West Huntspill Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 7:00 pm on 13th November 2023 at The Balliol Hall, Church Road, West Huntspill.**

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| **i)** | **Members present:** Cllr M Saunders, Cllr A Clapp, Cllr R Keen, Cllr R Shaw & Cllr J Wilks  The Clerk – Mrs Alex Harris | **Action** |
| **ii)** | **Members of public present:** Mr D Counsell |  |
| **iii)** | **Somerset Councillors present**: None |  |
| **1.** | **Apologies for absence**: Cllr J Wakefield (Sick), Cllr A Higgs, 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 09/10/23. Cllr R Shaw seconded this, and the Council **resolved** this was a true record. Cllr Saunders and Cllr Wilks approved the Clerks report, and the Council **resolved** this was accepted. |  |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising:**  Retired Chairman Colin Hall sadly passed away last week. The funeral will be held at Sedgemoor crematorium on Wednesday 22nd November at 3pm.  Laburnham House Hotel – recent fire of old motorhome and other items. Purposely set on fire. Photos available and will send to EA and SC.  Storage container in situ at War Memorial – Racking may be available for free shortly from Taunton School. |  |
| **5.** | **Report from Cllr M Healey (Somerset Council)**  No report received. |  |
| **6.** | **Planning**  **Brue farm update: None**  **52/23/00008/CM Pedwa Barns, Huntspill Road**  Extensions of the existing dwelling including conversion of the existing outbuilding into residential accommodation  ***No Observations***  **52/23/00006 Land South of New Road**  Approval of reserved matters, for the erection of 45 dwellings, a car park, public open space, and other associated infrastructure.  ***The Parish Council object on the following grounds:***  The appearance of the houses, in parcular the colour of ling on the roofs and  elevaons are not in keeping with the surroundings and houses in the village.  For the Planning to have received inial planning consent in the rst place there must be a benet to  the community. The car parking o#ered is likely to be treated as an over$ow car park by the  residents of the new estate unless measures are taken to prevent this thus o#ering no benet to the  community.  The car parking should only made available to the school, as proposed in the planning.  applicaon as this is not shown to be secured on the plans. It requires to be secured from New.  Road (pathway) and from the residenal road.  The play area should only accessible during daylight hours and is secured overnight to prevent.  ansocial behaviour as has occurred at the Ilex Play a few hundred meters away.  The landscaping plans adjacent to New Road are insu+cient and there should be full coverage with  nave trees  The appearance of the houses, in parcular the colour of ling on the roofs and  elevaons are not in keeping with the surroundings and houses in the village.  For the Planning to have received inial planning consent in the rst place there must be a benet to  the community. The car parking o#ered is likely to be treated as an over$ow car park by the  residents of the new estate unless measures are taken to prevent this thus o#ering no benet to the  community.  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The car parking should only made available to the school, as proposed in the planning application as this is not shown to be secured on the plans. It requires to be secured from New Road (pathway) and from the residential road.  The play area should only accessible during daylight hours and is secured overnight to prevent antisocial behaviour as has occurred at the Ilex Play a few hundred meters away.  The landscaping plans adjacent to New Road are insufficient and there should be full coverage with native trees.  ***Plans of this development are now also available at the Community Hub in St Peter and All Hallows church to be viewed by the community.***  **41/23/0004/CAN 19 Old Pawlett Road**  Erection of workshop extension to the south elevation on site of existing storage building (to be demolished)  ***No Observations***  **52/23/00007 LE Land at Main Road – Edenstone Homes**  Formation of new vehicular and pedestrian access of Main Road  ***No Observations***  **52/23/00009/LE 64 Main Road Mr L Evans**  Approval of reserved matters for the erection of a self-build dwelling with garage and parking area  ***No Observations*** |  |
