Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

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Minutes of a Meeting of Huish Episcopi Parish Council held at Huish Episcopi Primary School on Monday 17 June 2024 at 19:00hrs

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) – Rob Crumb, Arwyn Harris, Julia Gadd (Chair), Barry Horsgood, Graham Lock, Peter Porter, Jane Redfearn, Val Saunders, John Wood (9).
In attendance: J Ferguson – Parish Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes) - 4 members of the public were present (p/t) and subject raised:

- Overgrown hedges and vegetation along footpath from the Church towards Pibsbury.
- Report from a representative for Huish and Langport Flood Group, advising of a future flood resilience meeting and asking for support in the form of attendance from Huish Councillors.
- Request for allotment Facebook page to be resurrected to advertise the pumping schedule. It was explained that the rota was displayed on the noticeboard and thought that very few allotment holders are likely to use Facebook as some don't use email.
- Request for allotment hedges to be cut. Cllr Redfearn agreed to ask the Ranger to cut them back.
- A letter of thanks was read out from Langport and Huish Senior Citizens for a recent grant award from HEPC.

OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- Somerset Councillors – SCllr Richard Wilkins was in attendance (part time).

Due to the observance of the pre-election period of sensitivity, no report was heard. Cllr Wilkins was asked to look into the issues regarding unreliability of street lights in St Mary's Park. Many reports had been sent to SC from Cllrs and the clerk, but the issues continued. Cllr Wilkins agreed to look into the problem.

19.25 – Cllr Wilkins left the meeting.

19:25 – Meeting opened

24/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LGA 1972 s85(1)).
Cllr Saunders had sent her apologies (personal reasons).

24/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

24/28 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 20 May 24.

24/29 MATTERS TO REPORT FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

a. Allotment report – posts and fencing (Cllrs Gadd & Redfearn). A number of posts had been agreed to be replaced (28) and it was agreed that quotes would be presented at a future meeting.
b. Cutting back of overgrown vegetation. The school site manager had been left a message and it had been reported on the SC website. It was agreed to send an email to SC highways directly and if nothing was done fairly soon, the SLL Ranger would be asked to clear the vegetation that posed the most risk to pedestrians.

24/30 CLERK'S REPORT

a. **.**gov.uk domain and PC email report. COMPLETE. The clerk advised to contact Jimmy Flynn (IT Support) if Cllrs needed assistance setting up their new .gov email addresses.

24/31 PLANNING – Decisions **REPORT**. None.

24/32 PLANNING – None.

24/33 PLANNING – To **CONSIDER** the response from SC Planning relating to developments in Huish Episcopi and Langport not being in accordance with the local agreed plan (Cllr Wood).

Cllr Wood raised the following points:

- SC Planning had no intention of working to the Local Plan.
- 605 houses had been approved, 120% more than the agreed plan for Ilminster.
- Intention appeared to be to build as many homes as possible, with no limits imposed.
- SC had no money to fight, should their decision to refuse be challenged.
- 150 social houses had been filled by residents who were not local to the area (or Somerset).
- Only challenge available to the PC would be to engage costly legal representation.
- Would it be possible to introduce a byelaw to restrict occupancy of social housing to local residents?

24/34 FINANCE - To **REPORT** May 24 receipts

May 24 Receipts			
Payee	**Particulars**	**Amount**	
SOMERSET COUNCIL	REFUND OVERPAYMENT	£	633.77
TOTAL	**May-24**	**£**	**633.77**

Noted.

24/35 FINANCE – To **APPROVE** June 24 payment schedule.

Huish Episcopi Parish Council JUNE 24 Payment Schedule				
Invoice	**Payee**	**Particulars**	**Amount**	
1	STAFF	EMOLUMENTS (JUNE24)	TBA	
2	TIMEBACK ACCOUNTS	INV 6615 (PAYROLL)	£	6.00
3	PARISH ONLINE	MAPPING SOFTWARE	£	115.20
4	LANGPORT TRANSPORT GROUP	GRANT **(REPORT)**	£	1,000.00
5	LANGPORT & HUISH SENIOR CITIZENS	GRANT **(REPORT)**	£	750.00
6	PAULLS OF MARTOCK	SCALPINGS (ALLOTMENTS - **REPORT**)	£	44.86
7	SOMERSET LANDSCAPES LTD	RANGER MAY 24 & VERGE REPAIR	£	1,602.00
	TOTAL	**Jun-23**	**£**	**3,518.06**

RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the June 24 payment schedule.

