

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 23 January 2017 at 7 pm.

Present:

Cllr S Nicholas	Chairman	
Cllr G Lock		
Cllr F Pope		
Cllr B Horsgood		
Cllr J Seaton		
Cllr C Palmer		
Cllr C Aparicio Paul	District Councillor	
Cllr D Yeomans	County Councillor	(7 – 7.40pm)

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr R Stranger, Cllr J Fraser and District Councillor Cllr G Tucker. (post meeting note: apologies from Cllr J Wood unavoidably delayed on return from family visit)

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 Aparicio Paul had been elected as Area North Chairman and the new CEO was Mr Alex Parmley. Some headway was being made regarding matters at Bartlett's Elm and the willow tree at Brookland Road. Cllr Yeomans said that his next newsletter was imminent but would make depressing reading including the fact that £73 billion was lost every year through fraud. A new variant communications system was about to commence at County, along with a change of ethos which would have to work. A meeting with the Police Commissioner and Chief Constable was planned on 6 February where in particular issues around theft and rural crime would be raised, as local media rarely reported farm crime.

4. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

16/04284/FUL	Huish Episcopi Academy swimming pool cover no objections. Permission granted.
16/04427/FUL	Ducks Hill 4 dwellings – Council continued to have serious concerns about flooding implications and setting a precedent outside line of growth, therefore recommended refusal. Permission refused.
16/04766/FUL	15 The Beeches replacement UPVC windows no objections. Permission granted.
16/04807/FUL	Land adjacent 67 Garden City erection of detached dwelling – with one abstention, Councillors voted to support this application, no objections. Permission refused.

b. 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.
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(4b)

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.
16/05437/FUL	The Old Farm House, Wearne detached single storey double garage – no objections.
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.
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) – Council concerned about proposed dwelling in rural countryside. Councillors to visit site and discuss with Huish Episcopi residents in Wagg Drove and inform Clerk.
17/00205/S73	Land at Station Close vary condition - no objections.
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.
17/00166/FUL	Land opposite Autumn Leaves Pibsbury conversion of storage barn to holiday accommodation - no objections.
17/00019/REM	Old Nursery Farm reserved matters following approval of 16/01295/OUT. Councillors remained concerned that about the removal of existing mobile homes prior to building – Clerk to clarify.

5. Minutes of the last meeting (21 November 2016). These were agreed and signed.

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

a. Village signs. The signs had been delivered to the Chairman and were awaiting a date for installation by Highways.

b. Dropped kerb at St. Mary's Church corner. The building work would take place imminently, most probably during the February half term week.

c. Cherry trees at The Avenue. Somerset Tree Surgeons had carried out the maintenance last week and Cllr Lock was very impressed by the work. It was again stressed that this should not set a precedent within the parish.

6d. Possible grant for Swimming Pool Project. It was proposed by Cllr Nicholas, seconded by Cllr Horsgood and agreed unanimously that the Council make a grant of £1000 towards the swimming pool cover project.

e. Planning Negotiation – proposed combined session with Town Council. Cllr Palmer had attended this very useful training session, as had the Langport Town Clerk, and she proposed that both Councils hold a combined information session. The Council agreed that she should liaise with Langport Town Clerk for a suitable date.

Action: Cllr Palmer

f. Newtown Road development. The new development would be called Kings Orchard Close, as suggested by the Council.

7. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments. Cllr Pope reported that there had recently been a gas leak and two breaks in the sewage pipe at the allotments. In 2015 there had been five cars through the hedge, but the new planting and strengthening measures had prevented breakthroughs in 2016. All plots were tenanted with one person on the waiting list.

b. Lengthsman. The Lengthsman had spent the last couple of months clearing around road signs and stiles/gates on the footpaths as well as drainage, clearing blocked grids and grips. The de-icing materials had been delivered to the cricket pavilion and he had sown grass seed at Station Path. He had up to ten extra hours per month available from April which could be used during the growing season, mainly focusing on footpaths and verges perhaps. Cllr Lock would discuss with Craig and the Council consider further at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Lock

c. Youth Club. Cllr Horsgood reported that the Club continues to thrive and had recently received an unexpected grant of £1200. Nine members would be travelling to London for a long weekend. He commented that it was very disappointing that the Academy should have three minibuses that were never available to the local community, even out of school hours such as the weekends, considering it was extremely likely that any young people would be Academy students.

d. Huish Episcopi Academy - pedestrian concerns in vicinity of car park. Cllr Nicholas has spoken to the Academy Business Manager Ms Amanda Eastwood and it was hoped that any future meetings regarding the Council's car park at St. Mary's Church would include Parish Council representation. It was clear that there was no money available from County or District Councils for any small improvement schemes, no matter the safety concerns.

e. Area North Parish Meeting 9 February 5.30-8pm Compton Dundon Hall. Cllrs Nicholas, Palmer and Seaton hoped to attend.

f. Proposed bus shelter near Travis Perkins. The Clerk would discuss this further with the Town Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

g. Scout Hut Open Evening 28 February 6pm. Cllrs Nicholas and Horsgood expected to attend this event celebrating completion of major work on the Scout Hut.

h. Annual Meeting of the Parish. The Chairman asked for suggestions for speakers at the meeting.

8. Discussion on Grouped Parishes Scheme. The Town Clerk, Mr Mears, had provided an overview of this scheme. Cllr Lock felt that this could be a start for closer cooperation, while maintaining separate identities. All parishioners identified Langport as their town providing most amenities, some with financial support from both Councils. The two Councils serve the same community area and could be more effective and efficient working together. Cllr Nicholas said that the Council needed to be fully aware of the advantages and disadvantages of the scheme and confirm that, if taken up, it would allow Huish Episcopi Parish Council to retain its identity. The Council agreed that the Town Clerk should locate suitable Parish Councils, probably in the Dorset area, which already operate under this Grouped Parishes Scheme for a fact finding visit by the two Clerks and two Chairmen.

9. Budget and Precept. *Cllr Seaton abstained from discussion on this item and vote. It was proposed by Cllr Horsgood, seconded by Cllr Pope and agreed by the remaining attending Councillors, that Option E, of five options presented by the Clerk, should be adopted. This would set the precept at £44500, an increase of £2000 and about £0.25p per month increase for a Band D parishioner.*

(9 contd.)

A lack of major development over the last year had resulted in a smaller tax base increase. It also remained possible that central government might impose capping, even on smaller councils' precepts, diminishing the Council's opportunities to boost revenue for the benefit of the parish in the future.

10. Accounts.	Current Account	Savings
Payment authorised by RFO and Chairman (item 6a 19 Sep 16)		
Shelley Signs	2058.00	
(since 1 April 2016)		
total receipts	53444.97	
total payments	32093.31	
balance at 15 Jan 17	21351.66	
Business Reserve		46307.96
Parish Charities		1746.10

Payments to be authorised

HMS Ltd (PAYE)	20.00
Lengthsman materials	28.49
Somerset Playing Fields Association subs	25.00
R Carter – parish maintenance	900.00
Clerk – administration	7.75

Payments by Standing Order (25th of the month)

Clerk	500.00
Lengthsman	178.22

11. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. Chairman. The Chairman had nothing further to report.

b. Clerk. The Clerk requested permission for the Council to pay her subscription to the SLCC (£93), as in previous years. This was agreed.

c. Members. Cllr Horsgood reported that the 20mph wig wag lights by the cricket pitch were not working earlier that day. The Clerk was asked to contact Westover businesses close to the main road about the possibility of extending the Christmas lights there.

Action: Clerk

12. Date of next meeting. The next meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish would take place on Monday 20 March at 7pm in the Huish Sixth Auditorium.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Parish Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Parish Council