

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council (HEPC) held via virtual platform 'Zoom Conference Facilities' on Monday 15th March 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 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.

Representatives from the Youth Group asked if there were any questions regarding their grant application being considered later in the meeting. No questions were asked. Briefings were given by CLlr Paul and CLlr Osborne. Notes from the briefings are found in Appendix 1.

Public session closed at 7:08pm.

12/2021. To receive apologies for absence, and to note and approve reason given.

None received, all Cllrs present.

13/2021. Declarations of interest.

Received from Cllr Horsgood, agenda items 19a and 21e – member of the Langport and Huish Episcopi Memorial Field Committee

Received from Cllr Crumb – Langport Town Cllr

14/2021. Approval of Minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2021 are a true record. The minutes will be signed at the next face to face Parish Council meeting.

15/2021. Matters arising from the minutes.

None.

16/2021. Planning:

a. To consider applications received since last meeting:

21/00097/HOU Kings Orchard, Kennel Lane, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9SB

Construction of single story rear extension with a single garage to side and a loft conversion

Considered between meetings, No Objections

21/00192/HOU 1 Maple Road, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9TG

Removal of existing porch and erection of a new single storey extension to form WC and larger hall.

Removal of front boundary wall. New drop kerb for additional parking.

Considered between meetings, No Objections

20/03587/FUL Telephone Exchange, North Street, Langport, Somerset, TA10 9RR

It is proposed to remove glass from one window on the ground floor south elevation. An aluminium ventilation louvre will be installed and fixed to the wooden window frame

Considered between meetings, No Objections providing no objections from neighbours

21/00219/HOU Mulberry House, Pibsbury, Langport, TA10 9EJ

Proposed Two Storey Rear Extension

Considered between meetings, No Objections

21/00390/HOU 87 Bartletts Elm, Langport, TA10 9BS

Two storey side extension and single garage

Considered between meetings, No Objections but the Parish Council requests that concerns raised by neighbours regarding the wildlife corridor, badger run and garage soakaway are considered.

b. To note applications still in progress:

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.

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:

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

Decision: Application Permitted with Conditions

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

Decision: Application Refused

17/2021 Highways and Car Park:

a. Bus shelter on Somerton Road.

The Clerk reported she had still not been successful in progressing matters with Persimmon Homes despite continual chasing and having contact details for a Director. It was agreed to pursue the project for one more month with the assistance of Cllr Nicholas.

b. Speed Indicator Device (SID).

Cllr Wood reported that he had now taken on a support role for the installation team and that Cllr Peto was leading the project. Cllr Wood stated they were still waiting for new posts to be installed which should take place before the end of March. Cllr Peto commented that the scheme was going well and that the team were considering how to provide statistics to Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

c. Westover Trading Estate Parking.

Cllr Redfearn referred Cllrs to the documentation supplied prior to the meeting detailing a specification for works and quotations. Cllr Redfearn acknowledged that the project was more expensive than anticipated and welcomed feedback from Cllrs as to whether to proceed with the proposal. Cllr Gadd commented that it appeared to be very expensive and queried what benefit it would be to parishioners, she also requested further financial information such as maintenance costs and lease prices. Cllr Gadd suggested that stone from the railway works could be used as a cheaper option. Cllr Wood reiterated Cllr Gadd's comments and expressed concern about ongoing costs and whether Langport Town Council had been approached to aid financially with the proposal. Cllr Crumb commented that the costs appeared to be outrageous and the only benefit would be for the garage owner. Cllrs further discussed the benefits and disadvantages of the scheme with Cllr Lock expressing concern that visitors to the trading estate wouldn't park further away and walk to the businesses they were visiting. To conclude, it was **RESOLVED** to continue with further investigations into the project, gain further information and costings prior to a final decision being made.

d. Muchelney Road.

Cllrs considered the latest email from a resident. It was **RESOLVED** to refer the residents to Somerset Highways as it falls under their jurisdiction.

e. Newtown Park.

Cllrs considered an email from a resident who had been cutting the grass asking for funding towards a new mower. Cllrs noted that the mowing of the grass at Newtown Park should be undertaken by a contractor as per their works schedule. The Clerk was requested to remind the contractor of their obligations and inform the resident that at this time the request for funding for a new mower was denied due to these reasons.

