

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 January 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Cllr S Nicholas	Chairman	
Cllr G Lock		
Cllr R Stranger		
Cllr J Wood		
Cllr J Fraser		
Cllr F Pope		
Cllr B Horsgood		
Cllr J Seaton		
Cllr C Palmer		
Cllr S Pledger	District Councillor	(7-7.50)
Cllr C Aparicio Paul	District Councillor	(7-8.15)
Cllr D Yeomans	County Councillor	(7-8.15)

Parishioners	Ms P O'Malley, Ms M Pittard, Mr K Haslam (7-8.15) Mr V Derham (7-9.05), Mr R Tilley (7-8.25) Ms H Lawrie, Ms L Newby (7-8.45) Mr R Saunders, Mr G Tulloch
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Others	Mr D Norris Area North Planners (7-7.50) Mr A Lee (Leveller) Mr D Mumby (7-8.00)
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PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Dave Norris, Senior Planning Officer, and Mr Shane Pledger, Area North Chairman, attended to discuss planning development within the parish. A robust question and answer session included:

- retrospective planning
- inconsistency in treatment of seemingly similar applications
- Planning Inspectors' apparent lack of understanding of the impact of major development on the rural landscape
- respect for local knowledge of those areas susceptible to flooding
- awareness that development in the Huish Episcopi Parish well by 2015 exceeded the numbers had already those stated up to 2028 without any increase in business use and likewise local jobs
- the effect of the change from S106 Agreement to Community Infrastructure Levy

The Councillors were very appreciative of opportunity to discuss these matters in public with Mr Norris and Cllr Pledger.

1. Apologies for absence. None.

2. Declarations of interest. Cllr Seaton declared a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Langport Town Council, as Chairman. Cllr J Wood declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7e.

3. District Councillors' and County Councillor's Reports. Cllr Aparicio Paul felt she was making good progress in her new role. She made members aware that Streetscene were again offering the Christmas tree recycling scheme. The concern about the proposed application neighbouring Ablake at Pibsbury was that it was overlarge in comparison, even if it was intended as a B and B business.

Local businesses were involved in the Levels and Moors Leader Group supported by social media and a team Councillor. She was considering possible strategies concerning the derelict shops at Brookland Road.

Cllr Yeomans informed members that the budget meeting had been postponed because of the devolution bid covering 19 Councils. He anticipated a possible problem concerning the necessity for mayoral rights. There would be a huge shortfall in income, representing a 28% cut. With the added costs of the Care Act, Council Tax was bound to increase. The need to support the Somerset Rivers Authority and the increase in the “living wage” would also have an impact.

4. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

- 15/01229/FUL Long Orchard Farm Pibsbury, Whitethorn Annex, conversion of former garage to one bedroomed dwelling (retrospective). HEPC could not support this retrospective planning application which might well not have been allowed in this particular form, if submitted properly beforehand. If approved, it was essential that this dwelling remained within the agricultural tie of Long Orchard Farm. Permission refused.
- 15/02022/COL Long Orchard Farm Certificate of Lawfulness for use of dwelling to comply with agricultural tie – no objections.
- 15/04816/LBC Kelway Inn – retention of external flue pipe. Permission granted.
- 15/05008/FUL 4 St Marys Park, two storey extension - no objections in principle but this will set a precedent of extending beyond the original building line. Permission granted
- 15/05186/FUL Herzele Somerton Road first floor rear extension - no objections. Permission granted.
- 15/05197/PAMB Change of use from agricultural building to dwelling, no objections. Permission refused.
- 15/05024/FUL Land East of Ablake resubmission, no objections in principle to this large dwelling, as it was intended as a guest house, although there were concerns that this might be in an area much more liable to flooding than suggested at Section 12. Permission refused.
- 15/05502/OUT Lavender Cottage, Newtown Road - no objections. It should be noted that access to this proposed dwelling will be from Fern Road. Permission granted.

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

- 15/02894/FUL Old Mill Cottage Wincanton Road – erection of mixed use shed to house historic tractors and business storage, Change of Use from agricultural to commercial use, replacement of some sheds and erection of open fronted car port for B8 and static storage. The Council considered it inappropriate to allow change of use from agricultural to commercial for all or any part of the extensive land beside and behind Old Mill Cottage and recommended refusal.
- 15/02894/FUL Old Mill Cottage additional information on drainage - the Council's views remained the same as above, as outlined in its letters dated 22 July 2015 and 14 October 2015.
- 15/03313/OUT Land to rear of Orchard Bungalow, Newtown Road development of 9 two bedroom bungalows - Huish Episcopi Parish Council had no objections to this application but only on the condition that this would provide bungalows, much needed in the parish.
- 15/04038/FUL SCFF Abattoir, Muchelney Road construction of additional carcass chills, an energy centre, storage, covered yard and relocated security office - no objections, however Councillors stressed the continuing need for ABP to maintain a robust dialogue with its neighbours, addressing their concerns regarding privacy, proximity and access as this proposed development of the site progresses.

- (b)15/05035/FUL Shires Garage provision of double garage - no objections.
15/05601/COL Land opposite Wearne Court - certificate of lawful existing development for the erection of a building. Huish Episcopi Parish Council recommended that this application be refused and resubmitted in a simplified application that plainly only included information relating to the modern steel framed hay barn, and a separate application also be submitted to legalise the stone building for the agricultural purpose intended.
- 15/03365/FUL Former Atkins Garage demolition of workshop and erection of bungalow (amended plans) - no objections, but it was essential that the permission conditions state that the new driveway, shared with Highfield House, would be the only vehicular access to this planned dwelling.

