

Monday 12th February 2024 Parish Council Minutes 8pm at The Hut (Approved)

Present :- Councillors - Mr Simon Hoar (SH) , Mr Graham Hughes (GH), Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK) , Mrs Melinda Terleske (MT), Mr Steve Street (SS), Mr Damien Pick (DP) .Mr Philip Sketchley (PS)

Somerset Councillors - Henry Hobhouse (HH) and Kevin Messenger (KM)

Apologies - Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk)

Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 8th January 2024 were approved and signed.

1. Matters Arising :-

Pot Holes , the 'sink hole' on the Foddington Road had been filled in , however it was already showing signs of collapse . HH indicated that the work was temporary and a new culvert will be created in due course.

The ditches referred to at the last meeting either side of the lane leading to Olive Farm and other properties was now in a serious condition causing back up of foul water and possible discharge in to ditches. DP reported that the Highways Department had informed landowners that remedial work will be carried out on either the 11th or 13th March.

20 Plenty Signs , PS referred to an e mail exchange he had had with Highways who had indicated that the removal of signs had not been at their behest and suggested that at least one was possibly by BT . PS will investigate further but in the mean time he will reinstate one sign in the vicinity of "Old School House".

The Council thanked George Kingston for laying additional hardcore around the entrance to the hut.

2. Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £13227.76 Current account balance is £50 .A new savings account with NatWest to be opened with a Balance of £10,000.00 .

a cheque in favour of PATA for £47.10 was approved and signed.

3. Planning Consultation

Sunny Hill Farm - approved

Newlands Farm - decision awaited.

4. Correspondence

Somerset Budget , H M Government had refused the request to increase Council Tax by 10% , the Council Tax increase will be 5% as only those Councils subject to a s114 Notice (impending bankruptcy) were permitted to increase to 10% . Somerset has taken various radical steps to ensure continued use of facilities such as the Athletics Ground in Yeovil and the refurbishment and reopening of the Octagon being transferred to Yeovil Town Council. In addition the Council will use Capital receipts as part of their Revenue Budget.

Hedgehog Highway project - noted but no financial support approved.

Reusable Personal Care drop in events , these were noted.

4 AOB

Blockage of Cary Brook at the Meadows. PS had taken this up with Somerset Wildlife following an expression of concern by a Parishioner . Somerset Wildlife had been extremely proactive and cleared the brook of logs and debris and avert a flooding danger.

SH raised a request from the PCC concerning works that need doing to the Chancel roof .(SH and MT declared an interest). The works needed at the Church will cost £60,000, the Church were nearly 50% towards their target and were working hard to raise additional sums through grant making trusts and foundations . The request to the Parish Council was to make a contribution to the building fund. It was agreed that the upkeep of the Church was important as the Church was a huge and well used asset for the village as a whole. The Council had received an indication from the Playing Field Committee that their funds were in a healthy state and for 2024 they would not request a contribution to grass cutting which in 2023 had been £1700. This will benefit the Parish Council budgeting and give the Parish Council the flexibility to earmark a sum as a contribution to the Church roof fund. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council will earmark £2000 with a further review later in the year.

KM raised the issue of the proposal by Somerset Council to close up to five Recycling Centres which would include Dimmer . It was agreed by the Council to support HH and

KM in their opposition of the proposed closure which fails to take account of the history of the site , the dangers of increased fly tipping and increased traffic movement to name but a few of the objections. Parishioners are encouraged to support this protest by signing the petition via the link that was circulated on the village WhatsApp or e mailing HH direct on (*****).

HH raised the issue of the planning impact that had occurred due to Somerset County Council and the Environment Agency in effect placing an embargo on planning in that area of Somerset that drains in to the Levels. A potential claim is being considered, subject to legal advice, challenging this due to the lack of data supporting the embargo.

Date and time of next meeting 8 pm Monday 11th March 2024.