



Draft Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held on March 11th at the Beambridge Inn

[A] Apologies. All councillors were in attendance including Somerset Councillor Mansell.

[B] There were no members of the public present.

Item 1:

[a] There were no disclosures of interest by members on agenda items:

[b] Two applicants presented themselves to the full council and were duly offered posts as Parish Councillors, which they accepted. The clerk presented the necessary information sheets and documentation. Both Councillor Olive and Councillor White were welcomed.

ACTION: [1] Both “Declarations of Acceptance” to be signed by the new councillors and forwarded by the clerk to “Governance”

[2] Clerk to email parish map to both new councillors

[3] Clerk to email details of present website organisers to Councillor Hill

Item 2: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record

Item 3: Matters arising from the previous minutes. Councillor Lane outlined a discussion regarding development on Wellington Hill with a local resident, which necessitates no action by the council.

Item 4: Police Liaison. There was no police report.

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] Speed indicator device at Ford Street. The clerk, and another resident from Ford Street have met the Highways engineer to discuss the siting of the SID. It was agreed to accept the site at the entry to the hamlet and to seek confirmation that it would be acceptable to place the unit on the other side of the road to facilitate the provision of a solar powered unit. The police have offered a grant of £4700 towards the unit. The cost of a solar powered unit is just under £3000 and the poles, which have to be installed by approved contractors, are approximately £500 each.

ACTION: [1] Clerk to confirm the alternative siting with the Highways Engineer

[2] Clerk to pursue the grant payment

[3] Clerk to ascertain insurance position with Zurich Insurance

Item 6: Financial Issues

[a] Transaction sheets E30 to E34 were approved and signed. These included Q4 salary and associated costs as below.

[b] Clerk’s salary, administration allowance and HMRC payment for the final quarter were approved for payment.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Parish Clerk: Neil Dalton
email: wwpcclerk@gmail.com telephone: 01823 665649

Wellington Without Parish Council

[c] Data Protection Fee. The fee last year was £40. An invoice for the next year is expected before the April meeting.

[d] 2024 to 2025 budget setting. After settlement of all transactions outlined above in 6a the final budget balance is £16292.02

The clerk outlined the positive budget situation, and the likelihood of some changes due to the County's possible bankruptcy. It was agreed that the clerk in his role as finance officer would forward a suggested budget, once any possible changes are known. This would necessarily form the budget for the financial year 2023 to 2024.

ACTION: The clerk will forward a suggested budget by the 13th March. Any changes to be made must be forwarded to the clerk by the 20th March.

ACTION: Clerk to email County Finance by March 18th with reference to the level of precept expected for the next financial year. A request was made earlier in the year for £8500

[e] Public inspection of the accounts. It was agreed that any member of the public wishing to inspect the accounts can do so in April in addition to the statutory period of the first ten working days in July. Access before the 1st July meets the Transparency Code requirements.

ACTION: Clerk to inform via email, website and notice boards

Item 7: Somerset Council. Councillor Mansell was welcomed to the meeting, and he outlined the current difficult financial circumstances for Somerset Council. Although the new budget has filled the gap so to speak approximately £70 million pounds is being covered from reserves and capital. Although many staff have already left a significant number will lose their posts starting in May. A number of assets are being considered for sale including "C" block at County Hall.

There are a number of proposals for cost savings from Highways, for example jetting and pothole repairs, but statutory requirements remain fixed. It is hoped that with some changes it may be possible to make savings. [A document from the Services Director for Infrastructure and Transport has been received with regards to devolution]

The news regarding the Gigafactory to be built near Bridgwater has been very well received and any commitment to financial support by the Council, for [eg] transport links, should be recovered quickly.

The complication of Unitary Authority status can, and has, caused a few issues, and the refusal of the request to raise Council Tax means that the residents pay well below the average of equivalent authorities. Unfortunately there remains an uncomfortable time ahead.

Item 8: Any other urgent business

[1] Draft minutes protocol. It was agreed that the draft protocol be forwarded with these minutes for comparison and consideration at the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to forward draft protocol and place on the April agenda.

[2] There has been significant fly-tipping at Stallards and Farthing Pitts. Residents are encouraged to report such issues.

[3] There have been a number of late night instances of cars racing and congregating on the Motorway Bridge.

ACTION: Councillor Frear to report such issues to the police.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Parish Clerk: Neil Dalton
email: wwpcclerk@gmail.com telephone: 01823 665649

Wellington Without Parish Council

[c] Councillor Hasell reported a number of issues concerned with the recent A38 changes and access to Holywell Lake, which includes signage and road marking changes, for example a double white line having been “converted” to a single line by road repairs. Councillor Mansell outlined the issues which are being pursued by Traffic Management.

[d] The question of the installation of the “Average Speed” management from Perry Elm to the Devon border was raised, and some resistance to such was noted.

ACTION: Councillor Mansell to ascertain the position

[4] A laminated map of the local area, if possible to include walking routes would be very useful for the parish noticeboards. Councillors are requested to investigate possible sources.

ACTION: Councillors and Clerk to investigate. Place on the next agenda

[5] Parish Noticeboards. Councillor details are to be updated.

ACTION: Clerk to provide updated contact list. Place on the next agenda

Date of the next meeting:
7.00pm April 8th at the Beambridge Inn

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Parish Clerk: Neil Dalton
email: wwpcclerk@gmail.com telephone: 01823 665649