

## WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held by ZOOM video conferencing, on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 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 J Newton, 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 S Mewes,  
Mr T Faith, Ms S Bedford

21.02.1. **TO WELCOME A NEW COUNCILLOR** – Cllr Jonathan Newton was welcomed by the Chairman and members agreed he could sign the Declaration Register at a convenient time.

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

21.02.3. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Huxtable reported that Somerset was top of the covid vaccine league for the whole country. The county's budget had been agreed earlier today There was a large increase of £11m for adult social care and £9m for children. The green issues fund was still ongoing and he hoped Wedmore would continue to support the 67 bus route. In answer to a question by Cllr Keen he said that work would continue in Church Street this week to try and discover the cause of the continuous water leak. Cllr Newton noted that in Blackford the road had been painted with 30 m.p.h. markings but the signage had not been put up. Cllr Huxtable agreed to follow this up. It was noted that the Highways Engineer had approved the proposed village gateways. Cllr Costello gave details of the new Chief Executive at Sedgemoor and of a Drainage Board meeting she had recently attended.

21.02.4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021 – RESOLVED: that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record of the previous meeting.**

21.02.5. **MATTERS ARISING** – Cllr Smith reported that he had received a grant application from the local Good Neighbour scheme for £500 towards running costs. The matter had been left off the agenda, for which the Clerk apologised. It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.  
**ACTION Clerk / AS**

21.02.6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Mrs Becker-Hughes gave details of a previous meetings to discuss the running of Worthington Woods.

21.02.7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Audit of accounts** 24<sup>TH</sup> December 2020 to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021 - 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	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£1757.48
BACS	Somerset Forge	Fingerpost renovation (50% repaid by donation)	£1158.00
BACS	Electric Gate Co	Annual service car park barrier	£210.00
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Empty dog bins and litter scavenge	£487.66
BACS	Water2Business	Water Rates at toilets	£221.73

BACS	Rapide Systems	Stationery	£31.20
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£16.16
BACS	Water2Business	Water rates at cemetery	£21.86
BACS	SALC	Training courses	£75.00
BACS	Ground Level	Tree works at The Lerburne	£1968.00
BACS	Water2Business	Water rates at allotments	£370.72
BACS	D Summers-Cook	Clean and lock toilets	£172.73
BACS	R Pring	Clerk's expenses	£20.25
BACS	Mrs R Stevens	Clean Council Rooms	£25.00
BACS	W Jackson	Highways and cemetery work	£275.00
BACS	M Isgar	Repair notice boards Theale and Bagley	£175.00
DD	Mainstream	Phone calls and line rental	£62.52

21.02.08 **TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROPOSED NEW CYCLE PATH** - Cllr James-Lloyd had previously circulated a report She was hoping the Council would fund the costs of producing posters made by local children which would be placed on private land along Little Ireland, Wellsway and Redmans Hill. Proposed by Cllr Cousins and seconded by Cllr Keen that the funds be made available and this was agreed using S 137 funds.. **ACTION - B J-L**

21.02.09 **TO CONSIDER THE USAGE AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR WORTHINGTON WOODS AND SURROUNDING LAND** – Cllr Costello outlined the proposed use of the land which would continue to be insured by the Council who would also undertake the grasscutting as required. She was concerned about safety issues near the brook and asked Mrs Becker-Hughes to get some quotes for fencing and safety signs which was agreed. Cllr Worrall asked if hedging had been considered but it was felt that it might not be robust enough and would be slow growing. Cllr Keen suggested benches could be sited there in the future. Proposed by Cllr Cousins and seconded by Cllr Worrall that the fencing of the brook be paid for by the Council and this was agreed. .

21.02.10 **TO AGREE PART FUNDING OF THE 67 BUS ROUTE** - Cllr Worrall gave details of the costs of running the 67 bus route from Burnham to Wells via Wedmore. All parishes along the route have funded the service for the past 3 or 4 years From 1<sup>st</sup> April Somersert County Council would fund the section from Burnham to Wedmore and the remainder was being operated by Mendip Community Transport group. Wedmore PC was being asked to contribute £1428 out of the total running cost of £19k which members agreed was quite reasonable.

21.02.11 **TO CONSIDER GREEN WEDMORE ISSUES, CHARTER, CLIMATE EMERGENCY, GRANT FUNDING** – Cllr Mulliner had submitted a grant application on behalf of Green Wedmore for £800 to produce a cook book. She proposed the grant be awarded and this was seconded by Cllr Keen and agreed. Cllr Thorogood proposed the Green Charter be adopted together with the declaration of Climate Emergency. This was seconded by Cllr Worrall and agreed.

21.02.12 **UPDATE ON PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS** - Cllr Cox had previously circulated a document highlighting a proposed list of projects to be undertaken. Cllr Smith agreed to discuss the proposed highway matters at his next meeting of the Highways Committee. Cllr Mulliner asked if the Council would support a feasibility study for additional renewable energy for Wedmore. Ms Bedford, Green Wedmore, agreed to make the application at no cost to the Council. Cllr Mulliner proposed that it should go ahead. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed.

21.02.13 **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS** – Cllr Cousins reported the receipt of a letter of complaint which would be kept confidential. She and the Chairman were looking into procedures and the matter would be formally dealt with. Cllr Beacom reported receiving correspondence concerning street lighting and she would liaise with Cllr Cox considering adding it to the priorities list. Cllr Smith reported that the Highways Engineer had checked the proposed sites for the speed indicator device. Cllr Kirley was keen to help in setting up Community Speedwatch and had volunteered his services. Cllr Costello reported that the plan to upgrade the footpath in Combe Batch was in hand

21.02.14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Item	From Whom	Subject
	ALL CIRCULATED	

#### 21.02.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Cemetery – Work had been carried out to remove the ant hills
- Facilities Allotments & Footpaths – Nil
- Finance & General Purposes – Nil
- Housing – Nil
- Highways – Meeting was being arranged
- Planning – Meeting Weds 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Footpaths and Green Issues – Footpath near golf course being considered

#### REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- IOW News – Distribution at Theale had been much improved
- Play Areas – Nil
- SALC – Nil
- Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Nil
- Village Halls – Wedmore grant topped up by Sedgemoor. Theale had a wedding booked and were looking for funds from Somerset Community Fund
- Twinning – Nil

#### 21.02.16 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 8.52 pm