

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council held in the Huish Sixth Auditorium, Huish Episcopi Academy, on Monday 15 May 2017 at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr S Nicholas	Chairman	
Cllr G Lock		
Cllr F Pope		7-8.10pm
Cllr B Horsgood		
Cllr J Seaton		
Cllr C Aparicio Paul	County/District Councillor	
Cllr G Tucker	District Councillor	

Public Session

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr J Wood, family reasons, which reason the Council resolved to accept. Cllr C Palmer, absent without apologies given.

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

3. Elections and other related matters.

i. Chairman

Cllr Nicholas – proposed Cllr Lock, seconded Cllr Pope, unanimous.

ii. Vice Chairman

Cllr Lock – proposed Cllr Nicholas, seconded Cllr Pope, unanimous.

iii. Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Completed by Chairman.

iv. Declarations of Interests forms. All Councillors were reminded to check that no changes had occurred since last AGM.

v. Working Groups – Staffing, Community, Development Control, Farming, Environment. Deferred to July meeting after Parish By Election.

vi. Committee Representatives – Memorial Field, Joint Committee, Abattoir Liaison, Youth Club, Langport TC Tourism and Marketing. Deferred to July meeting after Parish By Election.

4. Policies. There were no changes since last AMPC, and all were confirmed by the Council including resolution to maintain de minimis level at £1500.

- a. Risk Management Policy
- b. Code of Conduct
- c. Standing Orders
- d. Financial Regulations
- e. Freedom of Information Act
- f. De minimis level - Council agreed to maintain level at £1500

5. Minutes of the last meeting (20 March 2017). Agreed and signed. Councillors were reminded that any apologies must be accepted by the Council and recorded thus in the minutes.

6. District Councillors' and County Councillor's Reports. After the recent County Elections, Cllr Aparicio Paul had taken over as both District Councillor for Langport and District and County Councillor.

7. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

- 13/00314/OUT Land at The Willows Business Park development Reserved Matters – permission granted.
- 16/04191/OUT Land at The Willows Business Park development – permission refused.
- 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. Permission granted.
- 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). The Council supported Wagg Drove residents in that, despite all the best intentions expressed, this dwelling would be very visible from Wagg Drove and would set a precedent of unacceptable development in open countryside, recommended refusal. Permission refused.
- 17/00166/FUL Land opposite Autumn Leaves Pibsbury conversion of storage barn to holiday accommodation no objections. Permission granted.
- 17/01270/TPO81A Brookland Road permission to fell tree – no objections as tree had been judged unsafe by a qualified tree surgeon. Permission granted.
- 17/01217/CPO Bowdens Quarry – Council had no objections to this extension to the quarry, providing all the present conditions, especially regarding noise and traffic, remained in place. Permission granted.
- 17/00413/FUL Wagg Meadow Farm temporary building replacing existing caravan. Huish Episcopi Parish Council has no objections to this application, but did have concerns about the viability of the present agricultural business. Permission refused.
- 17/00167/FUL Plot 1 Land opposite Autumn Leaves Pibsbury, amended to allow oak tree to be felled - Council concurred with local parishioners' concerns and its previous comments applied that the "Council strongly recommended that a TPO be made on the oak tree prior to building". 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.

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.

(7b)

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.
17/01301/FUL	Merriotts Farm Wearne demolition of farm buildings, erection of 2 dwellings – no objections, proposed buildings would blend sympathetically within the hamlet.
17/01935/FUL	Land East of Ablake one dwelling – no objections.

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

a. Somerton/Langport Train Station feasibility study. The financial implications of this would be considered further at the July meeting.

b. Bus shelter. Cllrs Horsgood and Lock would attend a meeting with Langport Town Councillors on 19 May regarding bus shelter(s). The anticipated cost per shelter was £2395.

