

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Huish Episcopi Parish Council held at Huish Episcopi Primary School on Monday 21 March at 19:00hrs

Present – Councillors (Cllrs)

Shirley Nicholas (Chair), Graham Lock, Julia Gadd, John Wood, Barry Horsgood, Arwyn Harris, Rob Crumb.

In attendance:

J Ferguson – Clerk, 3 Members of the public.

County & District Councillors Reports.

There were no Cllrs present.

Public Open Session

Nothing was raised of note at this time.

19:10 – Meeting opened

21/12 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given

Apologies were received from Cllr Redfearn and Cllr Peto. The reasons for absence were approved (Covid self-isolation).

21/13 Declarations of interests

Cllr Crumb declared an interest as a member of Langport Town Council.

21/14 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting – 21st February 2022.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

21/15 Matters arising from the minutes

Cllr Harris reported that, due to staffing issues at the abattoir, workers were being flown in from Botswana and being housed in cottages purchased on Tanyards Lane.

Cllr Gadd reported that she would be happy liaise with the designer who had already been working on the new website, supported by Cllr Redfearn as it was recognised that a website needed to be up and running as soon as possible. This was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Cllrs Gadd & Refearn

21/16 Planning Applications – 22/00488/DPO. Land OS 2156 Langport Somerset.

Although there was some concern regarding the potential issue of the developer trying to wriggle out from their affordable housing obligations, it was agreed that this was best left to SSDC to resolve.

RESOLVED: No objections.

21/17 Planning Applications – 22/00120/OUT – Land at Snowdrop Cottage, Wagg Drove, Langport.

RESOLVED: No objections

21/18 Planning Decisions - 21/03769/HOU 14 Orchard Vale, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9QW. Application Permitted with Conditions.

Noted.

21/19 Planning Decisions - 21/03845/S73A Badger Cottage, Newtown, Langport, TA10 9SE. Application Permitted with Conditions.

Noted.

21/20 Planning Applications still in progress - 21/03754/OUT Land Adjoining Highfield Farm, Windmill Lane, Huish Episcopi. Outline application for residential development of three dwellings and a garage building for Highfield Farmhouse, all matters reserved save for access and layout. Awaiting Decision.

Noted.

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21/21 Planning Applications still in progress - 22/00135/REM Land West Of Frog Lane, Langport Reserved Matters application for approval of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline approval 20/00131/OUT for the proposed erection of 1 No. Dwelling. Awaiting Decision. Noted.

21/22 Planning Applications still in progress - 21/02339/FUL Land At New Farm Lane, Bowdens, Langport. Alterations and conversion of barn to dwelling, erection of garage and alterations to form vehicular access, parking and turning. Awaiting Decision. Noted.

21/23 Planning Applications still in progress - 21/00311/OUT Planning Application Re-Consultation Land To The North of Somerton Road Adj The White Bungalow, Somerton Road, Langport Outline planning application for up to 100 dwellings, associated open space and infrastructure with all matters reserved except access. Awaiting Decision. Noted.

21/24 Highways and Car Park – Layby on Somerton Road.

Cllr Nicholas had received a reply to a letter that she had written to the CEO of Persimmon Homes, asking for reassurances that a layby would still be provided, as promised. She had received a reply from the manager of the West of England stating that they are intending on fulfilling their promise, providing their development isn't compromised and further reported that SSDC have given their approval for the layby to be installed.

21/25 Highways and Car Park – Speed Indicator Device (SID).

Cllr Wood reported that the SID data was now on the website and the unit was shown to be very effective at reducing the speed in all locations that it was installed.

21/26 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting - Outdoor Pursuits and Leisure report

Nothing to report at this time.

21/27 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting - Abattoir Liaison Group

Nothing to report at this time.

21/28 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting – Youth Club

Cllr Horsgood reported that the youth club was doing well and maintaining numbers, with a healthy financial position.

21/29 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting – Flood Group

Nothing to report at this time. The next meeting would be on the 29th March.

21/30 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting – Litter Picking

Cllr Crumb reported that litter picking would be taking place the following Friday & invited anyone to come along and lend a hand.

