West Huntspill Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7:00 pm on 12th July 2021 at St Peters and All Hallows Church following Covid-19 regulations. Access available to the meeting for the public via Zoom.**

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| **i)** | | **Members present:** Cllr J Wakefield, Cllr R Palmer, Cllr R Shaw, Cllr A Higgs & Cllr M Saunders  The Clerk – Mrs Alex Harris | **Action** |
| **ii)** | | **Members of public present via Zoom:** Mr Stephen Bishop – Ramont Property Development |  |
| **iii)** | | **County & District Councillors present via Zoom**: Cllr M Healey |  |
| **1.** | | **Apologies for absence**: Cllr R Keen & Cllr A Gunnell-Parker |  |
| **2** | | **Dispensation requests**: None |  |
| **3.** | | **Minutes and Clerks Report**  Cllr Parker proposed the minutes we a true record of the meeting held on the 21/6/21. Cllr R Shaw seconded this and the Council were all agreed.  Cllr Wakefield and Cllr R Palmer approved the Clerks report and the Council were all agreed. |  |
|  | | **Meeting closed 7.10pm– Mr Steve Bishop from Ramont Property Development talked to the Council informally regarding a possibility of housing development in Church Road. See below for comments.** |  |
|  | | Mr Bishop informed the Council he would like to explore the possibility of a housing development on a plot of land in Church Road on behalf of his client. The land had been previously identified by SDC as a possible opportunistic development area in a previous Housing Needs Assessment.  The land is situated off of Church road and currently has 2 elderly horses grazing on the land.  The area is outside of the development settlement boundary so there will be a requirement to prove housing need.  A need for 18 affordable homes was identified on a light touch survey by SDC last year and this requirement will be met by a proposed New Road development if goes ahead. The Parish Council has objected to this application. A further survey would be required to see if more are homes are needed within the West Huntspill area if the New Road development does get approved by SDC.  The Parish Council can’t form a view on any prospective planning issue until it can be properly assessed when a formal planning application is received.  The developer suggests there is room on the site for 22 homes, possibly 25. 10 of these houses could be affordable homes. He also suggests that development make help regenerate the village and amenities could be increased.  No formal application has been received at present. This is for information only at present. |  |
|  | | **Meeting re-opened at 7.30pm** |  |
| **4.** | | **Matters Arising –None** |  |
| **5.** | | **County Councillor and District Councillor Reports:**  **Cllr Healey reported:**  No report received by email. Cllr Healey will look into this and forward on to Council.  **Cllr J Keen reported:**  Awaiting a government announcement regarding the restructure of local government – Stronger Somerset or One Somerset.  New Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Constabulary is Sarah Crowe.  SDC are working in partnership with Somerset West to help combat climate change. |  |
| **6.** | | **Planning**  **52/21/00006 Alstone Court, Alstone Lane**  Change of use of land from agricultural to dog agility training  **The majority of the Council continued to object to this application. Cllr R Keen abstained from voting.**  **52/21/00012 – T R Quick – Poplar Farm**  Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed resurfacing of existing hardcore farmyard area  **The Council had no objection to this application.**  **52/20/00024 Land South of New Road – West Huntspill LVA LLP**    Land south of, New Road. Outline application with some matters reserved for the erection of 45 dwellings, a carpark, open space and other associated infrastructure with all matters reserved for future consideration except access.  **The Parish Council continue to object to this application on the following grounds:**  The highways survey was completed during a national lock down and not a true reflection of traffic though the village.  Pedestrian Crossing – application only states suggested and the sizing on the application is not correct on application.  School carpark is not easily accessible to the school and not big enough  **The Council approved letter written by Ms J Widdecombe (Planning Consultant) on behalf of the PC to object to this application.** |  |
| **7** | | **Footpaths, Highways and Maintenance**  Quote required to pollard trees at Old Pawlett Road/White Cottage  Cold Calling signs have been erected in the village.  Neighbourhood warden scheme is a work in progress – Cllr Higgs | Clerk |
| **8.** | | **Common**  Trees on Common need Crown Lifting. Cllr Saunders will look into this.  WI held their picnic on the Common which was a success.  Common Map area: Plannings needs to create a hard surface to stop erosion of edge of Common.  Wooden bollards to be installed – mini digger required. |  |
| **9.** | | **Pavilion**  Clerk meeting with Cllr A Gunnell-Parker and Dave Counsell on Sunday 1st August. |  |
| **10.** | | **Ilex Park**  A directional sign is needed for the park within the Ringstone area.  The Clerk will contact Arien Signs |  |
| **11.** | | **Area Report:**  **Ringstone**  Gas Main is being re-sleeved in Ringstone – Will be works going on for 3 months  **Church Road** – Speeding traffic remains an issue. PCSO aware.  Laburnham House Hotel – lots of anti-social behaviour issues. Police are doing extra patrols of area and the Environment Agency are also investigating the area.  **Main Road** – Pit stop garage now operating – offering MOTs and car sales have increased. Contact Development Control.  **Alstone** – None |  |
| **12.** | | Financial items:   * Statement of accounts * To agree the following payments   Mrs Alex Harris £598.76 – Clerk  Mrs Alex Harris £37.99 – Telephone and website  Mrs Alex Harris £14.39  Steve Chick £250.00  Steve Chick £375.00  Arien Signs £144.00  The Council agreed the banking statement and all payments were approved. |  |
| **13.** | | **Matters of report:** Cllr Gunnell-Parker will be absent from next meeting due to holiday |  |
| **14.** | **Date & time of next meeting: 13th September 2021 – 7pm – Balliol Hall** | |  |
| **15.** | The meeting closed at: 20.25pm | |  |