

Monday 14th October 2024 Parish Council Minutes 8pm at The Hut (approved)

Present: Mr Simon Hoar (SH, Chair), Mr Philip Sketchley (PS), Mr Graham Hughes (GH), Mr Steve Street (SS), Mr Kevin Messenger (KM, County Councillor) & Mrs Jasmine Tucker (JT, Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Damian Pick (DP), Mr Henry Hobhouse (HH, County Councillor), & Mrs Glynis Kingston (GK).

1) Matters Arising

- i. Sinkhole, ditches & local potholes. Pipe repair adjacent to Olive Farm Lane, Foddington Road still outstanding. Formal complaint lodged with Somerset County and copied to Sarah Dyke MP. Potholes are still a problem, especially outside Perry House. GH reported road problems, some works on the roads were completed, but some are yet to be addressed.

If you would like to report any other road problems within the Parish, the contact details are as follows:

0300 123 2224 or countyroads-southsom@somerset.go.uk

- ii. Public Pathway gate adjacent to The Old School on Church Street. The top pin of the gate has been repaired but the lower pin is inaccessible. As this is not on Babcary PC land, SH to approach Somerset Council.
- iii. Melinda Terleske has handed in a letter of resignation from the Babcary PC. The Council thank her for her contribution and her involvement with the Council which will be missed. Babcary PC now have a casual vacancy, Public Notices will be pinned up tomorrow. GH has also given notice as reported last month and will be leaving Babcary PC as of April 2025.

2) Finance

- i. Capital Reserve Account stands at £15,168.59 Current Account balance £50.

3) Planning Consultation

- i. Steart Hill Truck Services (Hopkins Development), the parish council resolved to oppose the planned new Steart Hill lorry services and hotel. Babcary PC objected – Decision Awaited
- ii. 24/00841 Land OS 6143 Sparkford Road, West Camel, BA22 7 – No updates.

4) Correspondence

- i. Code of Conduct Training, PS elected to go on course, remote learning £25. Booked for 13/11/24.
- ii. LCN, review of local costs, pothole repairs, etc. Moving towards Parish paying towards local upkeep of highways The Council recorded its grave concerns over this scheme given the high costs of road repairs in relation to our annual precept.

- iii. SRA (Somerset Rivers Authority), request to publicise SRA Annual Report, highlight what they do for our community and details of up and coming grant. Small grant scheme, for local flood risk reduction measures.
- iv. More details in December, funds to be dispersed April 2025. Cllr Mike Stanton. Details forwarded to Councillors 01/10/24.
- v. Scheme of Allowances, Local Parishes given the ability to recognise works done by councillors with potential to award payment up to £310pa. 01/10/24.
- vi. October LCN Meeting restructure of start of engagement process, Somerset Council restructure, ending in December. Fodo, SALC, Health & Wellbeing in the council & in the community. Again grants are available for community projects, e.g. improve local transport, providing open spaces for local community. Any project best to organize before setting precept.
- vii. Tree consultancy, free SALC briefing on trees for risk management, 23/10/24.

5) AOB

- i. This has been the wettest September since 1841!! Concerns were raised over the gate has been put back in the river blocking Gassons Bridge. Gate is forming a dam from flood debris. PC to speak to SRA for advice.
- ii. George Kingston was thanked for his superb work clearing out the ditch along Steart Lane near Dilkes Lane. The flooding there has been much reduced and the Council agreed a small honorarium by way of thanks.
- iii. PS noted seat outside Church is somewhat dilapidated, and will need replacing soon.
- iv. HH has resigned from Planning Committee however, Kevin Messenger has chosen to remain.

6) Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm Monday 11th of November 2024 in the Hut.