

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Huish Episcopi Parish Council (HEPC) held at Huish Episcopi Primary School on Monday 19th July 2021 at 7pm.

Present:

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

Emma Curtis Parish Clerk
County/District Councillor Clare Paul (arrived 7.05pm)
District Councillor Tiffany Osborne (arrived 7.05pm)

There were three members of the public in attendance, no questions were asked. Cllr Paul and Cllr Osborne arrived later in the meeting. A copy of their report can be found in Appendix 1

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

46/2021. Apologies for Absence. None received.

47/2021. Declarations of interest. Received from Cllr Horsgood, agenda item 54/2021/a; Cllr Lock agenda items 54/2021/f and 55/2021/e; Cllr Peto agenda item 54/2021/a and Cllr Crumb – Langport Town Cllr.

48/2021. Approval of Minutes. It was **RESOLVED** following a minor amendment that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2021 are a true record. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

49/2021. Matters arising from the minutes. No matters arising.

50/2021. Planning:

a. To consider applications received since last meeting:

21/01944/FUL Windmill Farm, Pibsbury, Langport, TA10 9EJ

Proposed change of use of land for the stationing of 2no. shepherd hut holiday lets and the change of use of existing building to 1no. holiday let and associated storage facility

No Objections

21/01590/HOU Apple Acre, Sandpits Hill, Langport, TA10 0NG

Alterations/Rebuilding to the front of the Property.

Considered between meetings, No Objections

21/01570/HOU 12 St Marys Park, Huish Episcopi, TA10 9HD

Erection of single storey rear extension

Considered between meetings, No Objections

21/01782/HOU Mulberry House, Pibsbury, Langport, TA10 9EJ

First Floor Extension over Existing Utility & Garage to Provide Master Bedroom to Replace Permission 21/00219/HOU

Considered between meetings, No Objections

21/01595/LBC Old Kelways, Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi, Langport, TA10 9SJ

Erection of a stud wall to sub-divide one internal space (no exterior works to be carried out) (retrospective)

Considered between meetings, No Objections but loss of amenity noted

21/01624/COU Old Kelways, Somerton Road, Huish Episcopi, Langport, TA10 9SJ

Change of use of Listed Building part of ex pub & restaurant floorspace at Old Kelways to Class E(a) (Display or retail sale of goods) (retrospective)

Considered between meetings, No Objections but loss of amenity noted

b. To note decisions notified since last meeting:

20/02997/COL 2 Gainsmarsh Farm, Pibsbury, Langport, TA10 9EH

Certificate of Lawful Use of building for residential Use Class C3a

Application Permitted

21/00429/PAMB Land OS 0720, Wood Drove, Huish Episcopi, Langport ,
Notification of prior approval for conversion of agricultural barn into dwelling
Application Permitted With Conditions

Cllr Wood requested that planning applications still being considered be added to the agenda so that they do not get lost in the planning system and requested the Clerk follow up planning application 21/00311/OUT

51/2021 Highways and Car Park

a. Bus shelter on Somerton Road. To receive an update on the project or consider other options: The Clerk confirmed that the proposed project with Persimmon Homes had come to a standstill and would not come to fruition. Cllr Paul stated the Council should identify the need and possible location for a shelter within the parish and consult with Highways when specifics had been agreed. Cllrs discussed possible locations and ownership concerns of land on Somerton Road. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Cllr Paul would follow up with Highways and endeavour to arrange a site visit.

b. Speed Indicator Device (SID). To receive an update on the SID programme: Cllr Peto stated that all sites were now operational and the new post had been installed but that a hedge required cutting along Somerton Road. Cllr Peto confirmed that Avon and Somerset police are now being provided with statistics and would be providing feedback. The top speed so far recorded is 74mph through Newtown. Cllr Peto provided details on a Speed Campaign being run by Avon and Somerset Constabulary and details about a Speedwatch meeting arranged by South Somerset District Council.

