

Monday 8th July 2024 Parish Council Minutes 8pm at The Hut (approved)

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Steve Street, Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Phil Sketchley, Mr Damien Pick, Mr Kevin Messenger (Somerset Councillor), & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Mrs Melinda Terleske & Mr Henry Hobhouse (County Councillor).

1) Matters Arising

i) Sinkhole, ditches & local potholes. Pipe repair adjacent to Olive Farm Lane, Foddington Road, PS requesting urgent contact from John Nicholson blockages and unprecedented wet weather exacerbating sewage problems. Feedback from PS some contact with John Nicholson who has promised Babcary/Foddington works are No1 priority. JN responded to PS re ongoing problem "Unfortunately, the situation has been that with the prolonged wet weather period the number of defects on the public highway, notified, reported and assessed as safety defects, has not abated therefore the Term Service Contractor has focused their resource on resolving those.

There remains a high number of safety defects that still require repair works, however I think it is reasonable to say that Somerset Council and our Term Service Contractor recognise the need to also progress the minor civils works orders and I believe they are now expecting to mobilise to commence those in August 2024. I am unable to provide a specific date as a date has not been provided yet."

PC to bring issues to the attention of Sarah Dyke (MP) or Richard Wilkins (MP), Andy Coup was also recommended as Head of Highways, try to escalate the seriousness of the over flowing effluents, tank servicing all properties now backing up!

Local repairs could be instigated but costs would not be paid by County Council, street repairs at your own cost, currently not an option.

Issue remains unresolved, review on return from summer break in September Meeting.

ii) River Cary water quality; BPC chose to continue visual monitoring for detrimental changes as yet not considered requiring testing.

iii) Steart Hill Truck Services Hopkins Development, the parish council resolved to oppose the planned new Steart Hill lorry services and hotel. Apart from spoiling a green field site this will bring flood water north into Sparkford Vale, damage local hospitality businesses, farm shops and bakeries AND traffic will use Babcary and Foddington as a SATNAV rat run to get to the services.

Discussion re bad positioning of access for large vehicles manoeuvrability and insufficient bunding to mask noise for locals.

BPC Objection

2) Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £17,676.25 Current Account balance £50.

Church roof repair grant £2000

PS Jetpack backup for Parish website extra 10GB receipt No 94275206 for £121.95, cheque issued.

3) Planning Consultation

- i) Newlands Farm - decision awaited.
- ii) 24/00841 Land OS 6143 Sparkford Road, West Camel, BA22 7
Application to develop a shop, 60 room hotel, restaurant, service station, butcher, baker, EV charging and 24/7 50 lorry truck park on green field site on Camel Hill with landscaping & other ancillary works.
West Camel parish meeting set to discuss, Mr Simon Hoar agreed to attend on 19/06/24 behalf of Bab Cary village.
Dave Kenyon agreed extension for responses till 16th of July
Have your say....
 - Via the online planning portal - this link will take you direct to the Hopkins Planning Application 24/00841/FUL | Full application for the development of a new Trunk Road Service Area incorporating a farm shop and restaurant/cafe, hotel/lodge accommodation, energy station (including electric vehicle energy hub and petrol filling station), photovoltaic solar arrays, truck stop, strategic landscaping and other ancillary works. | Land OS 6143 Sparkford Road West Camel Yeovil Somerset BA22 7RH (southsomerset.gov.uk)
 - Email direct to PlanningSouth@somerset.gov.uk please quote the application number 24/00841/FUL in the subject line.BPC Objected

4) Correspondence

- i) Affordable Rural Housing Webinar 17th July 7-8pm community council for Somerset, message JT to request a booking, details put on Bab Cary Parish facebook.
- ii) Footpaths in Bab Cary, Explore Somerset, Rights of Way Open Space & Area Management, request to clear paths prior to The Charltons Walking Festival 2024 (Mendip Ramblers) 24th August.

5) AOB

- i) GK voiced concerns about walkers using fields without public footpaths, dogs out off leads, PLEASE DO NOT WALK ON FIELDS WITHOUT PUBLIC FOOTPATHS & KEEP YOUR DOGS UNDER CONTROL.
- ii) PS asked the annual question “can we divert Glastonbury traffic away from Bab Cary?” SH to discuss with Glastonbury organisers.

6) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 9th of September 2024 in the Hut.