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WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**Held at:** The Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore, BS28 4AE

**on:** Wednesday 17th August 2022 **at:** 7:30pm

**Present:** Councillor James – Lloyd (Chairman), Councillor Beacom, Councillor Farley, Councillor Loughery, Councillor Smith, Councillor Reeson, Councillor Thorogood

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), Julia Banwell,

**Apologies:** Councillor Tinny, Councillor Costello (District Councillor), Councillor Munt (County Councillor)

**22.08.2 To formally Co-opt Mrs Julia Banwell to the Council, Sign the Acceptance of Office register, forms, and the Declarations of Councillor Interest Forms.**

Councillor James - Lloyd addressed Councillor Banwell and welcomed her officially to the Parish Council.

Councillor Banwell signed the Acceptance of Office Register and signed the relevant acceptance forms.

**ACTION – Councillor Banwell and the Clerk will sign the Declaration of Interest forms and return to the monitoring office within 28 days.**

**22.08.3 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th July 2022**

Councillor James - Lloyd addressed the Parish Council and confirmed everyone had read the minutes from the previous meeting.

It was accepted as an accurate record and the minutes signed

**22.08.4 To confirm the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18th July 2022**

Councillor James – Lloyd again addressed the Parish Council and confirmed everyone had read the minutes from the previous meeting.

It was accepted as an accurate record and the minutes signed

**22.08.5 Reports from County and District Councillors**

**Councillor Costello:** Polly had sent her apologies but had also forwarded the information required to view TENS Licensing applications and decisions as requested by Councillor James - Lloyd at the last meeting. This was shared with the members.

**Councillor Munt:** Harry had also sent his apologies but had sent a list of updates to the Clerk who reported back to the members. Firstly, an update on a request for taller poles for the SID devices on the Poolbridge Road, Blackford. (This is in Mark Parish, but the members agreed this was of interest as on the border) The request has been submitted and is under review.

Next the ongoing Cheddar Road traffic scheme has also been added to the consultation calendar for next year (2023) a budget should be allocated over the coming months. There was also an update on the property located on West End, flooded in the rainstorms yesterday, Tuesday 16th August 2022 – It appears that Highways are due to rod the drains on the 30th of August, Councillor Munt had asked what the need to wait was, considering the recent flooding to the property. During the attendance of the Fire Brigade to pump the water it had become apparent that both surface water runoff and foul sewage had been present within the floodwater. Further investigation will be required to establish which property in the immediate vicinity has a damaged septic tank or leaking sewer pipes.

He was also able to update the members on the LCN meetings as requested by Councillor James - Lloyd at last months meeting. There appears to be no plan now with regards to structuring the LCN’s. There are 3 pilots currently taking place which are due to report at the end of September. Realistically, as it stands there is no budget information and no plan for the LCNs implementation. There is some assurance that the Parish Councils will be fully consulted during the process. Finally, he touched on the assumed structuring of the planning committee once the Unitary Council comes in. The Parish Council will remain and statutory consultee, with current District Councils remaining the ultimate decision makes for the time being until more information is provided about the LCN’s at which point there will be further review and consultation.

Councillor James - Lloyd would like to extend her thanks to both Councillor Costello and Councillor Munt for coming back with this information.

**22.8.6 To record any declarations of interest.**

None to record

**22.08.7 Public Participation.**

No public were present at the meeting.

**22.08.8 Financial Matters**

**(A) Audit of Accounts 01/07/2022 – 31/07/2022**

The Audit of accounts was tabled by the Clerk, and they were accepted as an accurate record to date.

Councillor James - Lloyd highlighted the high water usage bill for the Allotments. It was suggested that further conversation be had as to water conservation and subsequent storage. Further water butt usage should be encouraged.

**ACTION: Clerk to speak with Councillor Candy about how to approach this topic in line with The Allotment Society guidelines.**

**(B) Approve payment of invoices**

The recommendation to approve payment of invoices were approved.

**ACTION: Clerk to pay outstanding invoices**

**22.08.9 To appoint a leader for the bench maintenance working group.**

Councillor Smith updated that having spoken to David Ewens he confirmed the report was in hand and progressing well. He was though not able to lead the actual project of maintenance and so further consideration will need to be given as to how to facilitate the rolling maintenance project. A discussion ensued Councillor Farley suggested an ‘Adopt a Bench’ approach for those not already under custodianship i.e., memorial benches.

**Decision:** It was decided that the Parish Council will place an advertisement to ‘Adopt a Bench’ in the Isle of Wedmore News for the October addition.

Councillor Beacom also raised that all the Jubilee benches have been sited in the 4 playgrounds. She thanked the Clerk, Councillor James – Lloyd, Stanley C Baker and Sons and Mr Barry Coombes for the support and help with storing, building, moving and facilitating this.

**ACTION: Clerk to provide David Ewens with a suitable Parish map allowing accurate recording of bench positions.**

**ACTION: Clerk to design an advertisement for the ‘Adopt a Bench’ initiative.**

**ACTION: Clerk to write and formally thank Stanley C Baker and Sons and Mr Barry Coombes for their help.**

**22.08.10 Issues and Questions raised by Councillors**

**Councillor Smith –** Circulated news about the new proposed GP surgery – He had circulated a statement prepared by Mr Alan Benson Chair of Axbridge and Wedmore Community Health Fund. This has been included below for reference.

