

Huish Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Huish Episcopi Parish Council held at St. Mary's Church School Rooms on Monday 16th May 2011 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Cllr S Nicholas	Chairman	
Cllr G Lock		
Cllr R Stranger		
Cllr J Wood		
Cllr J Fraser		
Cllr F Pope		
Cllr M Norton		
Cllr B Horsgood		
Cllr R Mills	District Councillor	(7 - 8.30pm)
Cllr D Yeomans	County Councillor	(7 - 8.40pm)

Parishioners: Mr and Mrs V Derham, Mr M Marshall, Mr G Richmond, Mr G Barton, Mr and Mrs L Paul, Mr and Mrs R Manning. Mr R Golledge (Western Gazette)

Public Session

Mr Richmond and Mr Barton of Pibsbury raised continuing speeding concerns in Pibsbury. A Highways speeding survey in March revealed that over 47% of motorists were exceeding the 40mph restriction by up to 35mph. Huish Episcopi Parish Council would support call for reduction to 30mph, extending the zone and a speedwatch scheme with letters to Mrs Norman SCC and the Chief Constable. The Council's monitoring device would be transferred to Pibsbury if the scheme went ahead.

Action: Clerk

Mrs Manning requested that Council draw The Leveller's attention to the absence of Huish Episcopi under County Councillors' responsibilities.

Action: Clerk

Mr Shaun Travers of Boon Brown Planning attended to discuss amendments to the Bartlett's Elm plans, now that the remainder would be developed by Summerfield Homes. It was intended to reduce the remaining 58 to 52, opening up the scheme and reducing the density, and some eco-friendly aspects were to be added. The affordable housing quota had already been met by the Yarlington Homes section of the development.

1. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr F Kimpton.

2. Elections and other related matters.

i. Chairman. Cllr Nicholas was nominated by Cllr Wood, seconded by Cllr Fraser and elected unanimously.

ii. Vice Chairman. Two nominations were made: Cllr Fraser was nominated by Cllr Fraser, seconded by Cllr Horsgood and Cllr Lock was nominated by Cllr Nicholas, seconded by Cllr Wood. Cllr Lock was elected by 4 to 3 votes.

iii. Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Chairman Cllr Nicholas signed the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, all Councillors signed the Councillors' Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

iv. Declaration of Interests forms. All Councillors had completed new forms.

v. Committees – Farming and Development Control. Cllr Lock and Cllr Stranger would continue on the Farming Committee and Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Lock plus the Councillor nearest the application without a personal interest would form the Development Control Committee.

vi. Committee Representatives. The following representatives were agreed:

Memorial Field	- Cllr Nicholas (deputy Cllr Wood) Note: MUGA Project - Cllr Lock
Joint Committee	- Cllr Nicholas, Cllr Lock, Cllr Wood and Cllr Fraser
Abattoir Liaison	- Cllr Fraser
Environment	- Cllr Kimpton - Environment would include: footpaths, Transition Town Langport, Tree Warden Ring and other environmental matters.

The Chairman was pleased to welcome the two new Councillors, Cllr Norton and Cllr Horsgood, to their first meeting. All Councillors were asked to prepare a personal "thumbnail" sketch for the benefit of parishioners and fellow Councillors.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (28th March 2011)). Cllr Fraser requested that the MUGA Project be a standing item as well as the Allotments.

Action: Clerk

4. Declarations of interest. The Chairman declared an interest in the planning for 29 St Mary's Park as a neighbour.

5. Matters arising.

a. Wearne Lane speed signage. Cllr Wood and the Clerk would continue to pursue this matter with further letters and emails and calls as appropriate.

Action: Cllr Wood/Clerk

b. Church Rooms railings. The last application had been refused and new plans were to be submitted. The Clerk would confirm this with SSDC.

Action: Clerk

c. Postcodes. The Clerk would be following this matter up.

Action: Clerk

d. Land at Pibsbury Appeal Enquiry. The Chairman and Cllr Fraser had attended most of the appeal and felt that it was likely to be successful despite strenuous efforts on behalf of SSDC, the Parish Council and local parishioners.

e. MUGA Project. Cllr Lock reported that despite financial setbacks the committee remained optimistic and enthusiastic. The SSDC funding date had been extended, a preferred firm selected and savings were being considered where possible to reduce the overall costs.

f. Allotments. There was one vacant plot, as one of the new tenants had not taken it up so far. Cllr Pope had attended the ARI Magdalen Project, a very interesting organic farm with teaching opportunities. The Council agreed to pay £15 towards the attendance costs. An allotments inspection would be carried out shortly. The Council approved the installation of a polytunnel at Plot 7.

