

WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held by ZOOM video conferencing, on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors:, Mrs P Costello (Chair), Mrs I Beacom, Mrs J Candy, Mr D Cox, Mrs J Farley, Mrs B James-Lloyd, 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), Mr Pete Brown, Mr Alan Benson

21.04.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs G Cousins and J Keen

21.04.2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Huxtable asked if the Council had been asked to comment on a proposed footpath diversion at Sand. There had been no such communication so he agreed to send it to Cllr Smith tomorrow. Following a question from Cllr Newton, he said that there were projects on the SCC job list that were four years old. The lead time by Council contractors was frustrating. The small improvement scheme had a budget of about £2m and of the 88 projects completed, only one was on his ward at Mark. The Cheddar Road scheme would not be considered in the near future. He would take further advice on speed reduction measures between Blackford and Mark. Cllr Newton suggested an escalation by the council's design team and Cllr Smith expressed disappointment that the Cheddar Road scheme was not due for consideration. Cllr Thorogood asked how much county money was being spent on cycle routes. Cllr Huxtable estimated £2m but would confirm later. Cllr Beacom said that the water leak in Church Street was still ongoing. Cllr Huxtable said it was a constant source of frustration but he had no means of speeding up the contractors. Cllr Costello gave details of meetings attended at Sedgemoor.

21.04.3. **TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Nil.

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

21.04.5. **MATTERS ARISING** – The Clerk said that during the lockdown, the Council Rooms had been in constant use by the Police as a meeting point. This included evenings and weekends. The heating had been raised and this had resulted in a high bill from the supplier. Once discovered the room temperature had been lowered and had now been switched off but due to the winter period, another high bill was expected. Despite that, the Police presence in the village had considerably increased.

21.04.6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Nil.

21.04.7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Audit of accounts** - 24th February 2021 – 31st March 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>
BACS	Blackford V. Hall	Amenity Grant	£500.00
BACS	Theale V Hall	Amenity Grant	£500.00

BACS	Wedmore V Hall	Amenity Grant	£500.00
BACS	Good neighbours Group	Grant towards running costs	£500.00
DD	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£1757.48
BACS	Theale Players	Grant towards defibrillator	£1095.00
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£10.30
BACS	Clarity Copiers	Photocopy costs	£4.34
BACS	Ms R Smith	Overpayment of allotment rent	£11.25
BACS	Jon Bethell	Fencing at Worthington Woods	£491.00
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets (adjusted)	£8.88
DD	Mainstream	Phone calls	£1.12
BACS	W Jackson	Grass cutting, highways and allotment work	£1085.00
BACS	D Summers-Cooke	Clean & lock toilets	£275.00
BACS	Mrs R Stevens	Crean Council Rooms	£25.00
BACS	R Pring	Clerks expenses includes printer cartridges	£70.22
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at car park	£113.83
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at Council Rooms	£701.50
BACS	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£14.39
BACS	SW Councils	Annual subscription	£558.00
BACS	Wedmore in Bloom	Annual planting grant	£750.00
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£1886.74
BACS	Came & Co	Annual insurance premium	£1618.62

21.04.08 **TO CONSIDER COSTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF "VILLAGE GATEWAYS" AT BLACKFORD-** Cllr Newton gave a detailed presentation on proposed village gateways either side of Blackford including red road markings and rumble strips. There were visibility issues at the Wedmore side of the village. He proposed that the gateway at the Mark end should go ahead with a cost of about £2800. This was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed. **ACTION - JN**

21.04.09 **TO CONSIDER COSTS FOR TREE AND GROUNDWORK AT BLACKFORD PLAY AREA -** Cllr Farley had previously circulated costings for tree and hedge work at the play area as the lack of air flow was causing issues with some of the play equipment. She proposed the tender from Ground Level be agreed. This was seconded by Cllr Mulliner and agreed. **ACTION - JF**

21.04.10 **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A FURTHER GRANT FOR A MUGA FROM WEDMORE PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE -** Mr Pete Brown outlined the grant application which, if agreed, would open the doors for some substantial funding by football charities and others. It was noted that millions of pounds had been raised for the complete playing fields project so far. Mr Brown was still in contact with Sedgemoor for funding but the project was not top of their list at the moment although they were keen to work with the committee. It was proposed by Cllr Costello that £10k be earmarked for the MUGA project. This was seconded by Cllr Worrall and agreed. The Clerk would send Mr Brown a letter of intent. **ACTION - CLERK**

21.04.11 **TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM WEDMORE COMMUNITY HEALTH FUND -** Mr Alan Benson, Chair of the Wedmore & Axbridge Community Health Fund outlined the role of his organisation which was a registered charity. They had recently received £381K being the proceeds of the sale of a piece of land in Pilcorn Street and were currently looking for somewhere in the parish to build a new health centre. The surgery would remain in the ownership of the Fund and a regular income would be received from the medical partners. He hoped the Council might have some suggestions as to what land might be available. Cllr Worrall agreed to look into the ownership of a piece of land next to the playing fields. The Fund was looking to build a single storey building with disabled access and suitable room for parking. Cllr Newton hoped that the project would carry a carbon neutral commitment. After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Cox that £100k be ringfenced to contribute to the project from CIL money. This was agreed. **ACTION - SW**

21.04.12 **GREEN CHARTER UPDATE -** Cllr Thorogood had previously circulated an updated charter and was looking for help with letting the public know what was going on. Members were concerned with the need to reduce CO2 emissions and decrease traffic flow. Cllr Smith expressed concern that

doing away with gas boilers could cost households up to £25k. It was agreed to defer the charter to another meeting for further consideration. **ACTION - ST**

21.04.13 **TO CONSIDER THE ANNUAL GRANT FOR PLANTING TO WEDMORE IN BLOOM** - The Clerk said that it has been the custom to make an annual grant to Wedmore in Bloom who did a fantastic job around the village. Proposed by Cllr Costello and seconded by Cllr Worrall that £750 be awarded and this was agreed. **ACTION - CLERK**

21.04.14 **TO MAKE A DECISION OF ALLOWING DOGS AT WORTHINGTON WOODS** – Cllr Costello suggested that dogs could be allowed in the woods providing they were kept on leads. Following a discussion a counter proposal banning dogs entirely was proposed by Cllr Kirlely and seconded by Cllr Thorogood and was agreed by a majority of the members.

21.04.15 **TO AGREE THE CHAIR AND CLERK CAN SIGN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT** - All members agreed that the document could be signed as part of the annual accounts audit.

21.03.19 **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS** – Cllrs Worrall referred to a letter received from a resident concerning planning issues. She had referred her to Allerton PC who had similar issues.

21.04.16 CORRESPONDENCE

Item	From Whom	Subject
	ALL CIRCULATED	

21.04.17 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Cemetery – Nil
- Facilities Allotments & Footpaths – Nil
- Finance & General Purposes – Nil
- Housing – Nil.
- Highways – Nil
- Planning – Meeting Weds 28th April
- Footpaths and Green Issues – Nil

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- IOW News – Nil
- Play Areas – Nil
- SALC – Nil
- Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Nil
- Village Halls – Nil
- Twinning – Nil

21.04.18 MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING –

- (a). Chairman – Nil
- (b). Clerk – Nil
- (c). Members – Cllr Cox - Priorities list

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.20 pm