

WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held by ZOOM video conferencing, on Wednesday 17th March 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, Ms E King, Mr Pete Brown

21.03.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr J Newton**

21.03.2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS - Cllr Huxtable** had submitted his monthly report. The covid rate in Somerset was quite low and vaccination rates progressing well. He was disappointed that Wedmore was unsuccessful with its bids for funding from the Climate Emergency Fund but he was hopeful that the cycle path project would receive some funding in due course. He had no further news on the water issue in Church Street. Cllr Mulliner said she was also disappointed that the green bids were unsuccessful. Cllr Huxtable said that the total bids amounted to £3.5m resulting in grants of just over £1m. Only one parish in his ward had received funding. That was for solar panels on a village hall. He said that in due course there would be a detailed response to all the applications. He advised members that if they submitted a feasibility study into the proposed cycle route, their request would probably be received very favourably by County. Cllr Costello gave details of meetings attended at Sedgemoor and asked Cllr Huxtable to investigate issues at Mark where road closures had hindered school transport to Hugh Sexeys School.

21.03.3. **TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Cllr Worrall** declared an interest in item 13 due to a family member being chair of the committee.

21.03.4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2021 – RESOLVED: that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record of the previous meeting.**

21.03.5. **MATTERS ARISING – Nil.**

21.03.6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Nil.**

21.03.7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Audit of accounts - 20th January 2021 – 24th February 2021 - Cllr Keen and Cllr Mulliner** reported that all was in order. Cllr Thorogood queried the high cost of electricity at the Council Rooms. The Clerk explained this was a winter quarter bill and the high cost was due to the heating being left on during the lockdown.

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

<u>Payment</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DD	Mainstream	Line rental and phone calls	£62.52
BACS	Clarity Copiers	Photocopy costs December	£13.69
BACS	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£14.39
BACS	Green Wedmore	Grant towards cook book	£800.00
BACS	J Bethel	Repairs Blackford PlayArea	£822.00

DD	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£1757.46
BACS	Somerset CC	Bus route 67 contribution	£1500.00
BACS	Water2Business	Water rates allotments	£19.16
BACS	Clarity Copiers	Photocopies January	£5.45
BACS	Clarity Copiers	Photocopies February	£15.07
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at Council Rooms	£783.68
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£11.21
BACS	Play Inspection Co	Annual Play Area safety inspections	£243.00
BACS	J Wheway	Tree pollarding work	£1600.00
BACS	Rapide Systems	Toilet rolls public toilets	£29.28
BACS	J Bethell	Repairs at Theale play area	£380.00
DD	Mainstream	Broadband and line rental	£60.30
DD	Mainstream	Phone calls	£0.17
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Rates at Council Rooms	£590.13
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Rates at toilets	£484.03
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Rates at cemetery	£442.60
BACS	Mrs R Stevens`	Clean Council Rooms	£25.00
BACS	R Pring	Clerk's expenses	£24.21
BACS	D Summers-Cook	Clean & lock toilets	£225.00
BACS	W Jackson	Grass cutting and highways works	£805.00

21.03.08 **TO RECEIVE A SHORT PRESENTATION ON ST ANDREWS MENTAL HEALTH WARD IN WELLS** – Emma King gave a presentation that the mental health ward at Wells was being transferred to Yeovil resulting in difficult transport options for many parishes in this area which didn't have direct links to Yeovil. She would send a link so that Members could submit comments if they so wished.

21.03.09 **TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF A SECOND SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE AND AN UPDATE ON LOCATIONS** - Cllr Smith had previously circulated a paper. He said that the newly appointed Highways Manager had approved 6 out of the suggested 8 locations for SID's to be placed. The cost of a second SID plus all the ancillary equipment would be in the region of £4k and he asked for approval in principle to purchase a second SID. Cllr Worrall asked if solar panels could be used instead of chargeable batteries. Cllr Smith said that not all locations were suitable for solar installation. Proposed by Cllr Worrall and seconded by Cllr Keen that the equipment be purchased and this was unanimously agreed. **ACTION - AS.**

21.03.10 **TO AGREE COSTINGS TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A HR CONSULTANT** - Cllr Cox had previously circulated costings for a HR consultant to consider the complaint made against the Clerk. Cllr Tinney asked what was the purpose of getting an outside person in. Couldn't this be dealt with internally? Cllr Cox outlined the pros and cons of both options. Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Beacom seconded that an outside person be brought in and this was agreed. **ACTION - DC**

21.03.11 **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE WEDMORE GOOD NEIGHBOUR GROUP** - Cllr Smith gave details of the application which had been approved by the Grants Sub-committee. Proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Thorogood that the grant be awarded. This was agreed..

21.03.12 **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A GRANT TOWARDS A DEFIBRILLATOR AT THEALE** - Cllr Smith gave details of this application which had been considered by the Grants Sub-committee. He proposed and Cllr Cox seconded that the application be approved. This was agreed..

2103.13 **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM WEDMORE PLAYING FIELDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** -- Mr Pete Brown outlined the request for a grant towards the proposed MUGA at the playing fields. It was meeting a much needed facility within the Cheddar Valley. A lengthy discussion ensued including whether if a grant was awarded it should come from CIL or Council funds. It was proposed by Cllr Candy and seconded by Cllr Keen that £2.5k be awarded initially from Council funds and a request for further funding be added to the Council's list of other causes under consideration.

21.03.14 **TO AGREE A PROCESS TO ALLOW GRANTS TO BE AWARDED ABOVE THE CURRENT THRESHOLD** - Cllr Smith said that the current grants policy had a limit of £2.5k. He proposed and Cllr Worrall seconded that the policy be reviewed so that grants above this threshold be considered. This was agreed. **ACTION - AS**

21.03.15 **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR COSTS TOWARDS FENCING AT WORTHINGTON WOODS** - Mrs Becker-Hughes had obtained three quotes for fencing at Worthington Woods. Proposed by Cllr Candy and seconded by Cllr Farley that Jon Bethell's quote be accepted. This was agreed. **ACTION - CLERK**

21.03.16 **TO AGREE THE ANNUAL AMENITY GRANTS TO VILLAGE HALLS** - The Clerk reported that each village hall in the parish received an annual grant of £500 towards their running costs. Proposed by Cllr Beacom and seconded by Cllr Smith that the grants be awarded as usual and this was agreed. **ACTION - CLERK**

21.03.17 **GREEN CHARTER** - Cllr Thorogood would be circulating an updated charter for the information of all Members

21.03.18 **TO CONSIDER A WORTHY RECIPIENT OF THE HENRY BUTT TROPHY 2020** - The Clerk reminded Members that a decision would be made at the next meeting and requested nominees.

21.03.19 **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS** – Cllrs Smith and Mulliner expressed their disappointment over the planning decision in favour of Strongvox.

21.03.20 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Item	From Whom	Subject
	ALL CIRCULATED	

21.03.21 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Cemetery – Nil
- Facilities Allotments & Footpaths – All allotments now let
- Finance & General Purposes – Nil
- Housing – Cllr Costello had met with Acorn and requested more rental properties.
- Highways – Meeting Weds. 31st March
- Planning – Meeting Weds 7th April
- Footpaths and Green Issues – Nil

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- IOW News – Need for a replacement Treasurer
- Play Areas – Nil
- SALC – Nil
- Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Nil
- Village Halls – Disappointment that Theale had not been awarded a grant from Climate Emergency fund.
- Twinning – Nil

21.03.22 **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 9.30 pm

