

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council held in the Huish Sixth Auditorium, Huish Episcopi Academy, on Monday 20 November 2017 at 7 pm.

Present:

Cllr S Nicholas Chairman
Cllr G Lock
Cllr J Wood
Cllr F Pope
Cllr B Horsgood
Cllr C Palmer
Cllr R Stranger
Cllr R Crumb

Cllr C Aparicio Paul County/District Councillor 7.30-8.30pm
Cllr G Tucker District Councillor

Parishioners Mr M Williams, Mr R Morfee, Mr and Mrs J Rix 7-7.50pm
 Ms J Gadd (7-8.10pm), Mr and Mrs D Medley (7-7.40pm),
 Mr L Smith, Mr and Mrs R Manning, Ms A Shillabeer,
 Mr W Langford and Mr R Saunders
 Mr A Lee (The Leveller)

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr Smith raised concerns about proposed closure of the Hanging Chapel. The Council was disappointed that Langport Town Council had not informed it sooner and in any early discussion as any closure was likely to affect its parishioners far more than the Langport residents including increased traffic through Huish Episcopi into town. The proposal had been raised after several recent incidents causing serious damage to the Grade 1 listed building. There was some evidence that Highways wished to include this on a list of possible works covering the next 18 months to be issued shortly, hence the short timescale. Several suggestions were made, as alternatives to closure, including height boards and better signage.

The lighting along Newtown Road was again mentioned. Some of this appeared to have been removed but not replaced during the recent development there. Cllr Lock agreed to approach the builder with this concern.

1. Apologies for absence. None.

2. Co-option for Casual Vacancy. Four parishioners had opted to stand for the vacancy: Ms J Gadd, Mr S Jenkinson, Mr K Peto and Mr R Sparkes. Mr K Peto was elected by paper ballot with a clear majority.

3. Declarations of interest. None.

4. District Councillors' and County Councillor's Reports. Cllr Aparicio Paul confirmed that she had included the Wearne speeding problem for consideration within the Small Improvements Scheme and that the suggested solution contained would not necessarily be the final option adopted. Any success with inclusion in the Scheme would be known in April.

Cllr Horsgood raised his concern that, despite knowing the Parish Council's views on the Trial Ground application, Cllr Aparicio Paul had not supported those views at the Area North meeting. Regrettably no progress had been made concerning the old shops at 19 Brookland Road.

(4) Cllr Lock also raised his concern about the legality of a councillor being elected as Chairman of Langport Town Council, while apparently under investigation following a breach of

confidentiality, however it was clear that, until the outcome of any investigation was known, she was entitled to stand for election. The Town Council election to fill seven vacancies would take place on 23 November.

5. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

- 17/02453/S73A Land at Iris Way detached garage/store – amendment to Condition 2 of approved application 14/03943/FUL. This building's footprint was larger than shown on the original application, with an appearance resembling a bungalow rather than a garage/store, and was also not built in the correct place according to the 2014 plans. Even with the reduction in roof height proposed, it would continue to be overpowering and affect neighbouring dwellings recommended refusal.
- 17/02453/S73A (amended) Land at Iris Way detached garage/store further amendment to Condition 2 of approved application 14/03943/FUL recommended refusal - permission granted.
- 17/03544/LBC Moorfields Pibsbury raising of chimney, no objections – permission granted.

b. Applications received since last meeting, or still in progress:

- 17/02694/FUL (and amended) Trial Ground 94 dwellings and associated public space and external works. The Council discussed this application at length regarding: reduction in number of dwellings, layout especially opposite Old Kelways, provision of two pedestrian crossings on Somerton Road and Field Road, extended pavement and bus layby on Somerton Road, reinstatement of public footpath L13/55, a central feeder lane on Field Road, positioning of green space within development, retention of hedgerow boundaries, and concerns about the water system. (see later amended application)
- 17/04236/S73 Plot 1 Land Opposite Autumn Leaves vary condition 2 of 17/00167/FUL for re-siting and design of dwelling. The Council felt that this site is only suitable for one large dwelling, as envisaged in the original decision, which would complement existing development in the area and therefore recommended refusal.
- 17/04060/FUL Land opposite Autumn Leaves the Council felt that, as there were now several large single houses in this area in Pibsbury, the replacement of the original decision's similar sized dwelling with two much smaller houses would look incongruous and thus recommended refusal.
- 17/02694/FUL (further amended) Trial Ground 94 dwellings and associated public space and external works. A much improved layout, but many of original comments (above) still relevant. Cllr Aparicio Paul to support Huish Episcopi Parish Council recommendations with Highways.
- 17/04173/S73A SCFF Muchelney Road vary condition 2 minor amendment to scale and aesthetics of building – no objections.
- 17/04048/FUL Badgers Cottage Newtown 23 dwellings and garages, formation of vehicular access and layout of roads and parking areas. Council felt that 18 would be a more acceptable option, as cramming had resulted in a functional, unimaginative layout. It would welcome an improved development design with fewer dwellings otherwise recommended referral to Area North for decision.
- 17/04145/FUL Land at Bowdens erection of a general purpose agricultural building and siting of mobile home for agricultural worker – no objections.
- 17/04508/FUL (including amendment) 19 Portland Road – no objections.

c. Appeals. Currently Appeals were lodged regarding development at The Willows Westover and a proposed contemporary dwelling at land off Union Drive.

