West Huntspill Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7:00 pm on 16th January 2023 at The Balliol Hall, Church Road, West Huntspill.**

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| **i)** | | **Members present:** Cllr J Wakefield, Cllr R Shaw, Cllr M Saunders, Cllr A Clapp, & Cllr J Wilks  The Clerk – Mrs Alex Harris | **Action** |
| **ii)** | | **Members of public present:** Mr Dave Counsell (Huntspill Cricket Club) |  |
| **iii)** | | **County & District Councillors present**: County Cllr Mark Healy & District Cllr J Keen |  |
| **1.** | | **Apologies for absence**: Cllr Alan Higgs (Sick) Cllr R Keen (Unavailable), Cllr J Woodman and Cllr S Aujla |  |
| **2** | | **Dispensation requests**: Cllr A Clapp – Laburnham House Hotel |  |
| **3.** | | **Minutes and Clerks Report**  Cllr Wakefield proposed the minutes were a true record of the meeting after minor alterations held on the 12/12/22. Cllr A Clapp seconded this, and the Council **resolved** this was a true record.  Cllr Wakefield and Cllr Saunders approved the Clerks report, and the Council **resolved** this was accepted. |  |
| **4.** | | **Matters Arising:**  Cllr Clapp suggested that the Parish Council social media feeds had an item informing the electorate what is a Parish Council and what its actual powers are. |  |
| **5.** | | **Huntspill Cricket Club**  Mr Dave Counsell advised the Pavilion was nearing competition.  Two invoices were given to the Clerk to pay towards costs as previously agreed (£1773.73 & £4879)  He also advised the Cricket club were about to purchase a club defibrillator for the site as they were available at reduced cost of £200 via the Cricket association. On discussion the Parish Council **resolved** in principle a public defibrillator should be purchased as members of the other clubs use the area also. A case and installation would also be required. The Council **resolved** this was to be sited on the pavilion near the entrance to the site.  Mr Counsell will investigate costings via the special offer and advise the Council. There will also be ongoing running costs to be split between the cricket club and the Council. |  |
| **6.** | | **Planning**  **Update Brue Farm Development – Cllr J Wilks**  No further updates at present.  Temporary traffic lights on A38 or causing awful disruption. The traffic stream doesn’t feel right.  The ground level is being brought yup to Crown level on site.  Cllr Shaw advised the seawall dips and in original discussions with Brue Farm this was meant to be raised to match the existing levels.  The width of road looks narrower than it should be opposite Cllr Wilks home on A38.  Hedge and trees are being removed from drainage ditches and rhynes, but will they be replaced to form a natural screen and barrier from A38.  Cllr Keen will chase Stan Howlett at SDC re covenant for education on ground near development.  Cllr Wakefield agreed to arrange a meeting with Pete Donaghy. |  |
|  | | **Cllr Clapp leaves meeting 7.50pm** |  |
|  | | **52/22/00014 – 4 Sloway Lane (Laburnham House Hotel)**  Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of site as use of Class C1 hotel.  **The Parish Council strongly objected to this application on the following grounds:**  Environmental concerns on site  Increase in crime activities and anti-social behaviour  Loss of amenity to the community – no long public restaurant, swimming pool or tennis courts etc.  Highways concerns around site – large coaches using B roads 24 hours a day  Safeguarding concerns for long term guests living on site at present.  Two recent large fires on site resulting in loss of buildings and belongings. |  |
|  | | **Cllr Clapp returns to meeting 7.57pm** |  |
| **7.** | | **County Councillor Report:**  County Cllr Healy reported on the restructuring the new Unitary Authority and how it may look for Parish Councils.  The authority is due to go live on 2/4/23, multiple changes are proposed but still nothing is quite clear how it works or looks. |  |
| **8.** | | **District Councillor Report:**  District Councillor Janet Keen also informed that delivery of service via the unitary authority will be affected and it’s a major responsibility of the new council to get this right. Concerns have also been raised that elected members are being pushed aside but senior officers who are not elected by parliament. |  |
|  | | **Cllr M Healy leave meeting at 7.35pm** |  |
| **9.** | | **Civility and Respect Pledge**  The Council questioned the need for this pledge that has been proposed by NALC. The Code of Conduct covered this in detail so why is a further pledge needed. The Clerk will get advice from SALC. | CLERK |
