West Huntspill Parish Council Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7:00 pm on 14th March 2022 at The Balliol Hall, Church Road following Covid-19 regulations.**

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| **i)** | | **Members present:** Cllr J Wakefield, Cllr R Shaw, Cllr R Keen, Cllr A Gunnell-Parker, Cllr R Palmer & Cllr M Saunders  The Clerk – Mrs Alex Harris | **Action** |
| **ii)** | | **Members of public present: Mr John Wilks** |  |
| **iii)** | | **County & District Councillors present via Zoom**: None |  |
| **1.** | | **Apologies for absence**: Cllr A Higgs |  |
| **2** | | **Dispensation requests**: Cllr Mark Saunders regarding grant funding request for St Peter and All Hallows Church Yard. |  |
|  | | **The Chairman addressed the Council regarding the recent Ukraine crisis. The Chairman also reminded Councillors on how to request additions to the agenda prior to a meeting and time scales.** |  |
| **3.** | | **Minutes and Clerks Report**  Cllr Gunnell-Parker proposed the minutes were a true record of the meeting held on the 14/2/22. Cllr R Keen seconded this and the Council were all agreed.  Cllr Saunders and Cllr A Gunnell- Parker approved the Clerks report and the Council were all agreed. |  |
| **4.** | | **Matters Arising –None** |  |
| **5.** | | **Police report – PCSO Piers unable to attend again but report received.**  Cllr J Keen will discuss the regular non-attendance of PCSO’s and PCs to the Avon and Somerset Crime Commissioner |  |
|  | | **Meeting closed at 7.06 for Mr John Wilks (member of the public) to discuss the Brue Farm Planning applications.** |  |
|  | | **Meeting re-opened at 7.15pm** |  |
| **6.** | | **Ukraine**  Homes for Ukrainian refugees needed. SDC has set a scheme starting on 18/3/22.  3000 visas have been granted to date.  To offer a home – register on SDC website £350 per month per home offered via Government.  If Councillors would like further information can contact Mr D Baxter at SDC.  As crisis worsens may need an extra PC meeting to discuss ways to help.  Unable to offer grant funding to Ukraine – No legal power.  Can grant money to local based registered charities to help fund clothing, medicines etc |  |
| **7.** | | **County Councillor and District Councillor Reports:**  Cllr Healey sent report by email  **Cllr J Keen reported:**  SDC and SCC are completing a joint Ecology statement for the area.  Small volunteer groups are eligible to apply for small grants before June 2023. Contact SDC for further information. Must all show they have approached their local PC for funding too.  Highbridge festival of arts has started – audiences needed. Cllr Keen will send a copy of the programme to the Clerk to distribute. |  |
| **8.** | | **Planning**  **52/21/00016 – Brue Farm Development**  Mr John Wilks will write a letter on behalf of the PC raising concerns over this development. The Council will agree this letter before it is set to the planning department. |  |
| **9.** | | **Common**  Clerk to Contact Media Edge and enquire if the map can be copied onto Perspex. |  |
| **10.** | | **Pavilion**  Cllr A Gunnell-Parker attended a site visit yesterday. Slow progress at present due to lack of building materials available.  Clerk to contact Dave Counsell and inform they can go ahead with surfacing of carpark.  Several trees planted approximately 40 years ago have grown very tall. One tree in particular is damaging the boundary wall with the neighbouring property. Cllr A Gunnell-Parker and Cllr M Saunders will contact Mark Fiddes for advice. |  |
| **11.** | | **Clean Sweep**  The next Clean Sweep will be the weekend of 19th March 2022. The Clerk will advertise and inform SDC. |  |
| **12.** | | **Ilex Park – No Issues** |  |
| **13.** | | **Area Report:**  **Ringstone/Withy Road –**  Fence repaired by owner at Ilex Close  Areas of green spaces are being concreted over by SDC – Enquire why this is happening.  **Church Road** – 2 x Cherry trees have been planted on the Common to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. A plaque to be ordered saying “Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 2002” and will be sited by the Cherry tree on the Doble area of the Common.  Inconsiderate parking in the area. Inform PCSO  Residents are looking into requesting a 20mph for Church Road.  Mr S Cox has agreed to meet with the Council to discuss Laburnham House Hotel.  **Main Road** – Council agreed Arien Signs quote for a new notice board by the school.  1x Buckthorn tree to be planted near Huntspill Projects as part of the Queens Green Canopy project.  **Alstone** – Footpaths need cutting – over -grown  New “No Dog Fouling” sign required – request from SDC | AGP  Clerk |
| **14.** | | **Platinum Jubilee**  Bunting and Flags have been ordered  The brass band has sadly now been disbanded – King Alfred’s School band will now play between 12.30-1.30pm  The Council agreed to order 125 coins to celebrate the Jubilee and gift to children attending West Huntspill Primary school. Cost is £392.50 plus Vat | Clerk |
| **15** | | **Footpaths/Hedges/Trees**  Sheppard’s Lane Bridle Way – 90 % of trees are dead and need felling. SCC to be contacted again. |  |
|  | | **Elections**  Councillors advised anyone wishing to be elected to the Council for a further term must submit their papers by Tuesday 5th April 4pm.  The May meeting will be postponed by one week due to the Election process. The meeting will be held at 7pm on 16th May 2022 – Cllr A Gunnell-Parker gave her apologies for this meeting. |  |
| **16.** | | **Financial items:**  The Council agreed to grant £250 towards the ongoing costs of maintaining the Churchyard.   * 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  St Peters and All Hallows Church Yard grant £250.00  The Council agreed the banking statement and all payments were approved. |  |
| **17.** | | **Matters of report:**  Discussed the recent event of a power failure in the village and the attitudes of community groups during this time. |  |
| **18.** | **Date & time of next meeting: 12th March 2022 – 7pm – Balliol Hall** | |  |
| **19.** | The meeting closed at: 20.45 | |  |