

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council (HEPC) held via the virtual platform 'Zoom Conference Facilities' on Monday 16th November at 7pm.

Present:

Cllr Shirley Nicholas - Chairman
Cllr Graham Lock - Vice Chairman
Cllr Robert Crumb
Cllr Julia Gadd
Cllr Arwyn Harris
Cllr Barry Horsgood
Cllr Keith Peto
Cllr Jane Redfearn
Cllr John Wood

Emma Curtis - Parish Clerk
County/District Councillor Clare Paul
District Councillor Tiffany Osborne
Six members of the public

On 4th April 2020 the Government introduced the Local Authorities (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings)(England) Regulations 2020 to allow local councils to meet remotely up to and including 7 May 2021.

Public session opened at 7:00pm.

There were no questions from the public. A report from Langport and Huish Episcopi Youth Group was received from Lisa Newby. A briefing was given by Cllr Paul, with additions from Cllr Osborne. Notes from the Youth Group report and County and District Cllr briefing are found in Appendix 1.

Public session closed at 7:15pm.

81/2020. To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reason given.

None received, all Cllrs present.

82/2020. Declarations of interest.

Cllr Peto declared that he was a friend of the person related to agenda item 88/2020/a requesting dog waste bins. It was agreed Cllr Peto would comment on the item but not vote.

83/2020. Approval of Minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2020 are a true record. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face Parish Council meeting. Cllr Peto requested that reports accompany the minutes, the Clerk commented they could be attached as appendices. This was agreed by Cllrs.

84/2020. Matters arising from the minutes.

None

85/2020. Planning:

a. To discuss applications received since last meeting:

20/02531/FUL. Erection of three four bedroom family homes with garages and associated parking. Land At Old Nursey Farm, Pibsbury, Langport, TA10 9EP

Considered between meetings via email, No Objections

20/02641/HOU. Erection of a conservatory with a tiled and insulated roof. 2 Kelways Cottages, Iris Way, Langport, TA10 9EF. **No Objections**

20/02759/FUL. The carrying out of alterations and the proposed conversion of a barn to a dwelling. Paradise Barn, Paradise Lane, Wearne, Langport, TA10 0DA. **It was noted that this application is in High Ham and the Clerk was instructed to email High Ham Parish Council and support reservations highlighted in a submission on the SSDC website.**

20/02738/FUL. Erection of general purpose agricultural building and agricultural worker's dwelling and garage. Horse Shoe Farm, Wood Drove, Huish Episcopi, Langport. **The Clerk was instructed to investigate whether this application is restricted by ADAS planning laws prior to a formal response being submitted.**

b. To note applications still in progress:

20/01112/FUL. Change of use of 2 existing holiday units to straightforward open market dwellings. Merricks Farm, Park Lane, Huish Episcopi. No objections

c. To note decisions notified since last meeting:

19/02678/S73. Vary condition 2 of approved plans Land OS 4562 Ducks Hill Langport TA10 9EN. **Application permitted with conditions (14/09/2020).**

d. To receive a presentation from PCL Planning Ltd regarding land north of Somerton Road:

Nicole Stacey, Associate Director of PCL Planning Ltd presented information on an upcoming proposal for development on land north of Somerton Road. Nicole referred Cllrs to a consultation leaflet which had been distributed and provided information on the proposed access, layout, density, public open spaces and landscaped areas. Cllrs debated the proposal and Nicole answered questions and comments raised by Cllrs.

86/2020 Highways and Car Park:

a. Bus Shelter on Somerton Road. The Clerk reported she had been working hard to bring this project to fruition and was currently awaiting further information from Persimmon Homes Director and legal team to confirm in a legal document that they intended to gift the land. Cllr Nicholas provided background information on the project and Cllr Harris expressed concern about lack of research showing demand for the shelter and any significant extra costs which the Parish Council may have to bear, Cllr Horsgood supported the idea of a costings exercise. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed and for the Clerk to investigate full costs of the project. Cllr Redfearn suggested a zebra crossing may be suitable and the Clerk confirmed she would find out details of the next Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) funding programme from Somerset County Council.

b. Speed Indicator Device (SID). Cllr Wood updated Cllrs on the SID programme and Cllr Peto provided an update on the statistics being gathered. Cllr Peto commented that the scheme would benefit from an extra battery and charger which would cost under £100. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the purchase of an extra battery and charger.

c. Westover Trading Estate Parking. Cllr Lock reported that two business owners had stated they would donate a portion of their land for use as a car park but addressed there may be concern with costs and a barrier would be required to allow only cars to park. It was **RESOLVED** to make contact with the business owners to try and move this forward. The Clerk stated she would respond to an email from a Somerset County Council Traffic Engineer to confirm the Parish Council supported the introduction of parking restrictions in the future.

d. HGV Route. Cllrs considered an email from High Ham Parish Council stating their desire to divert the HGV route away from High Ham. After discussion the consensus was that Huish Episcopi Parish Council does not support this suggestion and that a survey to monitor the movement of HGV's should be addressed.

87/2020 Reports from meetings and training attended by Cllrs since the last meeting

River Group Project Report. Cllr Gadd reported that the group was on track to claim remaining grant money due and that the River Group Counters Report had been circulated. Cllr Lock commented that the slipway was a disgrace and he had witnessed boat owners falling into the river. Cllr Gadd concluded by stating that a new slow down sign was needed for the car park.

