

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council (HEPC) held in the Huish Sixth Auditorium, Huish Episcopi Academy, on Monday 16 September 2019 at 7pm.

In attendance:

Cllr S Nicholas Chairman
Cllr G Lock
Cllr J Wood
Cllr A Harris
Cllr J Redfearn
Cllr J Gadd

Lisa Newby Parish Clerk

Clare Paul (CP) District/County Councillor (arrived 6:55pm left 7:19pm)

Tiffany Osborne (TO) District Councillor (arrived 6:55pm left 8:09pm)

6 members of the public (left the meeting by 8:14pm)

Apologies: Cllr R Crumb, Cllr B Horsgood

Public session opened at 7:00pm. Notes of the subsequent topics discussed are found appendix 1 at the end of the minutes.

Meeting opened at 7:15pm after the public session.

50/2019. To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reasons given - Apologies received from Cllr Crumb, prior engagement, and Cllr Horsgood, illness. It was **RESOLVED** to receive apologies and approve the reasons given.

51/2019. Declarations of interest. None

52/2019 Approval of Minutes. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes are a true record of the Parish Council meeting on 15 July 2019, and duly signed by the chairman.

53/2019 Co-option of a new councillor. One application was received for the vacancy on the parish council. It was **RESOLVED** co-opt Keith Peto to become a member of Huish Episcopi Parish Council.

54/2019 Matters arising from the minutes. A report was received from the clerk with updates on the car park, allotments, war memorial, damaged bus shelter and proposed bus lay-by and shelter on Somerton Road.

55/2019 Planning:

a. Applications received since last meeting

19/01716/FUL Extension to existing commercial units to provide additional B1/B2/B8(a) employment unit Westover garage – no objections

19/01867/FUL reconfiguration of rear yard, Travis Perkins, North St Langport TA10 9RQ- no objections

19/02078/HOU side and rear extensions, Apple Acre, Sandpits Hill TA10 0NG – no objections

19/02127/HOU two storey side extension, Kings Orchard, Kennel Lane, TA10 9SB.

A member of the public spoke to object against this application. The material planning consideration is loss of privacy due to the excessive dormer windows. The general location and size of the extension is acceptable but the plans do not reflect the relationship between the proposed extension and the neighbouring property. The plans could be amended to address these issues and resubmitted. It was **RESOLVED** to refuse this planning application in it's current format

19/02113/S73 variation to allow car port/store land opposite Autumn Leaves TA10 9EJ.

It was recognised that there is no material planning basis to refuse this application. It was **RESOLVED** (reluctantly) to not object to this application. Cllr Lock requested that the vote was recorded: four votes for – Cllrs Gadd, Wood, Harris and Redfearn – and two against – Cllrs Nicholas and Lock.

Member of the public left at 7:29

b. To note applications still in progress:

18/03993/FUL - Land adjacent to the Grange Pibsbury TA10 9EJ – Erection of a dwelling house and a double garage. No objections

c. To note decisions notified since last meeting:

18/03657/FUL – land north of Brookside Wagg Drove Huish Episcopi - erection of dwelling and car port. Amended plans received for information. Permitted with conditions

19/01641/HOU The Willows, Bonds Pool, Langport TA10 9JQ – erection of first floor extension and a balcony to the south east elevation and carrying out alterations. Permitted with conditions

d. To note the response of the parish council to the consultation by SSDC of the Local Plan review. Ensure a copy sent to TO, CP and LTC for information.

56/2019. To receive written or oral reports from Councillors attending meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

River Group meeting. Cllr Gadd attended the river group meeting at Langport Town Council (LTC) on 17 July, and a report was received.

Abattoir Liaison The notes of the meeting rearranged for 29 July were received. Administrative support was discussed, as was the cost. It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council provide the administrative support going forward, to allow the liaison group to continue. The parish council will bear any additional cost in the clerk's hours to facilitate this.

57/2019 Cycleway meeting. The amended version of the cycleway is still required, and then needs to be signed by the parish council. It was **RESOLVED** to pay LTC £967.60 (invoice received) towards the legal costs and negotiation fees for the licence, which also covers the license for the current calendar year.

It was noted that the facility is very well used by both cyclists and horse riders. Vehicular access has been arranged with the landowner to allow for the fencing to be replaced as agreed on the Westover part of the cycleway.

58/2019 Highways and car park.

a. Footpath on The Hill at Huish House. A proposal from a firm that provides assisted living is to provide a footpath to allow for ease of crossing the road from the residential home. Currently there is no footway which makes crossing over from the driveway to the existing footpath over the road difficult. It was **RESOLVED** to establish the status of the grass verge with Highways and proceed from there.

b. Speed Indicator Device (SID). Four volunteers – two in Wearne and two in Huish Episcopi – have been enrolled to support the SID relocation and data retrieval once the device has been purchased. Cllr Wood requested to progress research regarding a SID, and determining the best sites to be agreed with Highways. It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Wood to research options for the parish council to consider at the November meeting: equipment to be used, locations to be determined and training to be undertaken for moving the device.