21/31 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting – Tourism and Marketing

Nothing to report at this time.

21/32 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting – Any other reports

There were no further reports at this time.

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21/33 Community – New Changing Rooms

Cllr Nicholas had received a quote and once the plans had been drawn up, the job could go out to tender.

ACTION: Cllr Nicholas

21/34 Community – Climate Emergency Fund

Cllr Peto had circulated his report via email and Cllr Horsgood reported that the renewable installation at the Memorial Field must be helping the finances as the club was frequently running on battery power.

21/35 Council – Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Harris has circulated a report the previous week and provided a summary of the recent meeting held with Castle Cary and Ansford, the result of which was a recommendation to the PC not to pursue a joint plan with Langport and look to engage a consultant sooner rather than later, seeking out grant funding to help with the costs. Quote requests had been sent to a number of consultants, with only 1 response - Stuart Todd

Associates had offered 2 quotations:

Minimum consultant contribution - £~5K (+VAT)

Full consultant involvement - £~10K (+VAT)

Cllr Harris recommended the full consultant involvement option, with the aim to obtain grant funding to cover the majority of the costs. He explained that grants would now not be considered until after April 2022, being new financial year. He expressed concern however that the recent departure of the clerk may hinder progress.

ACTION: Cllr Harris & Parish Clerk

21/36 Council – Fingerpost Signs

Cllr Wood asked Cllrs to visit & consider the St Mary's Church post, as the reinstatement of the 2 missing fingers would obscure the highways 'official' sign. Separate quotes have been requested for the fingerpost to be refurbished with & without the 2 missing fingers, with quotes to be considered at a future meeting. He further reported that disappointingly he hadn't heard back from High Ham PC regarding the finger post in their parish, also in need of refurbishment.

ACTION: All Cllrs

21/37 Council – War Memorial Steps

Cllr Wood reported that work on the War Memorial Steps would not be considered until all possibility of frost had passed.

21/38 Council – Staffing

A locum clerk had been found and an advert would be placed with SALC and in The Leveller to recruit a permanent clerk.

RESOLVED: To appoint a locum clerk to cover the same hours as the previous clerk and to advertise for a new permanent clerk.

21/39 Council – Cockle Moor Footpath

Cllr Lock reported that there were parts of the footpath that flooded and Cllr Gadd suggested that drainage needed to be considered. A previous quote of £50k had been obtained for a mesh footpath. The picnic table had been vandalised, but it had since been repaired. It was agreed to consider further at a future meeting.

21/40 Council – Somerset Community Rowing Club

It was agreed that any issues were outside of the PC control.

21/41 Council – The Queens Green Canopy

Cllrs Wood & Redfearn had visited with the headteacher of the primary school and had identified a suitable location for a number of trees to be planted. It was agreed to purchase 7-8 reasonable sized trees (1.5m), including stakes, ties and a plaque for each tree. He asked the PC to consider a budget of £100 per tree. Cllr Wood agreed to source the trees & arrange for them to be delivered, clerk to assist with the purchase orders & Cllr Lock agreed to help with collection if required.

RESOLVED: It was unanimously agreed to approve a budget of £1000 for 7-8 trees, to include fixtures, plaques and delivery.

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ACTION: Cllrs Wood, Lock & Parish Clerk

21/42 Accounts – To receive the bank reconciliations dated 28th February 2022 and sign as approved.

RESOLVED: The bank reconciliations had been received and were approved.

21/43 Accounts - To consider Community Grant Application Form from Langport and Huish Youth Group

A grant application had been received, to be considered at a future meeting.

21/44 Accounts - To approve the following accounts for payments to be paid via internet banking and agree two signatories to authorise.

Timeback Accounts – Payroll	£5.00
SSDC – Ranger Jan 2022	£466.20
SSDC – Ranger Feb 2022	£466.20
Staff – March Expenses	£51.97

RESOLVED: All payments were unanimously approved.

21/45 Date of next meeting – Monday 25th April 2022 (delayed because of Easter Monday).

19:45 - Meeting closed