24/36 FINANCE – To **APPROVE** a grant request from Huish and Langport Cricket Club for £500.

To support the Club costs and aims to encourage more players to join and the regenerating of youth developments. We have and will continue to liaise with local Schools and the Academy. Funds will go towards required equipment and ensuring the ground and playing areas are kept in their superb condition by the Club valued volunteers.
Continuation in getting persons out their playing on this wonderful ground in the hopeful great summer weather.
RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** a grant request from Huish and Langport Cricket Club for £500.

24/37 FINANCE – To **APPROVE** the purchase of a 10ft metal gate at the allotments:

a. Quote 1 – £137.04 (inc.delivery)
b. Quote 2 – £155.17 (inc.delivery)
RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** Quote 1 - £137.04 for the purchase of a 10ft metal gate for the allotments.

24/38 FINANCE – To **CONSIDER** steps required towards an investment strategy (Cllr Harris).

Cllr Harris had prepared an Investment Strategy Report for PC adoption.
RESOLVED: To **APPROVE** the Investment Strategy Report.

24/39 PARISH – To **REPORT** on the Ranger Scheme of Works (Cllr Redfearn).

Cllr Redfearn presented a scheme of works providing an indication of the frequency of maintenance in defined parish council owned areas. She further reported that the Ranger was doing an excellent job around the parish and becoming familiar with the parish owned areas.

24/40 PARISH – To establish the advantages and disadvantages for Huish Epsicopi residents of a Community Governance Order with Langport Town (Cllr Wood).

Cllr Gadd spoke on this item, pointing out that the PC had voted for a Community Governance Review and explained the steps that would now follow to ensure a parish resident consultation would take place, this being the process that would explore the advantages and disadvantages. Cllr Wood had circulated a supporting paper suggesting advantages/disadvantages for Huish Episcopi residents, explaining that he felt the PC were failing the parish by not following through on the question raised by the HELP Community Plan. He further stated that he believed the PC are biased to joining with Langport Town Council and as such are not working to the HELP plan.

It was agreed that this item would not be taken forward at this time.

24/41 PARISH – To obtain and publish information on all venues available for public hire in Huish Epsicopi and Langport (including capacity, facilities, administration) (Cllr Wood).

Cllr Wood had circulated a supporting paper listing buildings in Huish Episcopi and Langport, with a number of facility considerations identified. It was explained that this activity formed part of the Entertainment and Leisure WG brief, however Cllr Wood felt that a year had passed with no information forthcoming, therefore the PC needed to progress this activity. It was decided that the ELWG should continue to take this forward, however the template that Cllr Wood had suggested should be provided to Cllr Saunders to assist with the data gathering.

24/42 REPORTS – To receive reports:
a. Committees
b. Working Parties
c. Parish Councillors
Cllr Horsgood reported that the Joint Activities Group had approached the Memorial Field Management Committee (MFMC) willing to progress a skatepark. The MFMC had agreed a location but were not prepared to accept any maintenance costs, insurance or liability responsibility for the facility.
Cllr Porter reported on unauthorised parking in the MF car park, thought to be related to staff and parents visiting the school/pre-school and vehicles being left for long periods of time,

leaving inadequate space for users of the club and field. He was advised to send an email of complaint to SC, copying in the clerks of HEPC and LTC.
Cllr Redfearn expressed a wish to continue as the Huish Academy liaison. This was agreed.
Cllr Harris reported that an update to the Community Plan would be available soon on the website.
Cllr Gadd had attended a recent LCN meeting, announcing Sean Dromgoole as Chair of the Levels and Moors LCN. Cllr Wilkins had declared that this LCN was the best performing LCN out of all Somerset, in terms of Actions.

24/43 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA
Nothing was identified at this time, the clerk reminded all present of the deadline for receipt of agenda items.

24/44 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Monday 15 July 2024 at 7.00pm, Huish Epsicopi Primary School, Langport, TA10 9RW. All agenda items to be notified to the clerk by Fri 5 July 2024.

20:43 – Meeting closed