

# *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 18<sup>th</sup> January 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  
Four members of the public

On 4<sup>th</sup> 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 was a brief presentation from a member of Langport Transport Group looking at a new train station for Langport and Somerton informing members of their intention to submit a grant request. Briefings were given by Cllr Paul and Cllr Osborne. Notes from the briefings are found in Appendix 1.**

**Public session closed at 7:19pm.**

**01/2021. To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reason given.**

None received, all Cllrs present.

**02/2021. Declarations of interest.**

None received

**03/2021. Approval of Minutes.**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 are a true record. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face Parish Council meeting.

**04/2021. Matters arising from the minutes.**

None

**05/2021. Planning:**

**a. To discuss applications received since last meeting:**

**20/02257/HOU** Willowbrook, Pounsell Lane, Huish Episcopi, Langport  
Erection of a single storey extension, garage/workshop and porch

**No Objections, but Cllrs noted the design was not aesthetically pleasing.**

**20/03267/FUL** Windfall Orchard, Windmill Lane, Pibsbury

Change of use of land and formation of 2 no. additional Traveller pitches including 2 no. mobile homes, 2 no. touring caravans and associated works.

**Objection, Cllrs there would be a negative visual impact on the area.**

**b. To note applications still in progress:**

**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, 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, No Objections.*

**c. To note decisions notified since last meeting:**

**20/02641/HOU.** Erection of a conservatory with a tiled and insulated roof. 2 Kelways Cottages, Iris Way, Langport, TA10 9EF

*Decision: Application Permitted with Conditions*

**d. To note receipt of Appeal Decision from The Planning Inspectorate**

**APP/R3325/W/20/3257170** Cider Barn, Combe, Langport, TA10 0QG

The development proposed is a demolition of existing agricultural stone barn and redevelopment of 3 bedroom, detached two storey house with garage

*Decision: Appeal Dismissed*

## **06/2021 Highways and Car Park:**

### **a. Bus shelter on Somerton Road.**

The Clerk reported she had not been successful in progressing matters with Persimmon Homes despite chasing numerous times. Cllr Harris commented that the project was taking much time and effort and suggested it be revisited at a later date. It was agreed to continue pursuing the matter for a few more months.

### **b. Speed Indicator Device (SID).**

Cllrs Wood and Peto provided an update on the programme and referred Cllrs to a report circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Wood stated that a new post was being installed along Newton Road before Easter and suggested that residents may wish to come forward to assist the Community Speed Watch Team. Cllr Peto stated that statistics could be found on a dedicated website. Cllr Gadd commented she hoped that police checks would commence with Cllr Crumb commenting that after a conversation with a police officer it had been confirmed they would be attending within the month.

### **c. Westover Trading Estate Parking.**

Cllr Redfearn provided an update and report on this project, a copy of the report can be found in Appendix 2. Cllr Lock suggested that another meeting would take place, with the Clerk in attendance once lockdown restrictions are eased. Cllr Redfearn proposed that she proceed with gaining quotations for the project so that an accurate estimate of cost was received. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the attaining three quotations.

### **d. Damage to bus shelter.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Clerk to sign the Form of Authority for Crawford Legal Services.

### **e. HGV Route.**

Cllrs considered an email sent from High Ham Parish Council to Somerset Highways requesting their desire to diver the HGV route away from High Ham. It was **RESOLVED** to write to both Somerset Highways and High Ham Parish Council to lodge a form response and inform them that cannot support request.

### **f. Muchelney Road.**

Cllrs considered an email from a resident regarding a lack of pavement along Muchelney Road requesting that one be installed. It was agreed that room would not allow for a pavement. Cllr Harris suggested that traffic calming measures could be considered. Cllr Crumb recommend a couple of new signs could be installed highlighting alternative routes. Cllrs noted that a sign which had been damaged and reported to Highways was still in a hedge. Cllr Paul confirmed she would follow this up.

### **g. Newton Road.**

Cllrs deliberated an email from a parishioner relating to speeding along Newton Road. This issue was covered under agenda item 06/2021/b.

## **07/2021 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting**

**River Group Project report.** Cllr Gadd reported that she was in attendance at the last meeting but there was little to report other than the requirement for new signage.

**Carbon Free/Environment report.** Cllr Peto stated that he had received the footprint calculator and that this was currently being trialled. A full copy of Cllr Peto's report can be found in Appendix 2.

**Abbatoir Liaison Group.** Cllr Harris provided a verbal report based on his report circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The report can be found at Appendix 2 and also details Social Media.

**Youth Club.** Annie Shillaber joined the meeting and provided information on the Youth Club and its operations leading up to and during the current lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Annie reported that since lockdown Youth Club was continuing via Social Media and support was being offered in the means of welfare packages and check-ins.

**Agricultural Lands.** Cllr Lock commented that he required another Cllr to assist with the Agricultural Lands committee. Cllr Gadd volunteered and this was agreed by Cllrs.

## **08/2021 Community**

### **a. s106 monies for new Changing Rooms.**

Cllrs considered the changing room designs as received with Cllr Horsgood stating that although the designs are impressive the Council currently had no idea on the cost of the project and queried whether planning permission was required. Despite seeking advice from SSDC no response had been received, Cllr Paul stated she would chase this up. In order to know how much grant funding may be required, it was understood that three estimates from builders would need to be gathered. It was **RESOLVED** to seek confirmation on whether planning permission is required and to then proceed with gathering estimates from three contractor.