c. Westover Trading Estate Parking. To receive an update on a parking area project and consider amended quotations: Cllr Redfearn provided an update on the project including the amended quotes, lease and rental charges. It was acknowledged that the reduced quotes were still very high and there didn't appear to be much enthusiasm for the project due to the steep costs. Cllr Redfearn commented the Council may look back at the project as missed opportunity. It was **RESOLVED** to put into abeyance for the time being.

d. Damaged Fence. To note damaged fence at St Marys Church Car Park and consider any action required – Cllr Lock stated that he and Cllr Horsgood had inspected the fence and it appeared to have been vandalised. Cllr Wood explained that the fence did belong to the Parish Council and was their responsibility to repair. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Lock would arrange for the fence to be repaired accordingly.

e. Street Naming. To consider request from South Somerset Street Naming for new addresses off Newtown Road – Cllrs considered the suggested names shared via email and agreed to remove any with close links to current named road and surnames. It was **RESOLVED** to submit the amended list to SSDC once clarified by Cllrs via email.

52/2021 Reports from meetings and training attended by councillors since the last meeting

River Group Project report: Cllr Crumb reported the group had now folded and a new one had been formed named OPAL. Cllr Gadd stated OPAL stands for Outdoor Pursuits and Leisure. Cllr Lock stated that the last meeting mainly focused on cycleways and footpaths. Cllr Crumb commented that an informal meeting was expected over the summer to set up a CIO.

Carbon Free/Environment report – Cllr Peto provided an update on the Climate Emergency Fund project including its project management. Cllr Peto stated that the award included £1,500 to support an arts project to commemorate the 4 installations and that Somerset Art

Works had been consulted and would be involved in the project but that more funds were required for a successful arts competition. Cllr Peto proposed the Council donate £500 towards the project. It was **RESOLVED** that HEPC would donate £500 towards the arts project. Full report can be found in Appendix 1.

Abattoir Liaison Group: Cllr Harris confirmed that the group would be meeting in person on August 2nd in the new canteen, socially distanced with face coverings. Full report can be found in Appendix 1.

Any other reports not listed: Cllr Lock reported that some gateways had been damaged by the Environment Agency and that new gateways were being installed. Cllr Horsgood reported that the Youth Club would be running three sessions a week in the summer holidays and that £2,000 in grant funding had been received for music and kickboxing and a new youth worker had been employed. Cllr Crumb reported that the allotments are all doing well and he had cut the hedge round gateway and by track as there was currently no lengthsman. To conclude Cllr Crumb stated the Somerset County Council would shortly be cutting the grass on some footpaths and renewing styles and gates making them dog friendly.

53/2021 Community

a. New Changing Rooms. To receive an update on the project: No update received as the planning application was still being produced. Cllr Nicholas stated she would chase the contractor.

b. Neighbourhood Plan. To receive an update on the formation of a NHP working party: Cllr Harris reported that the project was progressing slowly but that he had attended Langport Town Council meeting to garner interest and the consensus was that further information was required. Cllr Harris proposed that an open meeting be held in the Autumn for residents and interested parties to gather as much information and interest which could then be presented to prospective Council, followed by the formation of a working party. The Clerk suggested the NHP Consultant be invited to present at the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to put the project in abeyance for a couple of months.

c. Climate Emergency Fund. To receive an update on the project and consider funding towards prize for arts competition of £500: This item was covered under agenda item 52/2021.

d. Defibrillator. To consider best price for purchase of defibrillator – The Clerk reported that the Westover defibrillator had been ordered by Langport Town Council, despite HEPC stating they would purchase it directly. Cllr Horsgood stated that he was able to source a defibrillator at a fraction of the price. The Clerk provided details of emails with Langport Town Council regarding the purchase and order. The Clerk was tasked with following the item up with Langport Town Council.

e. Fingerpost Sign. To consider quotes received to refurbish the fingerpost sign: Cllrs considered the quotes provided. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with Quote B at £1240 + VAT and get the fingerpost sign refurbished.