6. Minutes of the last meeting (18 September 2017). Agreed and signed.

7. Matters arising from the minutes and raised by members, to include:

a. Wearne speeding. This item had been discussed in the Public Session.

b. Bus shelter. The bus shelter had been ordered at a reduced cost of £4147, to be split between the two Councils. It was anticipated that it would be constructed early in 2018.

c. Field Road - painted warnings. Highways confirmed that it was not possible to include painted road warnings where street tamps were already installed.

d. St Mary's Park and Meadow Close - possible double yellow lines. These two sites have been included in the Highways list for consideration over the next 18 months.

e. Christmas lights at Westover – progress. Lights had been ordered for Peninsular Training, Shakspeare Glass and The Levels Basket Centre from the same company used by the Town Council for Bow Street lighting. Unfortunately SSDC did not allow the Basket Centre to arrange an external socket on their building, but the present tenants would be putting their own similar lights up. The cost to the Council, without the VAT which would be reclaimed, was approximately £700. The Council had budgeted £1000 towards town centre lighting.

f. Clerk vacancy - interview arrangements and interim payments. A selection panel comprising Chairman Nicholas, Vice Chairman Lock and Cllr Wood would be interviewing five candidates on 29 November. It was agreed that from 1 January to 31 March, the successful candidate would be able to claim £10 per hour to cover training with the present Clerk, and potentially the SALC, and that the Clerk would be able claim £14.50 per hour for any hours she worked on the Council's behalf, especially the audit, after 31 March 2018.

8. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments. The Council agreed that the vacant half plot would be made available for a Children's Gardening Club initially for one year. Concern had been raised about the willows along the rhyne requiring pollarding. It was understood that the land was now owned by the Abattoir, so Cllr Horsgood would discuss with them, although it was not thought to be urgent for a couple of years.

Action: Cllr Horsgood

b. Lengthsman. Salt and grit had been collected and transferred to various sites. The "triangle" at Barrymore Close/the railway bridge had now been filled in by Wessex Water so Craig could now strim it safely. Cllr Lock would ask him to cut back the brambles in and around the apple towards the end of Brookland Road and along the path in Bishops Drive by the cricket field. The Clerk would investigate the possibility of using the Community Payback Scheme to push back the encroaching verges on Field Road and Somerton Road.

Action: Cllr Lock/Clerk

c. Youth Club. Ms Shillabeer gave her report that the Club was continuing to do very well. Langport and Somerton Rotary Club had donated £250 for a gazebo which would be particularly useful for their stall at Yeovil Air Day and other fairs. The Langport Business Group had supported well received outreach project over the summer. The Club would be fundraising for the Disadvantaged Children's Fund with a tombola stall at the Christmas Fair and the Club was a possible recipient of a grant from the Tesco blue tokens appeal.

d. De minimis level. The Clerk recommended, and the Council agreed unanimously, that the de minimis level be raised to £2500, reflecting steadily increasing costs for small works. She would amend Financial Regulations with immediate effect.

Action: Clerk

(8)e. Parish Noticeboard. Cllr Nicholas proposed that Council consider installing a new Parish Noticeboard somewhere other than inside St. Mary's Church porch. She would be grateful for ideas and suggestions and this would be an item for the next meeting.

f. Confirmation of 2018 Parish Council meeting dates. These were agreed as follows:

15 January
19 March and Annual Meeting of the Parish
21 May and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
16 July
17 September
19 November

g. SSDC 2014-2034 Revised Local Plan. Cllr Wood would be coordinating the Council's response to this and attending the meeting at Great Bow Yard on the Council's behalf.

h. War Memorial. The Council agreed that there was no need at present for further work on the memorial, as the War Memorials Trust had also concluded.

i. The Parish Council Records Tin. This had been retrieved from the Natwest safe storage and was available to any Councillor wishing to inspect the contents, which include the 1798 ledger at the time of the Enclosures and several legal documents, some quite ancient.

Churchwarden Clive Sills had taken copies of the those relating to the graveyard extension, as had the Clerk and the contents had also been photographed by the Webmaster. This tin and its contents would be forwarded to the Somerset County Archives, as well as other documents not required by the new Clerk, next year.

Action: Clerk

8. Accounts.	Current Account	Savings
Payments authorised by RFO		
M Gillingham - War Memorial repairs	124.80	
SALC subs	593.13	
Receipts since last meeting (since 1 April 2017)		
total receipts	62874.77	
total payments (inc transfer to Bus Res)	40188.77	
balance at 11 Nov 17	22686.00	
Business Reserve		56312.28
Parish Charities		1746.20
Payments to be authorised		
Clerk – administration	26.96	
The Leveller – Maintenance Contract advert	72.00	
SPFA subs	20.00	
CPRE subs	36.00	
HMS PAYE	20.00	
HEA Hall hire	67.50	
Lengthsman materials	39.90	
British Legion wreath	50.00	
Festive Lights Ltd (inc. VAT)	835.42	
Payments by Standing Order (25th of the month)		
Clerk	500.00	
Lengthsman	189.29	

9. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. Chairman. Cllr Nicholas confirmed the Council would respond against the proposal to close the Hanging Chapel with alternative recommendations to reduce the level of accidents and safeguard the iconic building.

b. Clerk. Nothing further to add.

c. Members. Cllr Horsgood informed the Council that a Sub Committee had been formed to manage the proposed new skate park, now positioned nearer Bonds Pool. Cllr Nicholas agreed to represent Huish Episcopi Parish Council with Cllr Dunn, Mr and Mrs Clarke and Sarah Patten, Assistant Town Clerk. The Old Kelways Play Area was to be upgraded at a cost of £60k and a consultation had taken place to understand what the local children would prefer.

Cllr Crumb asked about the legalities of sheds erected on front gardens, which was thought allowable providing there were no restrictive covenants in place on the property. He also requested consideration of extra dog bins at Kennel Lane/The Avenue and Station Path. The Clerk would make enquiries with Streetscene.

Action: Clerk

10. Date of next meeting. The next meeting would be held on Monday 15 January 2018 at 7pm in the Huish Sixth Auditorium, Huish Episcopi Academy.

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Parish Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Parish Council