Action: Cllr Horsgood/Cllr Lock

c. Grouped Parishes Scheme. The Town Clerk had identified two Dorset parishes and he would arrange a meeting with the Clerk of one of these and both Chairmen and Clerks in due course.

d. Parish Council By Election. Five candidates would be standing for the Parish By Election which would take place on Thursday 8 June, along with the General Election. Cllr Lock expressed his concern at the probable costs incurred by a full By Election, rather than co-option, with only two years before the next full Parish Election. Councillors did appreciate that an election was more democratic and it was gratifying to have five candidates on this occasion.

9. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments. At present there were two vacant plots and Cllr Horsgood would arrange an inspection shortly.

Action: Cllr Horsgood

b. Lengthsman. Cllr Lock continued to be impressed by the Lengthsman's work in the parish. The extra day would be helpful in keeping parish footpaths under control.

c. Youth Club. Cllr Horsgood reported that the Youth Club had been very busy and thriving as usual. Youngsters have been involved with Super Saturday, Tesco Food Bank and Fare Share, financial workshops for 16-18 year olds, safeguarding and visit from the new PCSO. Two residentials have taken place, as well as plans for another Air Day stall, a trip to Air Hop at Bristol and fossiling in Dorset. The Club was considering fundraising for its own minibus. The Council asked to be kept informed about this project.

d. Langport Cycleway. It was likely that SSDC would no longer pay for the licences due to landowners along the old railway. Cllr Lock was concerned that the landowners, despite receiving these licence payments, basically rent, did not maintain the cycleway and that emergency access to the area was unavailable due to a padlocked gate. Licence costs should not devolve entirely on Huish Episcopi Parish Council as the cycleway remained an essential part of the Langport tourist area and also ran through Drayton Parish. This possible cost might need to be considered in the 2018-19 budget.

Action: Clerk

(9)

e. Church car park – request for white lining. Huish-cum-Langport PCC had requested that the Council consider white lining the church car park, so that cars parked along the back would not get hemmed in by bad parking across the middle of the car park. The Clerk would investigate options and costs.

Action: Clerk

f. Speeding problems at Wearne. The Council had received further complaints from Wearne residents regarding excessive speed through the hamlet. Cllrs Aparicio Paul and Tucker agreed to discuss this with the new Highways Manager.

Action: Cllr Aparicio Paul/Cllr Tucker

g. Council insurance renewal. The Council agreed to renew its insurance with Came and Co for a further three years, attracting discount.

10. Requests for grants/donations. These were agreed as follows:

Huish cum Langport PCC	£1500
Local Information Centre	£4000
Memorial Field	£7500
Langport Youth Club	£6000
Huish Episcopi Primary School	£1000
Langport Festival	£500
Senior Citizens Club	£250
St Margaret's Hospice	£250
Community Justice Partnership	£100
Langport Festival "Our Picnic"	£100

11. Audit 2016-2017.

a. Annual Governance Statement. Agreed by the Council and signed by the Clerk and Chairman.

b. Approval of Accounting Statement. Agreed by the Council and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.

12. Accounts	Current Account	Savings
Payments authorised by RFO		
SSDC car park rates half year	686.66	
Transfer to Business Reserve	10000.00	
Receipts since last meeting		
Precept	44500.00	
Allotments x 33	985.00	
(since 1 April 2017)		
total receipts including c/f	59912.61	
total payments	1375.95	
balance at 8 May 17	58536.66	
Business Reserve		56309.50
Parish Charities		1746.16

(12)

Payments to be authorised

Clerk – administration	7.65
B Knox Internal Auditor	166.25
HEA Hall hire	67.50
Came and Company insurance	540.12
Cllr Pope – reimbursement petrol for pump	13.45
Lengthsman materials	14.65
HMS – PAYE	90.00
Grants	as at item 10

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. Cllr Nicholas asked Councillors to remain for a few minutes after the meeting.

b. Clerk. Mrs Redfearn informed the Council that she was tendering her notice with effect from 31 March 2018.

c. Members. Nothing further to add.

10. Date of next meeting. The next meeting would take place on Monday 17 July 2017 at 7pm in the Huish Sixth Auditorium.

Meeting ended at 8.25pm

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council