

## WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held at Blackford Village Hall, on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors:, Mrs P Costello (Chair), 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, Mrs S Worrall,

In Attendance: Mr. R Pring (Clerk), Cllr D Huxtable (SCC),

21.07.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs I Beacom, G Cousins, P Tinney.

21.07.2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Huxtable reported that he had just heard that the Government had decided that Somerset would be run by a unitary authority rather than being divided into East and West areas. He apologised for the slow response by Highways Dept. in completing projects within the area. This was mainly as a result of shortage of staff and transport and the unavailability of materials. Cllr Newton asked how the issue was being dealt with but Cllr Huxtable said there was no easy answer. A cascade system of reporting was in place and he was doing what he could to expedite matters. Some projects were 12 months overdue. Cllr Thorogood noted that it was impossible to raise matters concerning cycling and walking with County. Cllr Huxtable agreed it was frustrating and asked for the papers to be sent to him directly. Cllr Smith raised the issue of the missing limited waiting sign in the Pilcorn Street lay-by. Some residents had asked if a residents' parking permit scheme could be adopted. Cllr Huxtable said that this was not feasible. After a lengthy discussion it was felt that it was probably better not to replace the missing sign and for the lay-by to be used on a first come first served basis without restrictions being applied. Cllr Costello gave details of meetings attended at Sedgemoor.

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

21.07.4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 – RESOLVED: that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record of the previous meeting.**

21.07.5. **MATTERS ARISING** – Nil

21.07.6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Nil.

21.07.7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Audit of accounts** - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021 - Cllr Beecom and Cllr Mulliner reported that all was in order.

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

<b><u>Payment</u></b>	<b><u>Payee</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
BACS	Glasdon	Blackford gateway equipment	£2350.89
BACS	OddJob	Unblock drains	£43.00
DD	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£14.39
BACS	Somerset C C	Blackford gateway installation costs	£400.00
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£11.49
BACS	Rowsell Plant Hire	Groundwork at allotments`	£240.00
DD	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£1756.79
BACS	Clarity Copiers	Photocopy charges	£3.59
BACS	Info Commission	Annual subscription	£40.00

BACS			

**21.07.08 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM “GREEN WEDMORE” FOR A GRANT TOWARDS A WILDLIFE PROJECT** – Cllr Smith and his sub-committee had looked at the application and felt it had merit and should be approved. Cllr Worrall felt that as the group had made two applications recently they be asked to refrain from making further applications so that other groups could apply for funding. Proposed by Cllr Kirley and seconded by Cllr Worrall that the grant be approved and this was agreed. - **ACTION - CLERK**

**21.07.09 TO CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TOWARDS UPGRADING OF LAND AT SIDE OF COUNCIL ROOMS** - The Clerk explained that the piece of waste land at the side of the Council Rooms had recently been tidied up by the occupant at No. 1 Grants Lane as the whole area was an eyesore. Half of it was owned by the Parish Council and half by Homes in Sedgemoor. The work had been done professionally and the resident was asking for a contribution towards the costs amounting to £270.00. Proposed by Cllr Costello and seconded by Cllr Worrall that the Council make a donation of 50% of the costs. This was agreed. **ACTION - CLERK**

**21.07.10 TO AGREE COSTINGS FOR FENCE REPAIRS AT BLACKFORD PLAY AREA.** - Cllr Farley had obtained two quotes to replace fencing at Blackford Play Area. She proposed that the Council accept the lower tender from Jon Bethell. This was seconded by Cllr Candy and agreed. **ACTION - JF**

**21.07.11 TO AGREE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GRANT GUIDANCE AND APPLICATION FORMS** - Cllr Smith pointed out an anomaly in the Grants procedures where applications were received from individuals rather than groups and the proposals were for the benefit of residents. He felt that a revised procedure be adopted whereby invoices relating to these projects were paid directly by the Parish Council. Cllr Worrall suggested that Cllr Smith continue in his attempts to come up with a set of words to cover such matters. This was agreed and the matter would be deferred until August. **ACTION – AS .**

**21.07.12 TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE SOME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND TO MAKE CHANGES TO COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES** - Cllr Mulliner reported that several members were involved in reviewing Council policies and procedures. Cllr James-Lloyd had submitted revised policies concerning Communications, Health & Safety and Equal Opportunities. Plans were in place to create a new website and for each member to have a Council email address. It was agreed to approve the three policies submitted, with an agreed amendment in the Communications Policy in relation to the time scales for posting notices. Cllr Mulliner proposed that “Footpaths and Green Issues” be moved back with the allotments sub-committee. Cllr Candy felt that the allotments took up a lot of her time and she couldn’t take on footpaths as well. Cllr Thorogood agreed to continue as the Paths Liaison Officer and it was agreed that the move should take place. Cllr Mulliner asked that a HR sub-committee be formed and that “Green Wedmore” be added to the list of “Representatives on Committees”. Both items were agreed. **ACTION – B J-L / CLERK**

**21.07.13 ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS** – Cllr. Worrall noted that Wedmore by Lamplight was not taking place this year and felt the Council should take some action. The Chair reported that the event was run by a committee of traders and there were reports of some disagreement between some of the parties. She felt that this was not a matter for the Council. Cllr Thorogood gave details of former Councillor Edwin Badman’s funeral arrangements. He also reported that there would be an open meeting in Theale Village Hall at 6.30pm on Weds 18<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the Panborough Inn issues. Cllr Newton reported that he was still in discussion with landowners concerning the proposed cycle route between Wedmore and Blackford. Cllr Mulliner reported that she had attended an on-line session on “Carbon Literacy” and would share details with members in due course.

#### 21.07.14 CORRESPONDENCE

Item	From Whom	Subject
	ALL CIRCULATED	

**21.07.15 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Cemetery – Nil
- Facilities Allotments & Footpaths – Nil
- Finance & General Purposes – Nil
- Housing – Nil.
- Highways – Cllr Smith was waiting for post extensions for the SID so that it could be moved around various locations. The SID by the cemetery showed that 50% of traffic was travelling in excess of 30 mph with the fastest recorded speed of 75 mph. A second device had been ordered. Cllr Newton said that the Blackford gateway work had not started yet.
- Planning – Meeting Weds 11<sup>th</sup> August in the Council Rooms
- Footpaths and Green Issues – Nil.

**REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES**

- IOW News – AGM held recently. New Treasurer, Tom Wright appointed.
- Play Areas – A new equipment survey was being carried out
- SALC – Nil
- Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Cllrs Kirley and James-Lloyd had recently attended a meeting where the condition of the outside toilet had been raised. The cleaning was a Council responsibility and it wasn't being done satisfactorily. There were constant complaints regarding lack of paper and soap etc. As a result the Pavilion Manager had withdrawn his cleaning services and the Council needed to find a replacement. The Clerk said he had asked the caretaker of the Borough toilets to see if the role would suit him and he was awaiting a response.
- Village Halls – Cllr Thorogood said that the renewal of the Theale hall lease was ongoing.
- Twinning – Nil

**21.07.16 MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING –**

(a). Chairman – Nil

(b) Clerk – Application for Co-option to the Council from Andy Reeson of Latcham.

This would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

(c) Members – Nil

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.56 pm