f. St Mary's Churchyard. To consider maintenance of St Mary's Churchyard: The Clerk reported this item had been added to the agenda following some email correspondence between Cllrs regarding what the maintenance grant actually covered. The Clerk stated that no grant applications had been submitted in recent years and that this was a requirement to ensure fairness, transparency and governance. Cllrs discussed the legalities regarding granting to the churchyard and agreed that it was a grey area. The Clerk reminded Cllrs they had the General Power of Competence. Clarification was provided about what maintenance

the grant covered and it was noted that the churchyard was the only burial ground within the parish. Cllr Peto requested that if any other religious movement settled in the village, any grant application from them be considered directly and fairly. Cllr Harris commented on the amount of funds shown in the bank statements and it was reported that these were restricted ringfenced funds. It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £1750 to St Marys for the maintenance of the churchyard. Cllrs Harris and Horsgood abstained.

54/2021 Council

a. Lengthsman. To consider tenders received for the Lengthsman contract: Quotes and information received from contractors were considered and Cllr Lock proposed the council proceed with the SSDC Ranger Scheme which was seconded by Cllr Redfearn. Cllr Horsgood expressed his disappointment that a local contractor was not being proposed. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the SSDC Ranger Scheme for a trial one-year contract. Cllrs Nicholas and Horsgood abstained. Cllr Wood expressed his thanks to Cllr Horsgood for sorting out the grass cutting between contracts.

b. Joint meetings with Langport Town Council. To consider the reintroduction of joint meetings with Langport Town Council: Cllrs considered informal meetings to discuss ideas with Langport Town Council. Meetings would include the Clerks, Chairman, and Vice Chairman and two other Cllrs depending on availability and agenda items. Meetings would be quarterly. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed in principle pending agreement with Langport Town Council.

c. Meetings Venue. To consider relocating Parish Council meetings to Huish Episcopi Primary School: It was **RESOLVED** to relocate HEPC meetings to Huish Episcopi Primary School. The Headteacher was thanked for use of the hall.

d. Grant Funding Policy. To review and amend if required the Council's Grant Funding Policy and Application Form: It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the application form and policy as presented.

e. Roles and Responsibilities. To review Parish Council members roles and responsibilities on working groups and committees: It was **RESOLVED** to amend Cllr roles and responsibilities as shown:

Staffing: Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Lock.

Land Management (including Lengthsman): Cllr Lock and Cllr Redfearn.

Development Control Planning: Cllr Nicholas, Cllr Lock and one other (nearest to the location).

Memorial Field: Cllr Nicholas, Cllr Horsgood

Allotments Liaison: Cllr Crumb

Abattoir Liaison: Cllr Harris

Environment Champion: Cllr Peto

Footpaths: Cllr Crumb, Cllr Gadd

Langport and Huish Episcopi Youth Group: Cllr Nicholas, Cllr Horsgood

Annie Tite Fund: Cllr Wood

LTC Tourism and Marketing Committee: Cllr Gadd

War Memorial: Cllr Wood

Speed Watch/SID: Cllr Peto, Cllr Wood,

f. Curry Rivel Parish Council. To consider letter from Curry Rivel Parish Council regarding the Cycle and Pedestrian Path: Cllr Lock stated that the footpath already appeared safe and hedges are cut regularly. Cllr Crumb reported he was under the impression the fundraising amount had already been met, the Clerk confirmed she would check. It was **RESOLVED** to put the item in abeyance for the time being.

55/2021 Accounts

a. To receive the bank reconciliations provided and sign as approved: Bank reconciliations were received and it was **RESOLVED** to sign as approved. Cllr Wood signed the reconciliations.

b. To review earmarked reserves: It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the September meeting.

c. To receive Quarter 1 budget report: Receipt of the Quarter 1 budget report was noted. No questions were raised.

d. To note listed payments approved between meetings with delegated authority: The list of payments was noted, no questions were raised.

e. To consider grant applications from: *Cllr Lock left the room for this item.*

Huish Episcopi and Langport Cricket Club: It was **RESOLVED** to award the grant request of £500.

Mind in Somerset: Cllrs considered this application but it was felt there was not enough evidence of how parishioners of Huish Episcopi would benefit so the application was dismissed.

56/2021. Date of next meeting: The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 20th September 2021 at Huish Episcopi Primary School.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.