

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th March 2024. (Approved)

n.b. taken from Village News as a draft and subsequently approved without change.

Present: Phil Sketchley (PS) (Chair) Steve Street (SS) , Melinda Terleske,(MT) Glynis Kingston (GK) , Damien Pick (DP) and Graham Hughes (GH) Henry Hobhouse (HH) Somerset Council .

Apologies, Simon Hoar and Jasmine Tucker.

Matters Arising

1.The 'sink hole " on the Foddington Road continues to show signs of collapse, HH was asked to follow up this temporary fix to get a long-term solution.

2 There was a further report on the issues of the ditches and blocked culverts at the entrance to Olive Farm and other properties. It was apparent that there was a significant administrative muddle at Somerset Council with the job being given no less than three case numbers and the job being lost in the system. HH undertook to follow this up with John Nicholson of Highways. HH also reported that Somerset Council were contracting with a new contractor from 1st April, Kier.

* Following the meeting a lengthy email had been received from John Nicholson shedding some light on this problem. This has been circulated to the PC members for follow-up discussions.

3. '20 Plenty' signs, PS reported that he had re-fixed the sign, recovered from North Street hedge to the Chevron sign on the bend at Old School House. He had no joy in identifying who had removed the other signs apart from one (on Church Street) possibly having been removed by British Telecom or Highways contractors on North Street.

HH suggested that an application for funds should be made to Highways England, this could be used for other signs requesting drivers to slow down, rather than the 20 Plenty signs that are not universally liked by residents and seem to have a limited impact.

Finance

Capital Reserve Account stands at £13,173.45 Current Account balance £50.

Planning Consultation

1. Planning Application 24/00515/HOU at the Brambles, Main Street for the erection of a Triple Carport. There had been some representations from neighbouring properties, but these did not qualify as planning objections. The meeting concluded that there was limited visual impact or traffic impact, however in reporting back to the Council a request was to be made to seek some restriction on any further backland development.

2. Newlands Farm - decision awaited.

Correspondence

PS reported on a training course, given by SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) that he had attended on the internal and external audit process which suggested a higher degree of involvement by the Parish Councillors, for the protection of the Clerk. It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting when the Clerk and Chair will be present and PS offered assistance in

monitoring a spread sheet he had created for the Clerk, showing the budget and variances to budget which, it was agreed, would be a useful reporting tool.

Highways Maintenance Devolution - no action at present although this seemed to be a way that the Council could devolve responsibility to Parish Councils and foist the cost on them.

Flood Cafe - this didn't seem directly relevant to the Parish.

Bristol Medical School looking to do research on flood victims and communities, again not directly relevant to the Parish.

Shepton Mallet Theatre, there was an initiative to take this into Community ownership. It was felt that although the Parish Council support the initiative, we would not be in a position to back this with a financial contribution.

3 AOB

HH reported that the debate around Council Recycling Sites had been deferred and the most likely outcome was limiting opening times.

The Bonfire on the Playing Field, for the past many years no 'contributions' to the Bonfire were to take place until 1st September. This has been abused and it is not known if this was by a resident or someone outside the village. It was agreed to request the Playing Field Committee remove the rubbish that had been placed on the bonfire and follow this up with signs and/or cameras or possibly a digital lock on the main gate, to deter fly-tippers.

The Parish Council have endeavoured to support local horse riders regarding traffic. There was a request that Horse riders ride in single file around sharp bends, such as outside the Old School House and the Church, where oncoming drivers are unable to see horses.

Date and time of next meeting 8 pm Monday 8th April 2024 in the Hut