



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on September 9th 2024 at the Beambridge Inn

[A] Apologies were received from Somerset Councillors Mansell and Wren and PCSO Hill.

All other councillors were in attendance

[B] One member of the public, Mr Paul Parsons was present.

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

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

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

Item 5: Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] Speed Indicator Device at Ford Street. The clerk had received a quote from Elan City for the installation of a SID, and in February the council was offered a grant of £4700 from Avon and Somerset Police. However there are no indications as to how to access this and despite the clerk emailing regularly there is still uncertainty.

ACTION: The clerk will again contact Rachael Callow at the Police Department to determine our position.

[b] After discussion of the planning application at Peterhayes, Ford Street it was agreed to submit “no comment” to the planning portal.

ACTION: Clerk to make the submission

DONE: September 10th

Item 6: Financial Issues

[a] There were no items of expenditure over £100

[b] Transactions E12 to E14 were approved and countersigned. These are the second quarter payments for the clerk’s salary, HMRC contribution and the administration allowance.

ACTION. The clerk to arrange payment

[c] The SALC affiliation fee of £211.89 was approved and countersigned.

ACTION. The clerk to arrange payment

This will leave a balance of £21221.45

[d] One bill for Councillor Olive’s course attendance is outstanding. We await a payment request from the organisers as promised.

Item 7:

[a] Councillor Olive gave positive feedback on attendance at two courses, including how to be a councillor, although not all topics were necessarily of local interest as councils of varying sizes were represented. However there was much discussion and the courses were professionally led and efficient although not revolutionary. It may be that the parish council

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considers their own communication methods in future. Many local people may not be aware of the work of this council and future press releases could be considered.

[b] The following specific matters were raised for consideration:

[i] A press release for the “Welly Weekly”.

[ii] Notice boards to have agendas and minutes etc posted, if not done already.

[iii] New residents to be contacted on taking up residence.

[c] The Churchyard Grant needs to be considered. Should the grant not be forwarded to the council ought we to cover the costs from our balances?

[d] Regular press releases for any available local public magazine should there be one, as “The Edge” is Wellington based only.

ACTION: Councillor Olive agreed to produce a draft sample press release for the next meeting

ACTION: Councillors to consider items [b] [c] and [d] above for discussion at the October meeting

Item 8: Any other urgent business

[a] Interest was expressed in councillor training, but there are no specific requests at the moment.

[b] Cosmic website hosting. Councillor Olive discussed the technical and financial issues with reference to website hosting especially in view of impending increases in costs. Thanks were expressed to him by those present and Councillor Olive agreed to consider a cheaper and yet more flexible solution. All were in favour.

ACTION. Councillor Olive to investigate and/or implement changes and place on the October agenda

Item 9: Matters of Report

[a] Councillor Frear mentioned instances of fly-tipping which include large items such as large bags of rubbish and car tyres.

[b] Thanks were expressed to Councillor Mansell for the following information.

There is nothing further to report on A38 since the information circulated on 2nd August, which explained options and constraints for changes at Holywell Lake Lane. Signage improvements are to be proposed by officers. Councillor Mansell has recently sent a reminder and request for these. Resurfacing work is currently underway and average speed cameras are also to be installed. Councillor Mansell has requested an update on the timing for this.

Budget gap and council transformation - Continuing current services and taking steps to address the financial crisis at Somerset Council remain top priorities. The transformation programme to restructure and reduce jobs by over a 1,000 (up to quarter of the workforce) is underway, with those awarded voluntary redundancy now leaving along with others choosing to leave. Changes at director levels have been completed, which has reduced Executive

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Directors from 7 to 4 and reduced the number of Service Directors too. There will be consultation proposals to restructure all other officer tiers published at the end of September, with further compulsory redundancies then expected to follow before the end of the financial year. Significant sales of council property and assets are also continuing to help cover this year's budget gap.

Thanks were extended to the Beambridge Inn for this evening's hospitality.

Date of the next meeting is October 14th at 7.00pm at the Beambridge Inn

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