18/2021 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting

River Group Project report. Cllr Gadd reported she was in attendance at the last meeting and that a grant application had been submitted. Cllr Gadd stated that the group had considered the requirement for continued meetings but confirmed they would still happen on a less frequent basis. It was noted that the remit had been broadened to an outdoor pursuits group. Cllr Lock stated that there had been some disturbances during the night which had required police involvement.

Carbon Free/Environment report. Cllr Peto referred Cllrs to the report circulated prior to the meeting and provided information about a Carbon Footprint tool. A copy of the report can be found at Appendix 2. Since submission of the report Cllr Peto was delighted to announce that the application to the Climate Emergency Fund had been successful and a total of £52,600 was being granted towards the Carbon Neutral Huish Episcopi Project.

Abbatior Liaison Group. Cllr Harris reported that the group have been unable to meet due to the pandemic. Cllr Harris's report can be found in Appendix 2 with information about Social Media.

Any other reports not listed. Cllr Peto confirmed that Speed Watch had commenced again on 8th March and along with speeding, the team had identified untaxed and uninsured vehicles.

19/2021 Community

a. New Changing Rooms. The Clerk reported that the pre-application report received from SSDC Planning Department confirmed that the changing rooms would require planning permission. The Clerk requested that members confirm their approval of the design and for planning permission to be sought by the design contractor along with commencing the tender process. Approval of the design was agreed and it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with gaining planning permission and to commence the tender process along with looking for any available grants.

b. Neighbourhood Plan. Following an information session held earlier in the month Cllr Harris proposed that members consider commencing the process of implementing a Neighbourhood Plan with the first stage being the formation of a Working Party including stakeholders and liaising with Langport Town Council. Cllr Harris confirmed he was happy to lead the project, with Cllr Crumb confirming his support. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the formation of a Working Party to look into commencing the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan.

c. Somerset Day. Cllrs considered the purchase of a Somerset Flag and flagpole to celebrate Somerset Day. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the purchase of a flagpole for the War Memorial area and the purchase of a Somerset Flag.

d. Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk provided information regarding the current Covid-19 legislation ceasing on 7th May and therefore the Annual Parish Meeting would have to take place virtually prior to this date. It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19th April at 6pm prior to the next Parish Council Meeting.

e. Huish Episcopi Primary School. Cllrs noted the letter of thanks from the primary school for the donation of £1,000 towards IT equipment.

20/2021 Council

a. Allotments. Cllr Crumb referred Cllrs to quotes received for new fencing and Cllrs considered a complaint received regarding cherry tree and its roots impacting on an allotment plot. Cllr Crumb also reminded the Council that the water pump was due to be serviced. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote for £780 for the new fencing and instruct a local contractor to service the water pump. Cllrs further **RESOLVED** to offer the allotment complainant a reduced rent in the next financial year due to the inconvenience of roots underneath the plot.

b. Lengthsman. Cllrs noted that the current contractor had relinquished their contract. It was **RESOLVED** to go to tender for new contractor using the current works schedule. It was agreed that in the interim a local contractor conducting other work for the Council would complete the work.

c. Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Clerk provided information regarding the current Covid-19 legislation ceasing on 7th May and therefore the Annual Parish Council Meeting would have to take place virtually prior to this date. It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 6th May.

d. SALC. Cllrs noted an email from SALC regarding return to face-to-face meetings.

21/2021 Accounts

a. To resolve to approve payments listed.

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

Supplier/Contractor	Narrative	Amount
CPRE – The Countryside Charity	Membership	£36.00
Henstridge Parish Council	Printing/Paper	£21.90
Timeback Accounts	Payroll	£5.00
Staff	Clerks Salary (March & April)	£1,123.72
HMRC	PAYE (March & April)	£281.20
Langport Town Council	Langport and Huish Cycleway Contribution	£1,000.00

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 receive of Quarter 3 report and summary account reports as provided.

Receipt of the Quarter 3 report and summary account reports was noted. No queries were raised.

d. To note satisfactory conclusion of half yearly internal audit and receive report.

Satisfactory conclusion of the half yearly internal audit and report was received and noted.

e. To consider grant application forms from:

Langport and Huish Episcopi Memorial Field Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application for £6,500

Langport and Huish Episcopi Youth Group

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application for £7,000

Langport Transport Group

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application for £3,000

22/2021. Date of next meeting:

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

The meeting closed at 8:48pm

Signed as a true record

Cllr Shirley Nicholas