TO and member of the public left at 8:09.

59/2019 Community

a. Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should occur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants, and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of a poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday (a donation of £50 to £100 is usually given)

A point was raised regarding single use plastic, and whether there is an alternative medium available.

b. Christmas Decorations in the parish – various options were discussed, but it was recognised that it is difficult to centralise any decorations as there is no appropriate frontage in the parish. Supporting the lights through Langport was considered the most viable option at this time.

4 members of the public left at 8:14 pm.

60/2019 Accounts

a. to approve payments listed. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments listed.

Balances for the September Meeting

	Bal b/fwd				£48,593.68
Receipts	Allotment rents			£144.00	
	FBTA			£248.94	
	Academy car park			£880.85	
				£1,273.79	£1,273.79
					£48,867.47
Payments					
	RFO authorised				
	Allotment expenses	£37.01			
	PKF Littlejohn external audit	£360.00			
	Somerton computing	£23.00			
		£420.01	£420.01		
	To be authorised September				
	Salary clerk (Sept and Oct)	£973.34			
	Lengthsman (Sept and Oct)	£393.76			
	Clerk expenses	£48.65			
	SSDC car park rates	£847.00			
	SALC training	£25.00			
	Transfer into reserves	£15,000.00			
		£17,287.75	£17,287.75		£17,707.76
	Balance c/fwd				£32,159.71
	Reserves account balance b/fwd				£68,689.35
	Transfer from current account			£15,000.00	
	Balance of reserves account including new account deposit and interest received 1/9/2019				£83,689.35

It was **RESOLVED** to agree payment for £822.84 for the making safe of the war memorial after the collision.

b Current spend to budget It was **RESOLVED** to accept the current spend to budget as circulated for 2019/2020.

c. Bank reconciliation as circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the bank reconciliation as circulated up to 1 September 2019.

d. External auditor's conclusion of audit report. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the external auditor's conclusion of audit report.

e. Account transfer to Unity Trust. The transfer of banking facilities from Nat West to Unity Trust is now complete, all balances transferred.

f. Investment Policy. It is a legal requirement for the parish council to have an investment policy, as discussed at the last meeting. The clerk is still to explore a standard policy that would fit and can be tailored to fit HEPC, and consider investment options with a minimal risk

g. Allotment Society Subscription a renewal has been received and it was **RESOLVED**, after discussion not to renew at this time.

61/2019 Policy updates:

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the following policies:

Parish Council Action Plan. This currently summarises the decisions resolved in the past 12 months.

Risk assessment and management policy (reviewed).

Financial Reserve Policy (action point Internal Auditor report)

Data retention policy (action point Internal Auditor report).

Grant policy to take effect for grant applications from January 2020 – previous applicants for grants from the parish council are to be informed of the new process, and the policy is to be placed onto the community website.

62/2019 Grant applications

Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre requested up to £1800 towards a new defibrillator provision as the previous one is unable to be serviced. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should occur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants, and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of £1800 to provide a defibrillator at the leisure centre in Huish Episcopi.

63/2019 Date of next meeting 18 November 2019- apologies received from Cllr Redfearn

Meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

Appendix 1 Notes from the Public Session of the meeting 7:00pm until 7:15 pm

Member of the public wishing to speak about a planning application, will speak during that agenda item

Councillor V Saunders (Langport Town Council- LTC) informed of Network Rail works on the viaduct on North Moor in the new year. Plant and machinery requiring access to area via entrance near Travis Perkins, concern regarding the bus shelter impeding access.

Transition Langport is committed to plant 2020 trees in the year 2020. Offers of areas to plant the trees required please. Types of trees probably will be indigenous to the area, and possibly fruit or nut bearing.

Concern regarding nine dead hares found in Frog Lane and the police are involved.

Member of public clarified regarding trains passing through sounding horn/whistle. Goods trains do so, passenger trains seem not to. The concern is the pedestrian crossing over the line near Kelways.

Tiffany Osborne (TO) – District Councillor and Clare Paul (CP)- District (SSDC) and County Councillor (SCC) –

SSDC difficult to contact by phone. Planning is in disarray – applications taking a long time. There has been a changeover of staff, and SSDC are using agency staff. District Councillors also have issues getting through on the phone.

Ellitson, a sub company for Street Scene, is active and picking up where management services are failing in the area.

Full council meeting on Thursday this week, discussions regarding climate emergency. Comments in local press regarding the Audit Committee – the person chairing the audit committee should be independent and not from the majority party. Information in the public domain for viewing

Wearne Small Improvement Scheme (SIS), allowed for in the 2019/20 budget and hope that it will be completed in this financial year.

Possibility of 20mph speed limit outside education zones, the parish council to consider if this would be appropriate for Huish Episcopi. Issue is that a 20mph limit is not legally enforceable.

Brookland Road shop area - CP has sent offices recently to tidy up but SSDC do not want to take on responsibility. The issue is that the property is privately owned, and there is little that can be done enforcement wise.

Public session finished at 7:14pm.