

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 20 January 2020 at 7pm.

In attendance:

Cllr S Nicholas Chairman
Cllr G Lock
Cllr R Crumb
Cllr J Gadd
Cllr A Harris
Cllr B Horsgood
Cllr K Peto
Cllr J Redfearn

Lisa Newby Parish Clerk
Tiffany Osborne (TO) District Councillor (left 8:13pm)
9 members of the public (MOP)

Apologies: Cllr J Wood, County/District Councillor C Paul

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.

01/2020 To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reasons given - Apologies received from Cllr Wood, prior engagement. It was **RESOLVED** to receive apologies and approve the reasons given.

2 MOP left 7:15

02/2020. Declarations of interest. None

03/2020 Approval of Minutes. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes are a true record of the Parish Council meeting on 18 November 2019, and duly signed by the chairman.

04/2020 To adopt the General Power of Competence. It was **RESOLVED** that the parish council is eligible to use the General Power of Competence under the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 in that there are at least two thirds of elected members and a qualified clerk.

05/2020 Matters arising from the minutes.

a. A report was received from the clerk with updates on the war memorial, damaged parish sign, finance, allotments and phone box. The damaged bus shelter outside Travis Perkins has a replacement date of 10 March 2020. This is to be confirmed due to the extensive works by Network Rail.

A report reviewing the frequency of meetings of the Parish Council was presented to the Council. The report suggested a committee structure: finance and personnel committee with four council members, and an amenities committee with five council members. Councillors to review the proposal and discuss at the next Parish Council meeting in March 2020.

06/2020 Planning:

a. Applications received since last meeting

19/02920/S73A Millbrook Paradise, Paradise Lane, Huish Episcopi, Langport TA10 0DA removal of condition 3 (holiday let tie) for use of a building as a dwelling house. No Objections

19/03301/FUL -Highfield Farm, Windmill Lane, Huish Episcopi TA10 9EP - proposed alterations and extensions to building to provide holiday letting. It was **RESOLVED** that there are no objections to this application.

19/03415/FUL Vacant workshop at Former Atkins Garage Level View Pibsbury – proposed new 1.5 storey dwelling, carport and vehicular access. No objections

3 MOP left at 7:39 pm

b. To note applications still in progress:

19/02678/S73 vary condition 2 of application 17/04828/FUL Land OS Ducks Hill TA10 9EN – no objections

c. To note decisions notified since last meeting:

19/01716/FUL Extension to existing commercial units to provide additional B1/B2/B8(a) employment unit Westover garage – permitted with conditions.

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

Further amended plans received regarding this application, the parish council response remains unchanged. Application refused.

07/2020. To receive written or oral reports from Councillors attending meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

River Group meeting. A written report was received from the meeting on 27 November 2019.
LTC Tourism and Marketing Committee meeting on 3 December 2019. Cllr Gadd attended and a written report was received.

Community Speed Watch Verbal report received from Cllr Peto; two sessions completed 20 January 2020. More volunteers required. CSW sign has been removed in Pibsbury, new one to be obtained. New local PC attended the session.

LTC Climate working group Cllr Peto attended the initial meeting and a report was received. Next meeting is 6 February 2020, and a public exhibition at the Ridgway Hall on 29 February 2020.

Carbon Neutral meeting week commencing 20 January 2020.

Cycleway meeting on 20 November 2019 was attended by Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Lock, and a written report was received. Next meeting 22 January 2020.

Village Hall working group met on 12 January 2020, and a local planning consultant attended. Terms of reference for the working group is required before the next meeting, and a fact finding exercise of facilities available locally is now underway.

Network Rail drop in session regarding the maintenance works on the bridge and track through the parish. Due to finish at end August 2020, with the 24 hour working started. Footpaths have been closed without permission.

Footpaths there is a new person in post at Somerset County Council (SCC) coordinating the Parish Pathway Liaison Officers.

08/2020 Highways and car park.

a. Speed Indicator Device (SID). More volunteers are required to make the project more viable. Memorandum of Use (MOU) is with Somerset County Council to be agreed before locations can be added. Quotes for the device are being obtained. Training details discussed. Quotes for PPE still to be obtained.

b. Bus shelter update. It was **RESOLVED** to now confirm acceptance of the insurance settlement for the damaged bus shelter, after further investigation by the clerk. There is a provisional installation date of 10 March 2020, subject to Network Rail confirming no issues with this installation date and the access to the ongoing maintenance of the railway.

c. Westover Parking Proposal. A plan from Highways was circulated to show proposed installation of double yellow lines in Westover Industrial Area, which the Parish Council felt was somewhat extreme. Cllr Redfearn has been speaking with the proprietor of Westover Garage regarding the Parish Council considering supporting the installation of a parking area (for about 25-30 cars) near to the garage. Cllr Lock to speak with the proprietor to explore further.

09/2020 Community

It was **RESOLVED** to discuss item 09/2020 b before 09/2020 a.

b. Lengthsman. The parish lengthsman contract ends on 31 January 2020. There is a need to advertise quite quickly to find a replacement. Further action to contact South Somerset District Council for further information regarding this service.