| **7.** | **War Memorial Playing Field**  Mr D Counsell reported that the ground had received a commendation from the SPFA.  Carpark – The scalpings for the new area of carpark were meant to arrive yesterday overnight but didn’t. New supplier sought and will deliver shortly. Cost is £200+Vat per tonne. 18 tonnes needed. The Council agreed previously to pay for this work from the CIL and the manual labour will be provided by the Railway and Cricket Club.  Tree work has not yet been started as the ground is too wet, machinery may get stuck.  Plaque has been ordered via Arien signs and will be delivered shortly.  Brambles at edge of field to be observed for now and not removed. | MS/AC/  Clerk |
| **8.** | **Ilex Park**  Agreed the Parish Council now has a duty to maintain and the electorate wish to keep a play area. The Council discussed the recent vandalism and decided before further expense of adding more sand or play equipment there will be a site visit to agree what equipment needs to remain and what should be replaced. The meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd at 10.30 at Ilex Park.  The Council agreed that 2 x junior goal posts without nets could be installed by GB leisure at the far end of the park. The cost is £2010.30 (CIL) | JW/MS/ Clerk |
| **9**. | **Footpaths & village map area**  Map area – Cllr M Saunders has a meeting arranged with Russ Lily to discuss the new map options looking at the history of the village. The Council agreed to contact Mr D Bishop to see if he has any photos that could be used for the map also.  Stony Path has no owner according to land registry. The dead ash trees are on no-man’s land. The Clerk has contacted SC who have a right to maintain the footpath. They advise they are not causing an issue with footpath, and they will not take any further action unless they impact the footpath. They are happy for the Council or adjoining landowner to remove if they wish.  Old Pawlett road grass areas also have no owner according to land registry.  Lorries are still turning the wrong way into and exiting the building supplies business. The Clerk will contact the owner.  The Council agreed to clear the brambles around the two bus shelters on the A38 (Alstone and Old Pawlett).  Flooding of the Hams – the Council discussed this but agreed more information was needed as unsure of the impact this would cause.  Triangular Frame on Common- Cllr Higgs to chase | MS/AC/RK/AH/Clerk |
| **10.** | **Neighbourhood Plan**  The Council agreed to discuss this further at a future Parish Meeting. |  |
| **11.** | **Projects**  **Clean Sweep** planned for March 2024. Bag hoops x 8 have arrived and issued to those requesting them.  **Carols on the Common** arranged for Saturday 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** was well attended.  **Christmas Tree** will be arriving the week of the 9th of December | Clerk/All |
| **12.** | **CIL Funds**  Solar Speed Signs – Awaiting a date from Somerset Council for a site visit.  Planter x 1 has been built and the second currently under construction. They will be installed in the spring.  The wooden bench from the Common has been removed for refurbishment – Cllr Saunders & Cllr Higgs.  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.  Cllr Keen has contacted Rachel Gundry regarding 2 x mosaics at the boundary markers for the village. The Clerk is now in contact with her and will discuss further.  Approximate size 4ft x 3ft – themes of sea wall, heron, and church (Both different).  Will need draft designs and cost. | All |
| **13.** | **Area Report:**  **Ringstone/Withy Road –** Potholes have been repaired and the 30mph has also been fixed.  93 Ringstone – trees have grown and need further attention.  99 Ringstone – tree cut back but not removed.  **Church Road** – None  **Main Road** – Road drain blocked by Swell Close.  Huntspill Villa hedge needs clearing back again.  Self-Seeded trees near Greenway Lodge need removing.  **Alstone** – House next to footpath Alstone Gardens has been sold and being refurbished. The hedge has been trimmed slightly so access is slightly easier.  Notaro have started to clear land behind Alstone Gardens | 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  Wessex Water Pavilion 25/4/23-18/10/23 £509.02  Viking Direct – New colour Printer £242.34  Terry Harris – Land Registry Searches £12.00  Mr S Chick invoice – 0316 £590  The Council **resolved** the banking statement, and all payments were a true record and approved. | Clerk |
| **15.** | **Matters of report: None**  Homes in Sedgemoor – invitation to attend event on Thursday 28/11/23. Cllr Keen will attend.  Cllr Shaw – apologies for next meeting on holiday. |  |
| **16.** | **Date & time of next meeting:**  11th December 2023 – 7pm – Balliol Hall |  |
| **17.** | The meeting closed at: 20.20 |  |