



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held on February 12th at the Beambridge Inn

The meeting started with a moment's silence to remember Councillor John Greenshields, who has recently passed. Sincere condolences were expressed for his wife and family. Councillor Greenshields had completed over twenty years service and he had been very active, not only with the Parish Council but with many other local initiatives. It was noted with great pleasure that the National Trust Visitor Centre is to be renamed in honour of John Greenshields.

Present: Councillors Lane, Frear, Hasell and Hill were present. Mr S Olive and County Councillor Wren were welcomed.

[A] Apologies and resignation.

Apologies were received from PCSO Steve Hill and Councillor Mansell, and the resignation of Councillor Howes was noted.

[B] Appointment of Chairperson and vice-chairperson

Councillor Lane was supported as chairman and Councillor Hill was elected as vice-chairman. The latter was proposed by Councillor Hasell, and seconded by Councillor Frear with unanimous approval.

[C] Issues raised by members of the public

There were no initial issues raised, although agenda items were relevant.

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

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meetings were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Following the passing of the previous chairman the January meeting had been cancelled and the "minutes" were signed to that effect.

Item 3: There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

Item 4: Police Liaison

Thanks were expressed to PCSO Hill for the January report.

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] The installation of a defibrillator unit at Holywell Lake has been declined. The clerk will be informed should more funding become available.

[b] The grant of £4700 towards a Speed Indicator Device at Ford Street was welcomed. The sites need to be re-examined and suitable poles installed. It was agreed that a solar powered system was preferable. The clerk will liaise with the Highways and Police.

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ACTION: Clerk to pursue costs from a supplier

DONE: 13th February. Draft invoices have been received from Elan City for both battery and solar powered devices.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the police for payment of the grant.

DONE: 13th February

Item 6: Financial Issues

[a] Somerset Council has met with some major financial difficulties and many requests have been received by the parish council to support others. These are not within our remit or financial capabilities but it was agreed that a precept of £8500 for the forthcoming year would enable us to fulfil our statutory duties. This will mean a rise for a band D property of £1.41 for the year.

DONE: The precept request was forwarded on the 22nd January to meet relevant deadlines following the cancellation of our January meeting

[b] It was agreed to refund the clerk for the £30 Christmas Box for the staff at the Beambridge Inn. Once again we thank the Inn for the generous monthly hosting of our meetings at no cost to the council.

ACTION: Reimburse the clerk £30

DONE: February 13th

Item 7: Somerset Council.

[a] Councillor Hasell reported on the general slowing of traffic on the A38 following the recent amendments. However there is a significant issue with signage relevant to the Holywell lake slip road and danger with a possible right turn for traffic travelling uphill. There are also issues with the junction at the Beambridge Inn.

ACTION: Councillor Wren will contact Councillor Mansel

[b] Councillor Wren highlighted the significant issues facing Somerset, which was reinforced by a communication from Councillor Mansell. After a request to use capital to support the budget was refused by the Government alternative routes will be explored. Eighty seven million pounds is needed and following the refusal and in tandem with limits on funding increases, bankruptcy for the County is a distinct possibility. Councillor Mansell highlighted the possibility of parishes working together to address those areas which may be passed over from the main authority, eg drain clearance. A legal definition of council obligations is awaited, but other non-statutory tasks may be passed over to parish councils, which may put a strain on local finances. Somerset has a relatively low tax base, and a relatively high elderly population, which has resulted in significant increases in the costs of domiciliary care.

Item 8: Any other urgent business

[a] Following the resignation of Councillor Howe the Parish Council would like to thank her for her contribution, and they wish her well.

ACTION: Clerk to forward letter of appreciation.

DONE: 13th February

[b] Website link councillor

[c] Set date for Annual Meetings

[d] Councillor Hasell raised the issue of the Churchyard Grant. The clerk has received £350 and will forward this to the church. Next year however, due to County financial circumstances, this grant will not be made available to the Parish Council. The delay in

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payment had been caused by an error by county finance resulting in significant overpayment and subsequent reimbursement.

ACTION: Transfer £350 to Church account

DONE: 13th February

[e] The Annual Meeting date was approved as May 13th at 6.30pm. Please note the time.

[f] There are two vacancies for councillors and an information sheet was presented by the clerk for notice boards. The closing date for those interested is March 8th and the decision will be made on March 11th to meet statutory requirements.

Date of the next meeting:

7.00pm March 11th at the Beambridge Inn at 7.00pm

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