Carbon Free/Environment Report. Cllr Peto referred members to his report which was circulated prior to the meeting, a copy can be found in Appendix 2. Cllr Peto confirmed that a grant request to the SSDC Climate Emergency Fund had been submitted and he thanked Cllr Tate from Langport Town Council for his assistance.

Abattoir Liaison Group. Cllr Harris referred Cllrs to the report circulated prior to the meeting, a copy of which can be found in Appendix 2.

Annie Tite Fund. Cllr Gadd was pleased to announce that a beneficiary would be receiving funding to support their PHD.

88/2020 Community

a. Dog Waste Bins. Cllrs considered the request for two new dog waste bins and there need within the Parish. Cllr Redfearn commented that this had been previously considered and the SSDC Dog Warden had stated new bins were not required. The Clerk informed Cllrs that the bins and a contract for waste collection may be costly. It was **RESOLVED** not to proceed with this request at the present time but to monitor the situation.

b. Bartletts Elm. Cllrs considered the issue of maintenance of the Wildlife Corridor and received information from Cllr Clare Paul who had been working on the issue with SSDC Streetscene and Yarlinton. Cllr Horsgood reported he had seen a contractor tidying the area and Cllr Wood commented he felt the community could assist in the maintenance. Following debate, it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would not assist in the maintenance of the Wildlife Corridor at this time.

c. s106 monies for new Changing Rooms. Cllr Nicholas reported on the project and stated that new plans for the changing rooms were being drawn up. The Clerk requested that Council agree that once the plans had been received and approved, tenders could be gained for the works before starting the process of drawing down funds from SSDC. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the design and gain tenders once the design had been approved.

d. Social Media. Cllr Harris stated he felt it would be beneficial for the Council to have a social media presence via a Facebook page in order to engage with the community. Cllr Harris noted that procedures and protocols would need to be adhered to. Cllr Peto commented he had spoken with the admin of the Langport Town Council Facebook page and it had been agreed the two Councils could share the page. Cllr Gadd stated Twitter feeds could be implemented. The Social Media Policy was reviewed and was readopted, the Clerk expressed concern that social media would need to be managed adequately. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with sharing the Langport Town Council Facebook page and for Cllr Peto and Cllr Harris to become admins. It was further **RESOLVED** to readopt the Social Media Policy.

e. Badger Culling. A discussion about the pros and cons of badger culling was undertaken with various views shared following information received from SSDC. To conclude it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would not support SSDC's motion and would continue to allow badger culling on Parish Council land.

f. Unitary Authority. The Clerk reported that she would continue to send any updates to Cllrs via email as and when received from One Somerset or Stronger Somerset.

89/2020 Accounts

a. To resolve to approve payments listed

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

Receipts and Payments for November meeting (up to 1st November 2020)	Debit	Credit	Totals
Current account balance brought forward from September 2020			£43,610.96
Receipts			
GTH FBTA Board		£1,300.02	
GTH FBTA Board		£148.94	
GTH FBTA Board		£100.00	
		£1,548.96	£45,159.92
Totals authorised at September meeting	-£6,760.73		£38,399.19
RFO Authorised			
R Crumb Refund Allotment Expenses	£6.73		
Timeback Accounts Payroll August	£5.00		
Timeback Accounts Payroll September & Starter and Leaver	£25.00		
Mindset Training SID Streetworks Training	£468.00		
HMRC	£382.88		
Clerk Salary (October)	£562.06		
Clerk Expenses (September and October)	£85.48		
SSDC Rates (Direct Debit)	£861.00		

	-£2,696.15		
Agreed to Statement 022 dated 1st November 2020			£35,703.04
Payments to be authorised in November meeting			
Timeback Accounts Payroll October	£5.00		
Scribe Financial Software Annual Software Licence	£561.60		
Henstridge Parish Council Printing Costs	£5.80		
Clerk Salary (November and December)	£1,124.12		
The Poppy Appeal Remembrance Wreath	£100.00		
HMRC (November and December)	£280.80		
Lengthsman (November and December)	£600.00		
Reserve Account Balances 1st November 2020			
Unity Reserve Account			£47,029.72
Nationwide Reserve Account			£50,029.38
Total reserves balance c/fwd to January meeting			£97,059.10

b. To note the purchase of Scribe financial management software

Noted. The Clerk confirmed she had completed updating all the current financial data and was looking at the variety of reports available on the software.

c. To receive the bank reconciliation up to 1st November 2020, to be signed by a Councillor who is not a bank account signatory

It was noted that the bank reconciliation up to 1st November 2020 had been circulated and would be signed by Cllr Gadd who is not a bank account signatory.

d. To receive bank account balances up to 1st November 2020

It was noted that bank account balances up to 1st November 2020 had been circulated.

e. To note CIL income of £144

Noted.

f. To consider earmarking funds towards Langport Cares during the Covid-19 pandemic

It was **RESOLVED** to donate £250 to Langport Cares.

90/20202 Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Monday 18th January 2021 at 7:00pm**. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic the meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing Facilities.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.