5. Minutes of the last meeting (16 November 2015). These were agreed and signed.

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

a. Residents' Survey. Councillors were invited to comment on the draft form and the Clerk would also request comments from SSDC officers.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Wood

b. Purchase of defibrillator. Langport Town Council was going ahead with its project to purchase two defibrillators for the town centre and Ridgway Hall. Huish Episcopi Parish Council agreed to upgrade the Huish Leisure defibrillator by paying for an external cabinet which would allow the defibrillator to be available at any time even outside sports centre hours. The Clerk had requested the cost.

Action: Clerk

c. Speed (wigwag) signs. The expected cost of these would be approximately £4000 and Highways anticipated they would be installed in April.

d. Community Links Transport Scheme. Members of both Councils had met with Mr Martin Ashby to discuss the future of this scheme as it related to the local area. The scheme was now wholly controlled and operated from Yeovil, although some vehicles remained locally. It emerged that no other towns had an outreach centre and no other towns contribute to the financial costs of the scheme. Councillors were invited to visit the centre.

e. Annual Meeting of the Parish – proposed new format. Councillors approved the change to schedule this meeting, previously known as the Annual General Assembly of the Parish, on the same day as the March business meeting. The new format would centre on a report by the Chairman reflecting on the year, with short presentations and the opportunity for parishioners to question her.

Action: Chairman/Clerk

7. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments. There had been a delay in increasing the allotments area due to the ground state. With some tenants deciding to reduce to half plots and others giving up, the waiting list had reduced. An advert was due to appear in the next Leveller.

b. Lengthsman, including overhanging trees at Barrymore Close Play Area. Cllr Lock said that the trees would be dealt with in better weather. There were possible changes to the Lengthsman Scheme and the Council would be kept informed.

c. Youth Club. Ms Lisa Newby presented a report regarding the Huish Episcopi Parish Council grant to the Youth Club. The two Councils' grants provide the youth workers' payroll and training.

The youth leaders had not received a salary increase for several years so, following a meeting between the Chairmen and Clerks with the Youth Club Executive Officers, a recommendation had been made which was reflected in the precept budget.

(7)d. **New External Audit arrangements from 2017-18.** Procurement arrangements were in progress to select a new External Auditor to cover the majority of smaller councils from 2017-18.

e. **The Levels Scout Group and Flower Club - request for grants.** The Council agreed a grant of £1000 towards essential structural works on The Levels Scout Hut and also a grant of £250 towards a special "Reminiscence" Art in the Garden outdoor flower festival at Immacolata Residential Home.

f. **Replacement dog bin at St Mary's Park.** The vandalised dog bin would be replaced shortly at a cost of approximately £220.

g. **The Council Tax Reduction Scheme.** As anticipated, South Somerset District Council had given notice that this scheme would finish after 2017-18.

h. **New agenda format.** Councillors confirmed that they were happy to continue with the new format for the business agenda.

8. Accounts and Precept 2016-17. Having considered the options presented by the Clerk, Cllr Lock proposed, Cllr Fraser seconded and it was agreed that the precept would be set at £42,500, comprising the precept of £40,460 and £2040 Council Tax Reduction Grant (also see item 7g). This would represent an increase of £1385 but an overall reduction of 0.9% to parishioners. Cllr Seaton abstained in accordance with her Declaration of Interest at item 2.

The Council also agreed that the Memorial Field grant would be held until full audited accounts had been received by the two Councils. Langport TC required a Service Level Agreement to be in place for all continuous funding. Huish Episcopi Parish Council would have the opportunity to adopt a similar agreement.

	Current Account	Savings
Payments authorised by Chairman		
SLCC subscription	103.00	
Somerset Playing Fields subscription	25.00	
CPRE subscription	36.00	
Receipts since last meeting (since 1 April 2015)		
total receipts	55138.64	
total payments	41445.19	
balance at 11 Jan 16	13693.45	
Business Reserve		46285.90
Parish Charities		1745.31
Payments to be authorised		
Clerk - salary	1000.00	
Clerk – administration	11.40	
LTC Christmas lights 2015	1000.00	
R Carter annual maintenance 15-16	900.00	
R Carter additional maintenance	40.00	
HMS (PAYE)	20.00	

9. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. **Chairman.** Cllr Nicholas informed members that the Community Website was now fully responsive for smart phones and tablets as well as computer access.

(9)b. **Clerk.** The Clerk would enquire whether the Town Council planned any celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday. The Langport Festival running from 18-26 June would have the theme "Celebrate the River".

c. **Members.** Cllr Lock again reported the non-functioning lights above the belisha beacons by Shires Garage. He would also speak to Mr Mervyn Cook about the public footpath from Newtown to Wearne. Cllr Fraser asked if it could be confirmed whether the lighting at the new Academy car parking were correctly set. Cllr Palmer requested that the SID device be set on the Somerton Road between Shires Garage and the roundabout.

10. Date of next meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Parish and the next Council Meeting would take place on Monday 21 March 2016 at 7pm in the Huish Sixth Auditorium.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

signed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Parish Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Parish Council