6. District Councillors' and County Councillor's Reports. Cllr Mills had nothing to report for Huish Episcopi. Cllr Yeomans was pleased that the £100m area broadband project looked set to go ahead. SCC would be implementing measures to reduce costs through "smart officing", video conferencing, home working, "hot desking", maximising use of the internet. He recommended that Councillors download the County Plan from 9th May which he expected to be ratified on 25th May. SSDC also needed to find opportunities for savings and difficult decisions were inevitable as they were at SCC.

7. Correspondence received and other matters.

a. Requests for grants/donations, agreed as follows:

Huish cum Langport PCC	£1200
LIC	£4000
Links Transport Scheme	£3000
Memorial Field	£6000
Primary School – swimming grant	£650
Citizens Advice Bureau	£150
Age Concern Somerset	£150

b. Maintenance contract 2011-12. The Council confirmed the contract with Mr Richard Carter for £653 for parish maintenance.

c. Parish Council insurance. The Council agreed to continue for a further three years with Came and Co. at a cost of £499.33 for the next year from 1st June 2011.

8. Planning.

a. Decisions notified since last meeting:

11/00659FUL	Windmill Farm Pibsbury replacement barn – permission granted.
11/00324FUL	Church Rooms Huish Episcopi Academy perimeter fence and gate – permission refused.
11/00334FUL	140/142 Brookland Road timber decking – permission granted.
11/00470FUL	10 Orchard Vale single storey link – permission granted.
11/00997TCA	Land adjoining St Mary's Church tree works – permission granted.

11/0084FUL Abattoir bone lorry screen – permission granted.

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

11/01567COL Wagg Meadow Farm (High Ham PC) – HEPC concurred entirely with the comments of High Ham PC.

11/01573FUL 29 St Mary's Park rear single storey extension – no objections though some concerns remained about the proximity of the substation. Cllr Nicholas left the room for this discussion.

11/01653FUL Foy's Wearne erection of two storey and single storey extension to rear of property – no objections.

11/01439FUL Aylesbury Rise solar panel installation – no objections.

9. Accounts, including Audit requirements and PAYE. The external audit requirements were completed by the Council, internal audit having been satisfactorily passed. The Clerk had taken advice on behalf of the Council and would register the Council for PAYE. She hoped to bring anticipated annual costs to the next meeting.

Receipts since last meeting	Current Account	Business Reserve
Precept	30000.00	
GT Hunt – FBTA	610.72	
(since 1 April 2011)		
total receipts	34587.98	26213.95
total payments	1082.31	nil
balance at 9 May 11	33505.67	26213.95
Parish Charities		1741.23

Payments to be authorised

Clerk – salary	600.00
Clerk – administration	27.57
Came and Co. insurance	499.33
B Knox – Internal Auditor	125.63
F Pope - attendance costs	15.00
Grants (as per item 7a)	

9. Matters of report and items for next meeting.

a. Chairman. The Clerk was asked to write letters of thanks to Cllr Loy and Cllr Brace. Cllr Nicholas and Cllr Lock would consider ways of improving the case for grants towards the MUGA Project.

b. Clerk. The Clerk was pleased to report that a Community Education programme was to be restored at Huish Episcopi Academy.

c. Members. Cllr Wood asked the Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr Willson, Wearne Speedwatch Coordinator. A letter had been received suggesting that a passing place be made in the road east out of Wearne. Cllr Wood felt that the costs of creating a full lay-by would be prohibitive, however Highways would be asked to tidy up the informal lay-by and perhaps add some tarmac. Cllr Stranger requested that the Clerk contact Streetscene to remove weeds and moss in Newtown Park. Cllr Fraser would liaise with Pibsbury residents concerning speeding along Wincanton Road and he recommended that Highways be requested to undertake a local signage review. The possibility of a Community Hall should continue to be an item for the Joint Committee. Councillors were reminded about the planning training on 15th June at Langport Town Hall. Cllr Horsgood asked about progress on a parish website and so far Cllr Wood had not received details held by Cllr Loy. All agreed that this should go ahead when the right option had been identified. Mr Carter was to be asked to trim back the lower branches of the willow in Brookland Road. A meeting about bus stops and possible shelters on Somerton Road would take place on 18th May.

10. Date of next meeting. The next meeting would take place on Monday 25th July 2011 at 7pm in the Church Rooms, Huish Episcopi Academy.

Meeting ended at 10.00 pm.

Agreed:

S NICHOLAS (Mrs)
Chairman of the Council

J M REDFEARN (Mrs)
Clerk to the Council