



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held on April 8th 2024 at the Beambridge Inn

[A] Apologies and Attendance. All parish councillors and Somerset Councillor Wren were in attendance. Apologies were received from Somerset Councillor Mansell and PCSO Hill.

[B] No members of the public were present.

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

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting were amended where necessary, approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

Item 4: Police Liaison. Thanks were expressed to PCSO Hill for the recent police report which indicated that there had been no calls to 999 or 101 and no calls to the police for incidences of anti-social behaviour.

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] Speed Indicator Device. The clerk, as a resident of Ford Street, outlined the lack of progress. Despite many emails and reminders the clerk has been unable to access the approved grant which is necessary to access prior to purchase, but will continue to pursue the issues. Sites for installation have been approved with the Highways Officer. The residents await contact from Zurich Insurance and the police service.

ACTION: The Clerk to pursue the matter with the County Highways Officer

OUTCOME:

[b] Parish Council Website. Councillor Olive outlined the work he had undertaken with reference to the present website, its usage, costs and potential alternatives. Councillor Olive outlined appropriate headings and other issues such as visitor numbers. It was recommended to settle the present invoice for a six-month prepayment and in the ensuing weeks to consider the recommended move to a .gov.uk domain. Thanks were expressed for his work.

ACTION: The Clerk to pay the prepayment invoice

DONE: 9th April

ACTION: Councillor Olive to pursue the recommendation

Item 6: Financial Issues

[a] External and Internal Audit. The Finance Officer/Clerk explained that the finance documentation would be forwarded to the internal auditor on the 9th April, and following that to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn by the 1st July 2024.

ACTION: Forward documentation to the internal auditor

DONE: 9th April

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

[b] The Public rights period to inspect the unaudited accounts has been set as 20th June to 31st July weekdays only. Those wishing to do so are asked to contact the clerk.

[c] An annual Direct Debit payment has been organised for Data Protection Services at £40 with a £5 reduction for doing so.

[d] Ledger. The ledger has been closed in preparation for the audit. The balance transferred to the present financial year is £16257.02

[e] Cosmic website pre-payment for Six Months. It was agreed to settle this account although alternative provision is being researched. See item 5b above

Item 7: Somerset Council. Councillor Wren updated the council on a number of issues, both local and county wide. Although some major issues remain the County is on the path to the complete reorganisation as part of the Unitary Authority status. The issues on the A38 at the Holywell lake junction still partially remain although the signage is due for review in the near future. The problems with road markings, including partially covered double white lines at this junction, will be likewise considered, although it may be that the only solution could be resurfacing.

Broadband coverage in the area varies widely. There are some local issues both with coverage and contractor systems, and it may be that with “cherry picking” of customers good coverage may neither increase in range or capacity. The system is a joint Somerset/Devon approach although there are others eg on Exmoor. Residents can register interest with such providers as Airband, Open Reach, Jurassic etc. and future funding may be available to boost poor local signals, as confirmed by the council. Thanks were expressed for his contribution.

Item 8: Any other urgent business

[a] Councillor Frear mentioned the problems with fly-tipping in the parish.

[b] The Annual Governance Statement was completed and signed by the council in preparation for the Annual Audit.

[c] Annual Parish Meeting on May 13th. Parishioners are encouraged to attend this meeting which will start at 6.30pm and be followed by a business meeting.

[d] One confidential issue with a possible planning breach was highlighted

ACTION: Clerk to pursue the matter with the County Planners

Date of the next meeting:

6.30pm May 13th 2024 at the Beambridge Inn

This Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by a short business meeting

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