West Huntspill Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7:00 pm on 11th April 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 Shaw & Cllr M Saunders  The Clerk – Mrs Alex Harris | **Action** |
| **ii)** | | **Members of public present:** PCSO Ryan Collins |  |
| **iii)** | | **County & District Councillors present via Zoom**: County Cllr M Healey |  |
| **1.** | | **Apologies for absence**: Cllr A Higgs, Cllr R Palmer, and District Cllr J Keen |  |
| **2** | | **Dispensation requests**: None |  |
| **3.** | | **Minutes and Clerks Report**  Cllr Gunnell-Parker proposed the minutes were a true record of the meeting held on the 14/3/22. 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.** | | **Chairmans Report – Report attached** |  |
| **6.** | | **Clerks Financial Report for 2021/22 – Report Attached** |  |
| **7.** | | **Police report –** PCSO Ryan Collins  PCSO Sam Piers is leaving. At present Burnham based PCSO Ryan Collins is covering this area.  As of 1/3/22 in West Huntspill there had been the following reported over the year:  1 x Domestic Dispute  2 X RTA  1 x public order offence  2 X Assaults  1 x ASBO  Low crime area  Cllr A Gunnell Parker informed PCSO Collins that there were concerns over the lack of any police presence in the area. PCSO Collins informed that he would advise the local beat team of this, and he will also increase his patrols to cover area.  Cllr Shaw asked if PCSO Piers was being replaced? PCSO Collins informed he wasn’t aware that she would be.  Cllr Wakefield asked if the community speed watch scheme was still a possibility for Main Road and New Road? PCSO Collins advised yes and to apply through A&S Website  Cllr Wakefield also advised PCSO Collins more presence was needed around Laburnham House Hotel. There is lots of anti-social behaviour in the area. |  |
| **8.** | | **County Councillor and District Councillor Reports:**  **Cllr M Healey reported the following:**  SCC and SDC in Purdah at present due to the upcoming elections.  Gravity Project in Woolavington - 2 bidders for the RFO site. Thought be able to employ approximately 4500 workers.  The Government are granting £1 billion towards this project. It will have its own train station and facilities, and these would be open to the public.  SCC and SDC have both set good budgets for the next year. SCC has the lowest precept in the county.  Northgate project is progressing well. There will be a cinema, shops, and bowling. It’s on budget and on time.  Unitary Council – Councillors expressed their concern that this new way of working may increase parish council workload and responsibilities. Councillors are volunteers. Cllr Healy advised it would be up to each council on how much extra responsibilities they take on.  Junction 23 – Presently at stale mate as there is on-going discussion regarding the ransom strip at the entry to the site. This could take years to resolve. |  |
| **9.** | | **Elections**  West Huntspill has an uncontested result. No election is now needed. All Councillors will take their seats from the 9th of May 2022. The next PC meeting will be held on Monday 16th May 2022.  Acceptance of Office forms will be completed on the 16/5/22. Cllr Keen and Cllr Gunnell-Parker will be unable to attend this meeting. With agreement from the Chairman and Clerk the Acceptance forms for Cllr Keen and Cllr Gunnell Parker were signed in advance in the presence of the Council and Chairman at this meeting.  The New Council from 9th May 2022:  Cllr J Wakefield  Cllr A Clapp  Cllr R Shaw  Cllr A Higgs  Cllr M Saunders  Cllr R Keen  Cllr J Wilks |  |
| **10.** | | **Planning**  **52/21/00001 24 Ringstone –** No Objection  **522100002 11 Old Pawlett Road –** No Objection but comment that all access to the site with vehicles over 7.5 tonne should do so form the SOUTH only. The applicant also agrees with this. |  |
| **11.** | | Pavilion  Cllr Gunnell-Parker advised the council that she had visited the site. The project is time and aims to be complete by the first cricket match in May 2022  1st Fix has been completed  Mark Fiddes and Cllr Gunnell-Parker will be visiting the site shortly to discuss the problematic trees.  Signage is needed for the Pavilion – “Jen Tiley Pavilion” |  |
| **12.** | | Projects:  Yellow Lines (Church Road and Alstone) – Clerk to chase  Common - Grass has been cut by Cllr Saunders at back of pond  Arien Signs - Completion and delivery shortly  V-Board for Common – Cllr Saunders will remind fabricator that this is still wanted  Common Map – Jim from Media Edge has said it will be possible to copy the existing map  on to Perspex. He will need photos and sizes before he can quote.  Clean Sweep – Went well many bags of rubbish collected and 3 x volunteers. The next sweep will be end of September. |  |
| **13.** | | Platinum Jubilee  Cllr Wakefield updated the Council on the event planning so far:  Children’s Games  Human Football was too expensive  Public Liability Insurance agreed by PC supplier  Tables and Chairs will be supplied by the Horticulture society and a marquee  Leaflet Drop shortly to advise residents of plans  Flag has been purchased  Bunting sourced  Beacon has been fabricated by Cllr Saunders and will be lit at 9.45pm on June 2nd, 2022  Cherry Tree on Common planted on behalf of the Queens Green Canopy Project has been listed on the official website and a plaque arranged. |  |
|  | | **Cllr Roger Keen left the meeting at 20.18** |  |
| **14.** | | **Ilex Park – No Issues** |  |
| **15.** | | **Area Report:**  **Ringstone/Withy Road –** Concrete Pads have been installed in Ringstone. This has provided more off-road parking and fences have been erected around grass areas.  **Church Road** – Inconsiderate parking throughout Church Road area is still an issue.  Laburnham House Hotel – Mr Steve Cox is happy for the Council to have a planned visit  **Main Road** – Self Build sale sign has been erected on A38  The Sundowner is looking very messy. Cllr Gunnell-Parker ill has a chat with the owner  **Alstone** – None | AGP  Clerk |
| **16.** | | **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 |
| **17.** | | **Financial items:**   * Statement of Accounts * To agree the following payments:   Mrs Alex Harris £598.76 – Clerks salary  Mrs Alex Harris £37.99 – Telephone and website  Mrs Alex Harris £14.39 – Zoom  Balliol Hall Hire £66.00  Gifts to Impress – Jubilee Coins £485.40 inc Vat  Mr S Chick Invoice 0185 £412.50 – Large grass areas  Zurich - lex Park Insurance annual payment £157.00  The Council agreed the banking statement and all payments were approved. |  |
| **18.** | | **Matters of report:** None |  |
| **19.** | **Date & time of next meeting: 16th April 2022 – 7pm – Balliol Hall** | |  |
| **20.** | The meeting closed at: 20.45 | |  |

