

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

Present: Mr Simon Hoar, Mr Philip Sketchley, Mrs Melinda Terleske, Mr Steve Street, Mr Graham Hughes, Mr Henry Hobhouse (SSC) Mrs Jasmine Tucker (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

Apologies: Mrs Glynis Kingston, Mr Damien Pick, & Mr Kevin Messenger (SSC).

Minutes of the Previous Meeting 11th December 2023 agreed & signed.

1) Matters Arising

- i) LCN meeting Weds 6th Dec – No updates.
- ii) WhatsApp Emergency Group set up, for Village emergency's such as flooding,
- iii) Old climbing frame located in Playing field, exposed stumps.
- iv) Phone Box needs repainting, to be looked at in spring weather.
- v) Pot holes around the village needing filling most pressingly the sink hole on Foddington Road opposite Redland Cottage reported October 2023, contact via John Nicholson still awaited, live video of flooding taken and forwarded, no response at time of December 2023 meeting.
Update 23/01/2024 sink hole has been addressed, temporarily filled by Highways (Enq.698428). Sustained damage worsened by increased usage due to wide vehicles avoiding the sinkhole and A303 dualling traffic, suggestion of compensation made.
- vi) Gassons Bridge, gate placed under bridge to stop cows going through during summer, now blocking river flow, becoming a dam during flooding this has become an issue.
Gate removed by Steve Street, Philip Sketchley and Mr Malcolm Beaton.
- vii) 20's plenty signs and chevrons removed at several sites in Babcarry! Why and where have they gone! PC looking to replace.
Dashcam footage showing removal by men wearing his vis jackets (presumed Highways).

2) Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £13,513.49 Current Account Balance is £50

Precept Setting 2024/25, the parish council resolved to increase the precept to £4,656.29

New savings account via Natwest, suggested £10,000, transfer from current account, to 95 day notice, 4.25% interest, Jasmine to look into opening.

- i) Phil Sketchley SSL Certificate £71.99, cheque drawn.
- ii) Dog poop bags £13.74, cheque drawn.

3) Planning Consultation

- i) Milton House, North Road, Babcary, TA11 7EA
Simon Hoar declared an interest. Ref. No: 23/03099/HOU | Received: Thu 07 Dec 2023 | Validated: Fri 08 Dec 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision Proposed First floor extension to rear of property, **No objections.**

- ii) Sunnyside Farm South Barrow Road Babcary Somerton Somerset TA11 7EJ
Regularisation of unconsented works to the refurbished stable building (ref: 05/01537/LBC), including removal of internal partition walls, changes to fenestration and installation of WC. Ref. No: 23/02938/HOU | Received: Mon 20 Nov 2023 | Validated: Fri 24 Nov 2023 | Status: Awaiting decision

- iii) Newlands Farm Lane to the West of Newlands Lane, Babcary Somerset Ref. No: 23/00800/FUL and 23/00792/OUT | Received: Tue 21 Mar 2023 | Validated: Wed 26 Apr 2023 Change of use of land to mixed agricultural/equestrian and construct stables building, straw barn, outdoor arena and horse walker | Status: Awaiting decision

3) **Correspondence**

- i) Devolution of Services Towns and Parishes to take on Assets and Services from SC and pay for these by increasing their Precepts, council to review next meeting, further information received since January meeting.
- ii) PATA Invoice £47.10, to be signed February meeting.
- iii) Flood Working Group, Emergency Planning workshop on Monday 8th January at The Shambles, Castle Cary 10.30am-12noon please email Teresa Isaacs on southeastlcn@somerset.gov.uk.
- iv) Flooding, Rivers Authority online events (PS has signed up for 9th of January).

4) **Any Other Business**

- i) HH Brought up the increased costs Somerset Council are incurring linked to adult social care and child care costs, Somerset has seen a huge increase in these costs.

5) **Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 12th of February 2024**

AOB – church roof

Declare an interest as member of the PCC

Chancel roof needs replacing at a cost of approx. £60k

We have about £20k already and grants/donations so far of almost £10k

Rory McD is spearheading drive to get grants from various charities

Uphill struggle!

Purpose tonight is to ask the PC for a grant towards the roof

The Playing Field and the Comm Comm have/will give grants

Incredibly important for getting grants that we can demonstrate local support by getting village organisations to contribute.

Context: PC used to give a small annual grant to PCC for upkeep of the churchyard

Other PC's help fund their churches – Cary Moor PC give £500pa to each of their 4 churches

NB. Special Fund re Somerset funding cuts, precept £50per band D

Please would the PC give a grant £1,000? for the roof? And/or an annual grant?

PS. PFC mowing grant not needed this year