Cllr Lock left at 8:05 pm.

a. Trees within the Parish. It was **RESOLVED** to approve entering into the Great Parish Tree Giveaway for trees for the Parish. An approach to be made to the Commoners about the moor, to replace those removed by Network Rail – Cllr Gadd to provide contact details. Network Rail are also intending to plant trees. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the donation of poplar trees by a local resident. Cllr Gadd to approach local landowner regarding planting.

Cllr Osborne left at 8:13pm

10/2020 Allotments

a. To review the allotment rules for 2020. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the reviewed allotment rules.

Recently a couple of the lower plots were flooded due to excessive rain. Cllr Crumb has renewed some of the internal fence posts.

11/2020 Accounts

a. to approve payments listed. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments listed, and to renew the Parish Council membership to CPRE at £36 per annum.

Balances for the January Meeting (as at 1 January 2020)

	Bal b/fwd				£28648.39
Receipts	Farm Business Tenancy Agreement			£1410.00	
	Wayleave Western Power			£21.58	
				£1431.58	£1431.58
					£30079.97
Payments	Payments authorised in November meeting				
	Increase in clerks salary Dec		£146.61		
	Grant to the Angel (resolved November meeting)		£1000.00		
	RFO authorised				
	HE Academy meeting room	£33.75			
	SFPA subs	£20.00			
	SLCC Clerks manual	£52.30			
	Bank charges (Oct to Dec 2019)	18.00			
		£124.05	£124.05		
	To be authorised January 2020				
	Salary clerk (Jan and Feb)	£1072.56			
	Lengthsman (Jan only)	£196.88			
	HMRC (Jan and Feb)	£268.00			
	Timeback accounts (Jan and Feb)	£10.00			
	Clerk expenses	£114.93			
	Langport Town Council re Langport Information Centre	£2000.00			
	SLCC Full Membership	£161.00			
	Annual Maintenance Contract	£965.00			
	Transfer of CIL monies to reserve account	£3087.42			
		£7875.7	£7875.79		
			£9146.45		£9146.45
	Balance c/fwd				£20933.52
	Reserves account balance b/fwd				£8740.94
	Interest received September to December 2020			£84.43	
	Transfer of CIL monies from current account			£3087.42	
				£3171.85	£3171.85
	Balance of reserves account including new account deposit and any interest received up to 01/01/2020.				£86912.79

b to approve bank reconciliation provided. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation provided and was signed by Cllr Horsgood.

c. To approved the draft budget for 2020/2021. After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to amend the proposed budget amount for grants and donations from £20000 to £25000, making the overall proposed budget for 2020/2021 to be £63860.00.

d. To approve the precept for 2020/2021. After considering the options provided by the clerk, it was **RESOLVED** to set the precept for 2020/2021 at £60000.00, which remains the same with a very small reduction (0.73%) to Band D for the parish.

Cllr Redfearn left at 8:37 pm

e. To receive the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) report for year end March 2019. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the CIL report as presented by the clerk.

f. Investment Policy. The proposed investment account with TSB agreed at the November 2019 meeting is no longer available, therefore other options need to be considered. It was **RESOLVED** to move £50,000 from the existing reserves account with Unity Trust to the instant access savings account offered by Nationwide.

MOP left at 8:43 pm

12/2020 Website Accessibility Legislation and the Community Website

A report about website accessibility legislation was presented by the clerk. Various options were presented about future action, but it was recognised that further details about the legislation requirements were needed. The clerk is to attend webinar training in early February 2020, and confirmed that all Parish Council content placed onto the website since August 2019 has been accessibility checked by the word processing package, to ensure compliance. The clerk is to work with the webmaster once further details are clarified.

78/2019 Date of next meeting 16 March 2020 after the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm.

Signed as a true record

Cllr Shirley Nicholas
Chairman

16 March 2020

Appendix 1 Notes from the Public Session of the meeting 7:00pm until 7:14 pm

Two members from the Flood Warden Scheme spoke about the draft flood plan that has been circulated previously, and requested support from the Parish Council. The flood warden's role is to assist vulnerable people in the community when there is a flood risk. The Climate Adaption committee, recently attended by Cllr Peto, is looking at medium to long term solutions on The Levels as a whole, but the Flood Warden Scheme is more about assisting when flooding occurs and building community resilience to the flooding risk.

Cllr Redfearn mentioned that the Rotary has an emergency response set up. There is a flood warden recruitment event at Huish Episcopi Primary School on Saturday 7 March. Residents in non-flood risk areas would make excellent flood wardens. The flood plan is about helping people, properties and businesses at risk.

Tiffany Osborne (TO) – District Councillor, South Somerset District Council (SSDC)

The current main issue is whether Somerset County Council (SCC) becomes a Unitary council or a council with two or three areas. SSDC wants to remain the same but with better cohesion. There is a business proposal from both SCC and SSDC which confirms that change is required.

Transformation within SSDC is still not smoothly running. Councillors cannot email directly for a response from officers. Planning seems to be the most affected, elongated timescales for planning decisions.

Public session finished at 7:14pm.