Chairmans Report – Cllr John Wakefield

* I believe most would agree that last year went relatively smoothly. The were no disasters, floods, uninvited guests raiding the common and we didn’t have to shoot any rabbits.
* It should be considered that things running smoothly as no accident. If all the correct procedures and we have “all our ducks in a row” we can deal with issues as they arise and stop them becoming more serious. With good communications and a small willing team, we can deal with issues as they arise.
* The power cut was a prime example as we provided the hall for those affected to use and got great support from Asda. Many thanks to Alan and Bonny and my other half to making this possible.
* We did have the New Road Planning issue of course. Although this went against us only by the Chairmans casting vote, I’m pretty sure it would have gone ahead on appeal anyway.
* If you look at the “Parish Plan” you will note that the average age of those responding rose from 48 to 57 since 2003. The conclusion was quote **“More must be done to attract young people with families into the village whilst provision for the older population in terms of facilities offered should be reviewed.**
* We must look on the positive side of the new development and make sure that those meant for local people as per the HNA are taken up by local people.
* I have no doubt many residents appreciate the great work we as a team achieved over the last year, but that does leave many that are not aware. As for the future I believe the council are far too passive and we should make ourselves available at all fete’s shows and events in the village so people can just come along for a chat and meet the “A Team”. We do a fantastic job, and we should blow our trumpet a little louder.

**Financial Report 2021/2022 – Clerk: Mrs Alex Harris**

**Financial Report 2021/2022 APM**

Pavilion Building Fund £10,000

Costs so far £4488.00

**Opening Parish Council Balance April 2021 £44594.27**

Precept £20,500

Allotment Rent £850.00

**Main Expenditure**

Land rental for allotment £850.00

SDC Dog Bins £334.46

Steve Chick– Footpaths x5 £1375.00

Steve Chick – Large Grass areas £3300.00

Grant Thornton Auditor £48.00

Planning Consultant £120.00

Zoom £89.94

Salaries (Clerk) £8953.80

Insurance including indemnity £896.09

St peters and All hallows Churchyard £500.00

Balliol Hall Hire £ 22.00

HMRC PAYE £2197.28

Phone Box Refurbishment £500.00

EDF Energy Pavilion £305.53

EDF Energy Xmas Lights £35.48

Wessex Water £416.86

Royal British Legion Wreath £50.00

Somerset Playing Field Association £80.00

Somerset Playing Field Inspection £120.00

Christmas Tree £135.00

SLCC Membership £154.00

Arien Signs £60.00

Trees £768.00

Notice Board Refurbishment £144.00

War memorial Grass Cutting £900.00

Postage £90.60

Bus Shelter Cleaning – Common £250.00

**Closing Balance approx. £33847.48 as of 11/4/22**

As per auditors’ guidelines a year’s precept should be held in hand for emergency funds and good practice.

COVID-19 – prevented planned projects.

Pavilion work nears competition – aiming for May 2022 – on budget

New Notice Board near school ordered

Tree planting and Tree work completed

The precept for 2022/23 has been increased to £21,500.