

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held in the Huish Sixth Auditorium, Huish Episcopi Academy on Monday 21 March 2016 following the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 7pm

Present:

Cllr S Nicholas	Chairman
Cllr G Lock	
Cllr R Stranger	
Cllr J Wood	
Cllr F Pope	
Cllr B Horsgood	
Cllr C Palmer	
Cllr S Pledger	District Councillor (7 – 8pm)
Cllr D Yeomans	County Councillor (7 – 7.15pm)
Parishioners	Mr M Jenkins, Mr R Saunders, Mr V Derham and Mr G Edmunds
Others	Mr C Rees (7 – 8pm) and Mr A Lee (Leveller)

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Chris Rees attended to discuss an alternative planning proposal for The Willows, Westover. All applications since 1989 for this area had been accepted based on employment creation, however it was clear that any construction work would need serious piling and raising of the road to avoid further flooding. Since the land now cannot be sold for employment development alone, the proposal would be for mixed commercial and domestic development comprising 21 dwellings of which a third would be social housing. There would be a public consultation at the Westover office of Adrian Stables on 30/31 March.

Mr Edmunds asked the Council to investigate the state of the cherry trees at The Avenue and, if necessary, refer them to the SSDC Arborist.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr J Seaton, Cllr J Fraser and Cllr C Aparicio Paul.

2. Declarations of interest. None.

3. District Councillors' and County Councillor's Reports. Cllr Pledger reported that Area North had made a grant of £10,000 towards the Chilthorne Domer Village Hall extension. The Committee had also had a verbal report from Highways and a talk from the Somerset Levels and Moors.

4. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

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.

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. Permission refused.

(4a contd)

- 15/05035/FUL Shires Garage provision of double garage - no objections. Permission granted.
- 16/00234/ADV Shakspeare Glass Westover display signs - no objections. Permission granted.
- 16/00058/PAMB Barns at Merricks Farm - no objections. Permission refused.
- 15/03365/FUL Former Atkins Garage demolition of workshop and erection of bungalow - 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.
- 15/02022/COL Long Orchard Farm Certificate of Lawfulness for use of dwelling to comply with agricultural tie - no objections. Permission refused.

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

- 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, 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.
- 15/05502/OUT Lavender Cottage, Newtown Road - no objections, it should be noted access to this proposed dwelling would be from Fern Road.
- 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.
- 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.
- 16/08887/COU Land at Wood Drove relocation of 3 static caravans - no objections providing that present caravans are removed immediately as any more modern replacements are brought in and that the 3 caravans are sited in the same field.

5. Minutes of the last meeting (18 January 2016). These were agreed and signed.

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

a. Residents' Survey, including printing and distribution costs. It was proposed and agreed with one abstention that the Survey in its final draft form would be printed by SSDC and go out with the May Roundabout, one per household with extra copies available at the Library, Shires Garage and from the Clerk.

b. Defibrillator cabinet installation. Huish Leisure had agreed that the existing defibrillator might be moved to an external wall to provide 24/7 availability even out of working hours. The Clerk would order the cabinet to be delivered direct to the Sports Centre.

Action: Clerk

c. Speed (wigwag) signs. It was still anticipated that these would be installed in April.

(6)

d. Community Links Transport Scheme. Several Parish and Town Councillors and their Clerks had visited the Community Links Centre at Houndstone Business Park in Yeovil. It was clear that the move away from Langport was a fait accompli. After discussion, the Council agreed to withdraw this grant and the money budgeted for 2016/17 would be returned to funds. Parishioners clearly had concerns about the rates being charged for relatively minor distances.

e. Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. Apart from a Street Party in Wearne and a beacon in Somerton, there did not appear to be anything specific organised so far.

7. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments, including rabbit proof fencing. The 12 new plots had been ploughed and harrowed with rabbit proof fencing installed. Five of the new plots were already assigned to new tenants. The Council agreed to put a further advertisement in The Leveller. Cllr Pope had purchased the wire fencing on behalf of the Council so he was to be reimbursed and the Council agreed that, as in the past, the new tenants would contribute a one off payment of £25 towards the fencing. The Council also agreed to extend the water supply to the new plots at a cost of £281.72 and Cllr Pope would also arrange a service of the water pump. It might be necessary to consider increasing the annual rent.

Action: Cllr Pope/Clerk

It was proposed by Cllr Horsgood, seconded by Cllr Wood and agreed unanimously, that eligibility for allotment tenancy would be extended to parishioners of Muchelney.

b. Lengthsman. With effect from April 2016, Craig Howe's contract as Lengthsman would be separate with each Council rather than Long Sutton PC. The Clerk would prepare an individual contract based on the original Long Sutton version and confirm that he would be paid bi-monthly at the Council Meetings. The footpath at Fern Green was badly overgrown with brambles, but it was uncertain where the responsibility lay for cutting them back. The Clerk would attempt to find out although, being nesting season, it was unlikely that it could be tackled immediately.

Action: Clerk

c. Youth Club. The Youth Club Report had been covered in the Annual Meeting of the Parish earlier. The Youth Club would be replacing the much-admired flags in the town centre and requested a grant towards this. It was proposed by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Stranger and agreed unanimously, to make a grant of £250.

d. Wagg Bridge. The Clerk informed Councillors that she had reported the damaged state of Wagg Bridge which is on the parish boundary of Huish Episcopi and High Ham and supports the B3153 Somerton Road.

e. Street naming – development at former Redroof, Newtown Road. Councillors were firmly of the opinion that suggested Fernleigh Road was far too close to Fern Road and the majority of the development was not on the land that was Fernleigh. The Council's preferred name was Shires Lane, on the basis that the area is known as Shires Corner colloquially. Shire's Garage has been there for many years and Councillors would like to see a reference to the garage exist in the future, even if the garage itself might not.

8. Accounts

Payments authorised by Chairman

	Current Account	Savings
SWAST defibrillator cabinet	420.00	
Leveller advert (Allotments)	27.00	
Academy hall hire	67.50	
R J Gooding – Allotments work	1254.00	

(8)

Receipts since last meeting

Board – Business Tenancy (FBTA)	1300.02
Curtis – Business Tenancy (FBTA)	248.94
SWEB Wayleave	21.11

(since 1 April 2015)

total receipts	56708.71	
total payments	46397.31	
balance at 10 Mar 16	11311.40	
Business Reserve		46291.68
Parish Charities		1745.31

Payments to be authorised

Clerk - salary	1000.00
Clerk - administration	10.84
Long Sutton PC Lengthsman materials	78.00
Lengthsman materials 15/16	108.00
F Pope item 7a	351.42
Youth Club - flags	250.00

1 April 2016:

Clerks and Councils Direct subscription	12.00
SSDC Car park rates	641.60

9. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. Chairman. Nothing further to report.

b. Clerk. Nothing further to report.

c. Members. Cllr Horsgood requested that something be done about the roadside parking on Peony Road, which was believed to be in breach of rental agreements as parking was already provided behind the properties. Cllr Palmer asked whether the Primary School might be interested in a donation of a Christmas tree to be set up at the front of the School.

10. Date of next meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Monday 16 May 2016 at 7pm in the Huish Sixth Auditorium.

signed:

MRS J M REDFEARN
Clerk to the Parish Council

MRS S NICHOLAS
Chairman of the Parish Council