

WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held by ZOOM video conferencing, on
Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors:, Mrs P Costello (Chair), Mrs I Beacom, Mrs J Candy, Mrs G Cousins,
Mr D Cox, Mrs J Farley, Mrs B James-Lloyd, Mrs J Keen, Mr D Kirley, Mr A Landers,
Mrs E Mulliner, Mr A Smith, Mr S Thorogood, Mr P Tinney, Mrs S Worrall
In Attendance: Mr. R Pring (Clerk), Cllr D Huxtable (SCC), Mrs V Becker-Hughes, Mr D Luke, Mr
K Boulnois

21.01.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Nil.**

21.01.2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS -** Cllr Huxtable reported that 700 County Council employees had been seconded to support the covid vaccination project. Current figures showed that 10% of the county's population had been vaccinated. A further centre near Shepton Mallett would open next week. Mark PC had received a grant towards the purchase of a S.I.D. but he had the impression they weren't keen to join forces on a road safety project approaching Blackford. The County Highways would be refurbishing signs and updating road markings in the Blackford area in the near future. Cllr Smith offered to speak with Mark PC to see if they would reconsider. Cllr Huxtable was thanked for his attendance and report. Cllr Costello had nothing to report from Sedgemoor DC.

21.01.3. **TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –** Cllr Candy declared an interest in item 21.01.10 as a resident of Combe Lane

21.01.4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER 2020. – RESOLVED: that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record of the previous meeting.**

21.01.5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** Mrs Becker-Hughes, Chair of Green Wedmore updated members on the Worthington Woods project. She was concerned about the lack of safety signage. Seats had been donated and various projects were planned. The group was looking to install a bridge from The Lerburne and she was grateful for the close co-operation shown by the Parish Council. Green Wedmore had not been able to hold events this year due to the pandemic but she was currently "crowd funding" to raise funds for ongoing expenses. Mr Luke, Chair of Theale Village Hall Management Committee said that he had applied for a grant from the County Council's green initiative to refurbish the hall which was a well used local facility. No money had been spent on the hall for the past ten years. The kitchen needed modernising and the hall needed the ceiling to be lowered and a divider fitted so it could operate as a small venue when appropriate. A working party had been set up to deal with minor maintenance and he would be seeking a grant from the Parish Council in due course.

21.01.6. **MATTERS ARISING –**

(a). Blackford road safety issues - Cllr Smith had visited Blackford to see where gateways might be installed. A resident had circulated photos of the various options available. It would be up to the Highways Manager to decide on the siting of any gateways.

(b). SCC grant applications update. – Cllr Mulliner had not heard anything about the progress of the grant application which was almost certainly due to staff shortages at County Hall. Theale Village Hall had also made an application for funds.

(c). Speed awareness update. – Cllr Smith had submitted a list of potential sites for S.I.,D. placements and was in contact with the new Highways Manager.

21.01.7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Audit of accounts 24th November 2020 TO 24TH December 2020** - Cllr Keen and Cllr Mulliner reported that all was in order.

b) **Accounts for Payment** – as per the following list

<u>Payment</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DD	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£14.39
BACS	M Isgar	Build wheelchair ramp into Council Rooms	£55.00
BACS	Cheddar Signs	Private parking sign at Council Rooms	£43.80
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Clerks salary	£1757.48
BACS	Clarity Copiers	Photocopy charges	£4.61
BACS	B Whitcombe	Supply Christmas trees for churches and businesses	£322.00
BACS	Humphries Kirk	Legal advice and correspondence	£300.00
BACS	J Bethel	Replace broken manhole cover Worthington Woods	£240.00
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at Car Park	£108.26
BACS	Water2Business	Water Rates Council Rooms	£44.85
BACS	J Bethel	Replace damaged posts to map board Lascot Woods	£300.00
DD	Mainstream	Phone calls	£1.08
CARD	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£14.39
BACS	W Jackson	Highways and cemetery work	£165.00
BACS	Mrs R Stevens	Clean Council Rooms (Retainer)	£12.50
BACS	R Pring	Clerk's expenses	£17.46
BACS	D Summers-Cooke	Clean toilets (Retainer)	£177.50

21.01.08 **TO CONSIDER A SUITABLE RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY BUTT TROPHY 2020.** - The Clerk gave details of the award for the benefit of newer members and said that a recipient was agreed on at the April meeting prior to the Annual Parish Assembly in May. He asked members to consider anyone who might be suitable and that a similar request would be appearing in the IOW News.

21.01.09 **TO CONSIDER CO-OPTING A MEMBER TO REPRESENT BLACKFORD WARD** – The Clerk had previously circulated an application form from Mr J Newton. Another resident had made enquiries but had not submitted the application form sent to him by the due date so it was assumed he had reconsidered. Proposed by Cllr Tinney and seconded by Cllr Mulliner that Mr Jonathan Newton be co-opted as the Ward member for Blackford. This was agreed unanimously.

21.01.10 **TO CONSIDER USING CIL MONEY TO UPGRADE PART OF COMBE LANE** – Cllr Keen outlined the reasons for upgrading Combe Lane. Most of the traffic using the lane were visitors to the allotments and Scout Hut so it was important that the Council made a sizeable contribution. Several allotment holders have complained about damage of their cars due to the large potholes. Cllr Smith had concerns about ongoing costs and as there were now several new Councillors in post with limited knowledge of spending CIL money the PC should revisit and review the wish list for using CIL funds.

21.01.11 **GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME** – The concept of this scheme is to continue helping each other post covid. Cllr Costello said that an Allerton resident had set up a scheme in that area with volunteers taking people for hospital appointments etc. She hoped the Council could support a similar scheme in Wedmore.

21.01.12 **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS** – Cllr Mulliner asked if the Council could support the funding of a new entrance and pathway at Blackford church. The Clerk referred her to the SALC website which had a guidance note explaining that grants towards places of worship were not permitted, but they could financially support burial grounds and cemeteries. Cllr Smith reported that Blue Cedar had applied for permission to access the car park to connect their development at Holdenhurst to the main sewer. They would deal with signage etc. and would pay the Council £3.5k as compensation. The work would probably take place in May or June. It was agreed to publish details in the IOW News. Cllr James-Lloyd updated members on the safe cycling route project towards Blackford and said the school were running a competition to design road safety posters. Cllr Kirley asked about the

continuous water leak in Church Street. The Chairman suggested he contact Cllr Huxtable. Cllr Costello mentioned instances of drug dealing in the Borough which had been reported to the police.

21.01.13 CORRESPONDENCE

Item	From Whom	Subject
	ALL CIRCULATED	

21.01.14 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Cemetery – Planned meeting deferred for the time being
- Facilities Allotments & Footpaths – All rents had been paid and hedges cut back
- Finance & General Purposes – Nil
- Housing – Green Wedmore were publishing a document shortly
- Highways - Nil
- Planning – Meeting next week
- Footpaths and Green Issues - Nil

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- IOW News – Late going to press this month. The committee were looking for a new treasurer
- Play Areas – Meeting tomorrow
- SALC – Nil
- Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Both Councillors attended latest committee meeting
- Village Halls – Nil
- Twinning – Nil

21.01.15 MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING –

- (a). Chairman – Nil
- (b) Clerk – Nil
- (c) Members – Nil

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.50 pm