West Huntspill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7:00 pm on 9th October 2023 at The Balliol Hall, Church Road, West Huntspill.**

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| **i)** | **Members present:** Cllr M Saunders, Cllr A Higgs, Cllr A Clapp, Cllr R Keen, Cllr R Shaw & Cllr J Wilks  The Clerk – Mrs Alex Harris | **Action** |
| **ii)** | **Members of public present:** None |  |
| **iii)** | **Somerset Councillors present**: None |  |
| **1.** | **Apologies for absence**: Cllr J Wakefield (Sick), Cllr S Arjhua & Cllr M Healey |  |
| **2** | **Dispensation requests**: None |  |
| **3.** | **Minutes and Clerks Report**  Cllr A Clapp proposed the Minutes were a true record of the meeting on the 11/9/23. Cllr R Keen seconded this, and the Council **resolved** this was a true record. Cllr Saunders and Cllr Higgs approved the Clerks report, and the Council **resolved** this was accepted. |  |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising:**  Laburnham House Hotel – Large pile of rubbish present. Possible fire risk. Environment Agency and Somerset Council have been informed. |  |
| **5.** | **Report from Cllr M Healey (Somerset Council)**  Cllr Healey unable to attend due to recent bereavement. Our Condolences have been sent. |  |
| **7.** | **Planning**  **Brue farm update:**  Cllr Wilks informs the whole site is out of kilter by 3m. Concerns regarding landscaping have also been submitted but no response from SC yet.  **New Road – Edenstone Homes**  Ms V Evans has written to Council on behalf of residents who have raised concerns over this development. The Clerk has replied to Ms Evans and forwarded her letter to Edenstone Homes on her behalf.  Cllr Keen will contact the drainage board and forward the email to them to review. |  |
| **8.** | **War Memorial Playing Field**  Plaque – Wording agreed for pavilion sign: “The Jenefer Tiley Pavilion was refurbished in June 2023. Sponsored by West Huntspill Parish Council and Huntspill District Cricket Club”. The plaque will be ordered from Arien signs.  The Clerk has also contacted the Charity Commission and all listed trustees have now been removed. The Parish Council is now listed at the Trustee of this area.  The gate entrance to the field has been rectified by Mark Pugsley as agreed.  The storage container has now been installed and transferred to the asset register. Racking will be ordered, and the transfer of council documents and equipment can be stored there.  There is an area of hedging/brambles with is approximately 30ft -40ft wide and needs flaying. Cllr Saunders to contact the Duckett family and see if this is possible. Mr D Counsell will also need to be made aware this is to happen.  1 x large Ash tree needs pollarding, and 2 x dead elms also need removing. The Clerk to contact Mark Fiddess to complete as its boundaries a residential property and they may be a risk of falling. | MS/AC/  Clerk |
| **9.** | **Ilex Park**  There has been vandalism to the park over the weekend. Several trees have been damaged with a sharp implement. A picnic bench has been set on fire and some wooden play equipment damaged.  The area has been assessed. The trees should recover. The wooden equipment has kindly been fixed by Mr Terry Orchard. The bench will need renewing, but it is safe.  Also, on recent inspection of the park the following actions are needed:  Post to the side of the slide needs renewing  Remove the Spinner  The Maypole need repair.  Mark Puglsey will quote for this work.  Also, the play sand around equipment has become impacted and low depth. Weeds have also taken over. The area will need weed growth removed, sand breaking up and new sand added to increase the depth as per regulations and safety report. Quoted are being gathered for this work. | JW/MS/ Clerk |
| **10**. | **Footpaths & village map area**  Map area – Cllr M Saunders has a meeting arranged with Russ Lily to discuss the new map options. Cllr Clapp will contact Huntspill School regarding a recently drawn map of the village completed by Huntspill School. Cllr Keen also suggested a local artist Rachel Gundry who specialises in mosaic work to possibly design a Huntspill sign for the village, which may include a Heron, the river, and the Church.  Stony Path – a resident has encroached his fence onto the boundary of the footpath. Report to rights of way.  Plymor – Footbridge still has not been reinstated. Report again.  Alstone Gardens – the house next to the footpath has now been sold. Cllr Wilks will have a chat to new residents and ask if they can take the hedge back or remove so the footpath is walkable.  Triangular Frame on Common- Cllr Higgs to chase.  Trees on Common – may need lower branches removing this winter to improve shape. | MS/AC/RK/AH/Clerk |
| **11.** | **Projects**  **Clean Sweep** planned for March 2024. Bag hoops x 8 have been ordered at a cost of approximately £55.  **Carols on the Common** arranged for 16/12/23 at 6pm. Cllr Wakefield has booked the King Alfred Concert Band. WHPC to choose carols.   * Refreshments to be arranged by Cllr Wakefield. * Marquee to be erected. * Fire Basket to be place. * Advertising   **Remembrance Sunday** to be held on 12th November 2023 10.30 at St Peters and All Hallows. Mrs Monica Hall has kindly arranged the wreath on behalf of the Council. | Clerk/All |
| **12.** | **CIL Funds**  Solar Speed Signs – Awaiting a date form Somerset Council for a site visit.  Planters x 2 are currently being built.  The bench on the Common need’s refurbishment – Cllr Saunders & Cllr Higgs.  Gate way entrance War Memorial playing field has now been completed.  Metal benches (Post Office and White Cottage) still need to be refurbished. Cllr Higgs will arrange.  Land at Old Pawlett Road need clearing and tidying.  Ilex Park Finger post sign directional sign needed from A38. | All |
| **13.** | **Area Report:**  **Ringstone/Withy Road –** Potholes have been repaired and the 30mph has also been fixed.  **Church Road** – Poor parking and roadsides are eroding. Needs reporting to Highways.  **Main Road** – Bus Stop opposite school drain blocked and layby flooded.  **Alstone** – Flooding along A38 due to heavy rain. Gully sucker needed. | Clerk |
| **14.** | **Financial items:**   * Statement of Accounts * To agree the following payments:   Mrs Alex Harris £724.67 – Clerks salary  Mrs Alex Harris £45.97 – Telephone, website, and Office 360  Mr Steve Chick - Grass Cutting - £590 INV 309  Mr Steve Chick – Footpaths £285.00 – INV 308  SALC Membership £405.61  Balliol Hall Rent £26.00  Plymor Hill Farm – Allotment ground rent £850.00  RBL Poppy Appeal £50 donation  Huntspill News Advertising £30.00  The Council **resolved** the banking statement, and all payments were a true record and approved. | Clerk |
|  | **Matters of report: None** |  |
| **16.** | **Date & time of next meeting:**  13th November 2023 – 7pm – Balliol Hall |  |
| **17.** | The meeting closed at: 20.10 |  |