### **b. Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr Harris provided details on Neighbourhood Plans and stated the benefits a plan may provide. He acknowledged the procedure for producing a Neighbourhood Plan and the costs involved and proposed that a working party was set up to look into producing a plan. Cllr Gadd stated that although the idea was good in principle, she was concerned about the possibility of the plan not being adopted at referendum and money being wasted. Cllr Redfearn added that the Council had received information and considered a plan a few years ago but that Cllrs could benefit from an up-to-date briefing. Cllr Wood commented on advantages and disadvantages of a plan noting that any CIL payments in the future may be minimal. Cllr Crumb supported Cllr Harris's proposal. To conclude it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with arranging an up-to-date Neighbourhood Plan briefing and training session.

### **c. National Leisure Recovery Fund.**

Item not discussed as the funding scheme had closed.

### **d. Climate Emergency Fund.**

Cllrs noted that the Climate Emergency Fund decision making had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic as staff had been redeployed.

### **e. Donation for laptops.**

Cllr Gadd and Cllr Crumb discussed the requirement for further tablets or laptops for children at the primary school following Cllr Crumb's suggestion. In her role as Governor, Cllr Gadd provided further information about families in need and the pupil premium. Cllrs discussed the proposal in detail and it was **RESOLVED** to provide a donation of £1,000 to the primary school. Cllr Crumb was asked to address the idea with Langport Town Council and to feedback to the school.

## **09/2021 Council**

### **a. Website.**

Cllr Wood withdrew his request for this as an agenda item. However, it was agreed by Cllrs that the final decision for website content would lie with the Webmaster unless there is a contentious issue which would require consideration by the Council.

### **b. Noticeboard.**

It was agreed that the Cllr responsible for updating the noticeboard information would wipe it down and keep it clean once a month.

### **c. Meetings.**

It was **RESOLVED** to move to monthly meetings of the Council once the current lockdown restrictions had eased with no meetings being held in the months of August and December. This would be a trial for six months and would be reviewed accordingly.

### **d. Allotments.**

Cllr Crumb addressed a number of issues and concerns he had at the allotments. The Clerk apologised for failing to circulate his email to Cllrs prior to the meeting with the meeting papers. It was agreed that the report and items would be considered out of committee via email and the Lengthsman contract reviewed.

## 10/2021 Accounts

### a. To resolve to approve payments listed

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

Receipts and Payments for January meeting (up to 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2021)	Debit	Credit	Totals
Current account balance brought forward from November 2020			<b>£35,703.04</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
VAT Refund		£1,370.60	
CIL		£144.00	
Langport Town Council (Tree Cutting)		£857.50	
		£2372.10	
<b>Totals authorised at November meeting</b>	<b>-£2,657.32</b>	<b>£2372.10</b>	<b>£35,397.82</b>
<b>RFO Authorised</b>			
Langport Cares Donation	£250.00		
Clerk Expenses (November)	£24.39		
SALC (Code of Conduct Training)	£25.00		
SSDC (Tree Works)	£2,058.00		
SALC (GDPR Training)	£50.00		
Cleancut (Bus Shelter Cleaning)	£60.00		
Mr Rix (Boots for SID installation)	£22.99		
Timeback Accounts (Payroll)	£5.00		
Somerset Playing Fields Association (Affiliation Fee)	£15.00		
ClIr Peto (SID Battery and Charger)	£56.47		
Clerk Expenses (December)	£14.39		
O2i Design Consultants (Changing Room Design)	£1,630.50		
Bank Service Charge	£18.00		
	<b>-£4,229.74</b>		
<b>Agreed to Statement 023 dated 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>			<b>£31,168.08</b>
<b>Payments to be authorised in January meeting</b>			
Timeback Accounts (Payroll)	£5.00		
Henstridge Parish Council Printing Costs	£13.20		
Henstridge Parish Council (Clerk training/SLCC membership)	£137.50		
Clerk Salary (January and February)	£1,123.72		
HMRC (January and February)	£281.20		
Lengthsman (January and February)	£600.00		
<b>Reserve Account Balances 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b>			
Unity Reserve Account			£47,029.72
Nationwide Reserve Account			£50,029.38
<b>Total reserves balance c/fwd to March meeting</b>			<b>£97,059.10</b>

### b. To receive the bank reconciliations provided

Circulation of the bank reconciliations was noted. It was **RESOLVED** the reconciliations would be signed at a later date.

### c. To consider and approve the draft budget for 2021/2022

The draft budget was considered. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the draft budget as presented.

### d. To consider and approve precept for 2021/2022

The three precept calculations were considered. It was **RESOLVED** to set the precept at £63,000 which is a 5% increase but a reduction of 1.13% to a Band D taxpayer. Approval was given for the Clerk to sign and submit the precept request form to SSDC.

**11/2021. Date of next meeting.**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 7:00pm**. Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic the meeting will be held via Zoom Conferencing Facilities.

**The meeting closed at 9:29pm.**

Draft