

WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held at Wedmore Village Hall on
Wednesday 15th December 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors:, Mrs P Costello (Chair), Mrs I Beacom, Mrs G Cousins, Mr D Cox,
Mrs J Farley, Mrs B James-Lloyd, Mr D Kirley, Mr A Landers, Mrs E Mulliner,
Mr A Reeson, Mr A Smith, Mrs S Worrall

In Attendance: Mr. R Pring (Clerk),

21.12.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies from Cllrs J Candy, J Newton, P Tinney, S Thorogood, D Huxtable (SCC)

21.12.2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Huxtable had previously circulated a briefing sheet for December. Cllr Costello had attended a Grants Committee meeting at Sedgemoor and various grants had been awarded to young sportsmen and women, together with young environmentalists. She suggested that if any young person was known to the Council members who might be suitable applicants for an award, they should be encouraged to apply.

21.12.3. **TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – The Clerk said that he was issuing a dispensation to each member present so that the budget and precept could be discussed later in the meeting.

21.12.4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2021 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2021. – RESOLVED: that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record of the previous meetings.**

21.12.5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Nil

21.12.6. **MATTERS ARISING** –Cllr Worrall mentioned the recent “Lamplight” evening and congratulated all the organisers for a great community event, despite the poor weather. Cllr Kirley said that there had been a lot of positive feedback from stallholders

21.12.7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Audit of accounts 26th October 2021 to 23RD November 2021** - Cllr Beecom 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	SLCC	Annual subscription	£185.00
Cheque	RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation for poppy wreath	£50.00
BACS	GB Sport	Play area equipment	£1272.05
BACS	GB Sport	Play area equipment	£179.52
BACS	GB Sport	Play area equipment	£736.20
BACS	J Bethell	Replace fencing etc Blackfrod Play area	£3829.00
DD	Mainstream	Line rental and phone calls	£62.75
BACS	W Jackson	Grass cutting, highways etc	£953.00
BACS	R Pring	Clerk’s expenses	£22.86
BACS	Mrs R Stevens	Clean Council Rooms	£25.00
BACS	D Summers-Cook	Clean and lock toilets	£230.00
BACS	St Andrews Press	Print banners for “Lamplight”	£207.60

BACS	Methodist Church	Burial Grant	£100.00
BACS	Theale Church	Burial Grant	£100.00
BACS	Blackford Church	Burial Grant	£100.00
BACS	Woodburys	Insurance for "Lamplight"	£289.00
BACS	PEP	Feasibility Study Green Wedmore (paid back later)	£4800.00
DD	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£1756.79
BACS	BGW Solicitors	Legal fees	£60.00
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£9.32
BACS	C & T Maint.	Reconfigure heating due to new router	£36.00
BACS	Somerset CC	Posts for SID's	£936.00+

19.12.8 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 2021 AND TO AGREE THE PRECEPT REQUEST AND BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR - The Clerk gave a brief synopsis of the meeting and said that it was felt necessary to raise the precept this year due to the new developments needing extra management and with the construction and equipping of a new play area at Cross Farm. Cllr Cox referred to the Council's "wish list" of projects which would require funding and gave details of precepts in neighbouring parishes which showed Wedmore to be low on the list. Cllr Beacom felt the Council should take what it needed and no more. Cllr Kirley proposed the minutes and budget be adopted with an increased precept. This was seconded by Cllr Worrall and approved.

19.12.9 TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2021 – The Clerk had previously circulated the minutes. It was proposed by Cllr Worrall and seconded by Cllr Cousins that the minutes be approved and this was agreed.

19.12.10 TO CONSIDER INCREASING THE ALLOTMENT RENTS FROM 25TH DECEMBER 2021 – In the absence of Cllr Candy, the Clerk said that the rents had not been increased for a number of years but due to rising costs in water and maintenance, an increase was needed. It had been suggested large plots would be £50 p.a. and smaller plots £25 p.a. These rates were still below the rents applied by neighbouring parishes. Cllr Worrall proposed and Cllr Farley seconded that the rates be increased as per the suggestion of the Clerk and this was agreed..

19.12.11 TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO POLICIES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE – Cllr Cox had previously circulated an updated version of Standing Orders which had been drawn up in accordance with NALC guidelines. He proposed they be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr James-Lloyd and agreed.

19.12.12 TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS AND COSTS FOR A NEW WEBSITE - Cllr James-Lloyd had previously circulated a paper on this project which would allow each Councillor to have an individual e-mail address. The costs were reasonable and she proposed that "Netwise" be asked to design a new website for the Council. This was seconded by Cllr Mulliner and agreed.

19.12.13 WEDMORE "HAVE YOUR SAY" OPEN MEETING - Cllr Cox suggested that an open day be held in the Village Hall in February to outline various projects on the Council's "wish list" including the proposed Medical Centre, street lighting and the proposed Pilcorn Street build-out. He suggested a small budget of £400 be allocated to cover the hire charge and any other printing costs. The 18th and 19th February 2022 had been reserved in the Hall diary, He proposed that the event should go ahead as planned. This was seconded by Cllr Kirley and agreed.

19.12.14 ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS – Cllr Landers mentioned the ongoing water leak on the main road through Theale. Cllr Cox had been in contact with a supplier of EV chargers and was waiting for a further proposal. The "Warmer Wedmore" project in conjunction with Green Wedmore was still ongoing and he hoped that some S106 funds currently held by Sedgemoor could be used to, upgrade some social housing in the parish. Cllr Costello said that good progress had been made concerning a footpath opposite Sexeyes School with the Vets donating a small piece of their land towards the project.

19.12.15 CORRESPONDENCE

Item	From Whom	Subject
	ALL CIRCULATED	

19.12.16 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Cemetery – Meeting required early January to consider a risk assessment and slip hazards
- Facilities Allotments & Footpaths – Nil
- Finance & General Purposes – Met 1st December. Next meeting June 2022
- Housing – Nil
- Highways, Car Park & Brook – New SID posts in place
- Planning – Need to elect a vice-Chair. Next meeting 5th January 2022
- Footpaths and Green Issues - Nil

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- IOW News – Nil..
- Play Areas – Monthly inspections ongoing
- SALC – Nil
- Wedmore Playing Fields Management – MUGA will be completed end of January
- Village Halls – Wedmore being used by pharmacy for Covid vaccinations.
- Twinning – Nil
- Green Wedmore. Met recently, discussions included street lighting and Pilcorn Street issues.

19.12.17 MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING –

- (a). Chairman – Nil
- (b) Clerk – the Clerk reported that he would be standing down on 30th April 2022 after nine and a half years service. He was warmly thanked by the Chair for his service to the parish
- (c) Members – Nil

There being no further business, the Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and the meeting was declared closed at 8.18 pm