

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 15 January 2018 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 K Peto

Cllr G Tucker District Councillor (7 – 750pm)

Parishioners Mrs F Kimpton (7 – 7.45pm), Mr R Saunders, Mr R Manning, Mr and Mrs D Stacey, Mr and Mrs C Brookfield (7 – 8.05pm)

Non parishioners Mrs L Newby (Parish Clerk desig.)

1. Apologies for absence. District Councillor C Aparicio Paul.

2. Declarations of interest. None.

3. District Councillor's Report. An Area North meeting had taken place in December, which had included a debate regarding Arts and Leisure support across the District. It was hoped to provide more finance for the arts and Cllr Tucker had noted that for this rural area the closest theatres were not in Yeovil/Chard. A "Take Art" production concerning the 2014 flooding was touring local venues, with Langport on 28 January. At the next meeting Chris Cooper of Streetscene would be presenting an overview, including fly tipping and dog bin provision concerns. SSDC had purchased the Yeovil M&S and Wilkinson buildings through reserves, allowing reserves to remain within local area boundaries, rather than borrowing externally. Cllr Tucker would be attending the PACT meeting on 15 February.

The Huish Leisure swimming pool cover project completion date had been delayed to the end of the April; the Astroturf had broken even this year. On the Boundary Review, Cllr Tucker confirmed that the intention was that two Councillors would cover Langport, Huish Episcopi and Curry Rivel. Options and Reviews had already raised strong concerns, especially the absence of local commercial development.

Cllr Lock asked for an update on making the Hanging Chapel safer from damage, while Cllr Aparicio Paul and Tucker remained temporary Town Councillors. The questionnaire sent out in November went to the area in Langport and into Huish Episcopi with considerable response. It was understood that Highways did not intend to close the Hanging Chapel, and other options would be explored.

Cllr Wood raised increased concerns about speeding in Wearne and he and Cllr Tucker would discuss this further.

4. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

17/04173/S73A SCFF Muchelney Road vary condition 2 minor amendment to scale and aesthetics of building no objections. Permission granted.

17/04145/FUL Land off Wood Drove erection of a general purpose agricultural building and siting of mobile home for agricultural worker 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)

17/02694/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.

17/04236/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.

17/04048/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.

17/04508/FUL (including amendment) 19 Portland Road – no objections.

17/04904/FUL 1 Courtfield erection of bungalow to rear of existing dwelling – no objections in principle but concerns about access arrangements.

17/04828/FUL Ducks Hill 2 detached dwellings – Council was concerned about the mains drainage in this area and that it could be a precursor to far greater development of this large field in a predominantly rural area of the parish, leading to full absorption of the hamlet of Pibsbury. Huish Episcopi Parish Council recommended refusal and that this application should be considered by the Area North Committee.

c. Appeal decisions.

16/04191/OUT Land at The Willows Business Park – Appeal dismissed.

5. Minutes of the last meeting (20 November 2017). Agreed and signed.

6. Matters arising from the minutes and raised by members.

a. Parish Noticeboard. After some discussion, it was agreed that the noticeboard costing approximately £700 should be sited in the Council's car park and the Clerk would complete the order. Cllr Lock would also confirm costs and siting of parish salt/grit bins at the car park, the cricket field and Old Kelways.

Action: Clerk/Cllr Lock

b. Appointment of the new Clerk from 1 April 2018. The Chairman was pleased to announce that Mrs Lisa Newby had been appointed as Parish Clerk with effect from 1 April

2018. Mrs Redfearn would complete the 2017/18 audit and the March minutes. Mrs Newby had been booked on the Clerk's initial training course on 17 March. The subscription for the SLCC could be transferred into the new Clerk's name.

c. Possible closure of the Hanging Chapel. This had already been discussed at item 3.

d. Bus shelter. The Council wished to register its thanks to Cllr Horsgood for his work in bringing this project to fruition. The Councils would consider whether side panels could also be attached, but it was uncertain if that would leave sufficient space for prams and wheelchairs. Cllr Horsgood would enquire if the Town Council intended to include cleaning of the bus shelter within its present contracts. If not, it was possible that the Lengthsman might be able to include it in his round.