| **10.** | | **Jenefer Tiley Pavilion and grounds**  No further developments at the pavilion this month.  Mark Fiddes completd tree work at War Memorial ground in December 2022.  Three large dead Elms at entrance to site. One has large branch overhanging Cricket Pavilion. Council **resolved** urgent tree works needed to make area safe. | CLERK |
| **11.** | | **Ilex Park**  The park is held in trust and has 5 trustees. Two of which are the Clerk and the Chairman of the Council. The trust had no funds and no active members. There are no funds in the account. Costs are rising to make the park safe and enjoyable. The Clerk advises that council that they should seek a legal opinion to transfer the park into Council ownership.  The current trustees are:  Mr Terence Orchard – Chairman  Mrs Alex Harris – Secretary and PC trustee  Mr John Wakefield – Trustee (PC)  Mrs D Wakefield  Mrs Jane Moreton  Mrs N Doble  Mr Doble  Councillors could become trustees themselves, but this could complicate future funding and bias.  The Council resolved to seek legal opinion as soon as possible.  Cllr Wakefield and Cllr Saunders will meet with GB leisure to arrange siting of new swing before installation. | CLERK |
| **12**. | | **Footpaths/Grass areas/Trees/projects**  Ilex Park and area needs a tree survey and scope of works as soon as possible. Cllr Saunders and Cllr Higgs will oversee this.  Cllr Saunders will start work on the pump near the school in the Spring. | MS/AH  CLERK |
| **13.** | | **Common & village map area**  The Clerk has contacted Media Edge to arrange a quote to transfer the current map onto Perspex.  Cllr Higgs is arranging a quite to clear overgrowth from drainage ditch alongside common.  The Council resolved to remove the two large rocks from the Common to prevent injury.  Cllr Saunders and Cllr Higgs is looking at firm to fabricate a steel triangular structure for the common as previously agreed.  The Clerk to obtain quotes for large modular marquee to purchase approx. 122m x 8m (CIL funds for community events). | CLERK  MS |
| **14.** | | **Events**  Clean Sweep will be held in March 2023. Discussed possibility of increasing this event to three times a year. March, June and September.  **King Charles III Coronation**  Sunday May 7th, 2023 - same format as Platinum Jubilee.  Possibly find a sponsor for the event. Ask business on Common for contribution?  Working party to be formed.  Orchard inn – Burger van  Kids games  Rev Chris Judson  Book The King Alfred Concert Band  Balliol hall reserved in case of bad weather  Pin Badges dependant on costs  School gifts – possibly mugs or alternative | JW |
| **15.** | | **Area Report:**  **Ringstone/Withy Road** – Abandoned cars reported.  **Church Road** – Has issues with poor car parking, causing obstruction to footpaths and highways. Contact PCSO.  **Main Road** – Huntspill Sign (near speed camera) legs are rotten needs repair.  Huntspill Villa – Brambles encroaching onto footpath. Near owners – Clerk to write  Greenwood Lodge – trees need to be ringed (Cllr Clapp and Cllr Saunders)  Litter by new building company Old Pawlett Road. Lorries stopping in layby. Speak to owner.  **New Road** – None  **Alstone** – Phone Box – Cllr Wakefield will lend Cllr Wilks a drill | Clerk |
| **16.** | | **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 £7.99 – Microsoft office monthly payment    The Council **resolved** the banking statement, and all payments were a true record and approved.  **CIL funds –£28,000 received.**  Council resolved a separate bank account to be set up for these funds to ease transparency and accounting.  Ideas for CIL funds so far:  Defibrillator and case – Alstone  Defibrillator and case – Memorial ground  More seating on Common  Picnic benches at Ilex Park  More play equipment and signage to Ilex Park  Map of local walks  Welcome pack for new residents  Solar speed warning sign  Buy land to ease parking near Balliol Hall  Cycle rack at Balliol Hall  Planters  **Budget and Precept 2023/24**  The Council reviewed the budget and **resolved** to Precept £21000 (reduction of £500) next year.  **Charity Commission returns**  Both returns for the War Memorial Playing Field and Ilex Park have been completed. |  |
| **17.** | | **Matters of report:**  PCSO Danielle McEwan will be invited to attend February s meeting  Grant applications needed for next meeting  Grass Cutting quotes required for preceding year form Mr S Chick for next meeting |  |
| **18.** | **Date & time of next meeting:**  **13th February 2023 – 7pm – Balliol Hall** | |  |
| **19.** | The meeting closed at: 21.00 | |  |