rectifying this anomaly.

Action: Clerk/Chairman

7. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments. All but half an allotment were tenanted. Cllr Horsgood was concerned that one tenant still had his own connection to the water supply. The Clerk would discuss this further with Cllr Pope and consider a second letter.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Pope

b. Lengthsman. Cllr Lock had nothing further to report. He would follow up the issues raised in the Public Session with the Lengthsman.

Action: Cllr Lock

c. Youth Club. Cllr Horsgood reported that the club had confirmed charitable status. Their Air Day stall had gone well again. The Club had received a cheque for £270 following a 5000 leaflet drop.

d. Langport River Project. This project would enable greater use of the River Parrett between Oath Sluice and Muchelney by installing appropriate infrastructure to promote public, private, sports club and commercial water-based activities by:

- inviting increased rowing, canoeing and kayaking to the river,
- making the river attractive to commercial operators,
- making the river attractive for trail boaters,
- facilitating the operation of public trip boats,
- improving the access for anglers, and
- boosting the use of Cocklemoor and the riverside by the community and visitors alike.

The project would cost in the region of £120k and the River Group had applied for EU funding under the LEADER programme to meet a significant element of this cost. It was clear to the Council that this project will benefit its residents and organisations, as well as the local tourism industry, therefore it unhesitatingly agreed to support the bid for European LEADER funding.

e. Bank safe storage/archiving. The Clerk and Chairman had retrieved the Council's safe storage box from the Natwest Bank, pending its closure in October. Contents included conveyancing for the extension of the graveyard at St Mary's Church and an ancient log of tenanted land in the area. It was intended to take copies of the former to be held by the Clerk then pass the originals and the log to the Somerset Archives in due course, along with more recent documents prior to the Clerk's retirement.

Action: Clerk/Chairman

f. SSDC Gold Star and SCC Chairman's Awards 2017. Councillors had been made aware of these and a couple of suggestions would be followed up by the Clerk.

Action: Clerk

(7)

g. Planning Appeals in progress and decisions. The following Appeals remained in progress: Land at Duck's Hill, Land adjacent 67 Garden City, The Retreat Windmill Lane and Land opposite Wearne Court.

8. Accounts	Current Account	Savings
Payments authorised by RFO		
Town Trust – Neighbourhood Planning	100.00	
Receipts since last meeting		
Long Sutton PC – Lengthsman Scheme	264.44	
VAT refund 16/17	1061.76	
FBTA – Board	1300.02	
(since 1 April 2017)		
total receipts	62580.83	
total payments (inc. transfer to Bus Res)	34966.15	
balance at 10 Jul 17	27614.68	
Business Reserve		56310.41
Parish Charities		1 746.20
Payments to be authorised		
Clerk – administration	15.98	
Clerk – reimburse ICO registration	35.00	
Lengthsman materials	19.95	
HMS Ltd PAYE	20.00	
Payments by Standing Order (25th of the month)		
Clerk	500.00	
Lengthsman	189.29	

9. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. Chairman. Nothing further to add.

b. Clerk. Nothing further to add.

c. Members. Cllr Seaton informed members that a meeting was to be held on 28 July at the Town Hall from 3 – 7pm regarding the future of the Natwest Bank building and possibility of a new community bank.

10. Date of next meeting. The next meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council held in the Huish Sixth Auditorium, Huish Episcopi Academy on 18 September 2017 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Parish Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Parish Council