Action: Cllr Horsgood

e. SSDC Local Plan 2016-2034. Cllr Wood had spent a great deal of effort to check all the Huish Episcopi Parish Council area covered in the Plan. He was concerned that Langport Town Council had not supported the Council's stance on this, including Huish Episcopi areas within its comments. Dr Balai had forwarded an excellent response on behalf of the Surgery. Several Councillors had responded individually.

f. Parish Maintenance Contract. Four expressions of interest had been received so far, the final date being 31 January. The Clerk and Chairman would compare quotations and forward a recommendation to all Councillors in due course.

7. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Allotments, including hand rails and steps. The Clerk would send the usual reminder letters to all Allotment tenants shortly. Cllr Crumb asked that the steps to the rhyne be replaced, including a handrail. The Council agreed that he should make enquiries about costs for the March meeting. The Council also agreed that a half plot would be made available at no cost as a children's plot for next year, in a similar way to the Scouts several years ago.

Action: Cllr Crumb

b. Lengthsman. Craig Howe had picked up the salt and grit and would store it until the bins were available. Cllrs Lock and Horsgood would also consider Brookland Corner and Wearne for further bins.

Action: Cllr Lock/Cllr Horsgood

c. Youth Club. Cllr Horsgood reported that the Youth Club were hoping to be a recipient of the Tesco coin scheme and the Club had also received a £1000 grant towards a lunch/cooking project around food packs for families/children and a Homeless Project visit, including team working and computer coding. The Club was looking for help with flag design ideas. It was suggested that maybe the Academy Art Department could be approached.

d. SID device. There appeared to be two or three speed indicator devices in place within the parish. It was difficult to make a decision on how to fund these devices until more information was available.

e. Standing Order 8 – clarification. The Clerk confirmed that this order had been amended to clarify voting procedures in the case of future co-options.

f. Request for contribution to Neighbourhood Watch signage. The Council agreed to support this request, for up to six signs, from the Neighbourhood Watch scheme at Old Kelways.

8. 2018-19 Budget and precept. Following consideration of the Clerk's options, it was proposed by Cllr Horsgood, seconded by Cllr Wood and agreed unanimously, that the precept

should be set at £46,000 a very small increase (£0.16) to the parishioner, while continuing to increase reserves to support the Council's Community Hall and other aspirations.

9. Accounts.	Current Account	Savings
Payments authorised by RFO		
Gurkha Welfare Trust (in memoriam)	25.00	
Receipts since last meeting (since 1 April 2017)		
FBTA Board	1300.02	
SWEB Wayleave	21.24	
total receipts	64196.03	
total payments (inc transfer to Bus Res)	42760.41	
balance at 8 Jan 18	21435.62	
Business Reserve		56314.71
Parish Charities		1746.31
Payments to be authorised		
Clerk – administration	13.67	
Bus Shelter	4147.00 (+ VAT)	
Parish Maintenance – R Carter	900.00	
HMS Ltd (PAYE)	20.00	
SLCC subscription	100.00	
Payments by Standing Order (25th of the month)		
Clerk	500.00	
Lengthsman	189.29	

10. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. Chairman. Nothing further to add.

b. Clerk. There was the possibility of entering the Chairman into an SALC lottery to attend a Buckingham Palace tea party.

c. Members. Cllr Pope informed the Council that at last appropriate signage to guide emergency vehicles had been installed at Brookland Road. Cllr Crumb requested that the Clerk investigate the possible provision of dog bins at Kennel Lane and Station Path.

Action: Clerk

10. Date of next meeting. The next meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish would be held on Monday 19 March 2018 at the Huish Sixth Auditorium at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Parish Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Parish Council