



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held on 10th April 2023

[A] Apologies were received from Councillor Wren, PCSO Hill and Parish Councillors Hasell and Frear

[B] One member of the public present raised the issue of data collection and associated costs to support the Holywell Lake traffic calming at £250 for twenty-four hours as advised by the Highways Department. The chair outlined the effect this may have on the budget and hence on the precept for parishioners and there followed a discussion on the present situation in the village and alternative methods of data gathering. It was agreed that the clerk would approach the police to ascertain if any funding were available to support such.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the police

OUTCOME: Email sent 13th April

Councillor Mansell mentioned that such issues had been raised at County level and added that the Parish Council must initiate any request and provide any necessary funding for a reduction in the village speed limit. It was believed that costs could be in the region of £4500 and the police would not enforce any future speed reduction. Councillor Hill stressed the need for the supportive data which could possibly be raised through Speedwatch. Speeds under such provision are at present only recorded at 36mph or more but a 20mph limit would bring this down to 24mph plus. It would however be advantageous to record the number of vehicles travelling at more than 20mph to support the application.

The clerk was also asked to contact the Highways Team to consider the history of any planned or actual speed limit reduction on the roads adjoining Beambridge Hill and similarly one-way working on the side road to Holywell Lake (Map reference: 50.9668882852293, - 3.280019198524906).

Councillor Mansell outlined the recent unitary authority changes, with a new logo, website and single telephone point of contact. A new Local Plan may take three to five years to develop so the present one is still considered to be current. Area based committees (eg equating to Somerset West and Taunton) are being developed. Councillor Hill questioned the position of the new logo replacing the old on vehicles. He was reassured that although new vehicles will display the new logo, existing vehicles will only do so where needed as part of a low-cost approach.

Item 1: There were no disclosures of interest by members on agenda items

Item 2: Minutes of the March meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record

Item 3: Matters arising from the previous minutes. It was noted that there was still some dissatisfaction from some residents regarding a recent planning application. See item 5a below

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

Date

Wellington Without Parish Council

Item 4: Police Liaison. Thanks were expressed to PCSO Hill for the recent police reports. It was sad to see news of the recent shooting.

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] Planning application 44/23/0002 at Cherrywood, Monument Road. A submission had been made on the planning site on 28th March with reference SWT502196256. The clerk had clarified the operator's licence prior to this submission.

[b] Planning application 44/23/0003 at Little Silver Lane

ACTION: Clerk to submit "no objections"

DONE: 11th April with reference number SWT506807975

[c] Planning application 44/23/0004 at Cowley Heath, Ford Street.

ACTION: Clerk to submit "no comment"

DONE: 12th April 2023 with reference number SWT506976139

[d] It was agreed that with immediate effect planning issues will be decided only at meetings and not discussed through email.

Item 6: Financial Issues

[a] E1 reimbursement for data protection. It was agreed to reimburse the clerk £40 for the Data Protection registration with the Information Commission. Although the Council has in the past registered through the Information Commissioner's Office it had not done so for a few years in view of the insurance policy cover. However, in view of recent changes in local authority support and the experiences of parish councils in the clerk's network it has been agreed to register, with the clerk acting as data controller.

ACTION: Clerk to check with Zurich Insurance re similar support

OUTCOME: Recommended registration through the Information Commission.

ACTION: Clerk to be reimbursed £40

DONE: 13th April 2023

[b] The Clerk's salary for the fourth quarter of the 2022 to 2023 financial year was countersigned.

[c] Budget setting for 2023 to 2024. After some discussion the budget for the present financial year was agreed.

[d] External audit and AGAR. The clerk outlined the arrangements for both the internal and external auditors. The council falls into an exempt category for an automatic external audit although all documentation requested has to be forwarded to PKF Littlejohn, external auditors after the internal audit has been completed. Charles Greenslade has agreed to act for this year. The clerk has requested a return of documentation by May 8th in time for the Annual Meetings and this has been agreed.

ACTION: Clerk to forward the documentation

DONE: 12th April

[e] The date for public inspection of the accounts has been set as the 13th June to the 21st July inclusive. Members of the public are asked to contact the Clerk after the Annual Meeting to arrange an inspection.

Item 7: Somerset Council

[a] A date for the first meeting of the Local Community Network has been set as the 26th April. It is unfortunately unlikely that any councillor will be able to attend.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

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Item 8: Any other urgent business

[a] Holywell Lake speed enforcement. See comments from Councillor Mansell above.

[b] National Emergency Alert System. This will be tested on April 23rd in the evening.

Messages will be left on mobile phones, whether switched on or not, and they will remain inoperative unless acknowledged.

[c] Annual Parish Meetings. The date has been set as May 15th avoiding clashes with the Coronation Weekend. They will be held at the Beambridge Hotel from 6.30pm

[d] Date and time of the next business meeting and the Annual Meetings. These will be on the same evening as the Annual Parish Meeting.

[e] Holywell Lake Community Brief. Councillor Howes displayed a copy, which was well received by the council

[f] Wellington Monument Card. A request was received from the Chair to ascertain support for a print run of 300 through Carly Press. The chair will email a copy for the next agenda.

ACTION: Place on May agenda

DONE: April 12th

A new visitors' centre in the style of a log cabin is to be constructed at the Monument and the present income from coffee (etc) purchase is in excess of £40 per day

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

Date