‘As you may be aware the Axbridge & Wedmore Community Health Fund is undertaking a feasibility study for a replacement branch surgery in Wedmore, to provide long-term income for the Fund.  Axbridge & Wedmore Medical Practice is part of North Sedgemoor Primary Care Network (PCN). This network is composed of five practices, Axbridge & Wedmore, Cheddar, Brent, Burnham and Highbridge.

We have been informed that NHS England and NHS Improvement have very recently instigated a ‘Clinical and Estate Strategy’ programme across all Primary Care Networks. This review is designed to anticipate future clinical service requirements and the estate that will be needed to fulfil those needs. This review will assess the needs of the whole North Sedgemoor PCN community, and not just Wedmore. This is unlikely to be completed until sometime in 2023. This means that our plans for a ‘new surgery’ or health facility to replace the existing Wedmore surgery cannot be seen in isolation from the needs of the population covered by the PCN.

Therefore our ‘new surgery’ project must be put on hold and await the outcome of the ‘Clinical and Estate Strategy’ review from NHS England before progressing plans any further. We will ensure that any work that has been completed so far on this project will be incorporated and taken into consideration in this ‘Clinical and Estate Strategy’ review.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our donors and those that have worked so hard on this project so far. ‘

Councillor Smith also spoke about the update on the brook, the Clerk also advised she had received an email from Sedgemoor asking for further information about the locations that required investigation.

**ACTION: Clerk to email Sedgemoor with the exact brook locations via What3 Words app.**

**Councillor Banwell**asked about the current situation around the Car parking at the Council Rooms. Councillor James - Lloyd was able to advise of the most recent discussions with Sedgemoor in homes.

**Cllr Reeson ENTERS – Makes apologies for being late.**

Discussions continue with regards to Councillor Banwell’s questions, there was a brief continuation about adding the fence to the boundary as described in the planning application. This is being investigated further. Councillor Banwell also asked about what Councillors should do in relation to responding to posts on social media. Discussion ensued. – The Clerk confirmed that there is a profile set up for the Clerk to reply to any urgent matters. Other than that, it has been agreed at previous meetings that no councillors shall interact on behalf of the Parish Council on social media platforms.

**Councillor Reeson** – Update on the letter to the Mairie in St Medard in support and friendship.

**Councillor Beacom**- Advised she has read the LGA Code of conduct, Councillor James – Lloyd, has also read it.

**ACTION: Clerk to re-circulate the documentation and add to September’s Agenda for adoption**

**22.08.11 Committee Reports –** *For Information only.*

* Cemetery – Nil
* Facilities and Allotments - Nil
* Finance and General Purposes - Nil
* Housing – Nil
* Highways, Carpark and Brook – Already mentioned in minute 22.08.10
* Planning – Update from Councillor James - Lloyd who had been copied into an email sent to Planning Officer Emma Chorley from Mr Adams Planning Application number 50-22-0003 in preparation for the planning panel this month. It is not shown on the agenda.

**ACTION: Councillor James - Lloyd to email Emma Chorley and lay out further clarification on the subject regarding previous correspondence**

**22.08.12 Reports from representatives on committees**

* IOW News – The Clerk had attended a meeting with Bill Sutton and Liz Henderson with regards to the What’s On feature in the IOW news. Bill has decided to stay on until his 100th issue which will be May in the hope a new editor can be found within that timeframe.
* Play Areas – Councillor Farley reiterated the new benches being in place.
* SALC – The Clerk advised SALC had requested for updated information for contact details.
* Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Councillor James - Lloyd and Councillor Loughery advised of the next Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee meeting due to be held Monday 22nd August. Councillor James – Lloyd advised of the update about recent emails received, she also pointed out that the widely shared on social media was incorrect, there was no vandalism to the public WC in fact it was increased use due to the GWR bike ride, held as a fundraiser for the Football Club.
* Village Halls – Wedmore – Nil, Theale - Theale Show – September 3rd Sept please all feel welcome to attend. Sadly, Mr Bodley has passed away, it is hoped that the bequeathment will still go ahead as planned. The Parish Council would like to extend their condolences to his family.
* Twinning – Nil
* Green Wedmore –Councillor James - Lloyd reported that a post on social media post with regards to a working party due to take place at Worthington mentioned the laying of old carpet. Councillor James - Lloyd highlighted that this is against the policy for allotments holders and suggested that this is not acceptable for Worthington Woods. She had contacted Steve Mews, who had agreed. There is continued hope to meet with Steve in September.

**22.08.13 Matters of Report, Correspondence, and Items for next meeting**

1. **Chairman** – Update on actions since the last meeting, Councillor James - Lloyd thanks everyone for their help and support with getting all actions completed since the last meeting.
2. **Clerk** – Overview of received correspondence since the last meeting

* Alison Crook – Willow Trees down at the bottom of The Lerburne
* Steve Mulvihill – Offer to write the Parish Emergency Plan document.
* Cathy Butterworth – Wedmore Wellbeing Day, 17th September. Progress so far.
* Isle of Wedmore Football Club – Complaint about the Public Toilet
* ILCA Qualification – It was agreed that the Clerk should enrol onto the next intake.

1. **Members** – Councillor Beacom provided an update on the progress with the Methodist Church. Both she and The Clerk had attended a meeting with the conservation officer from Sedgemoor and Architect from 2b’s John Beauchamp. John has agreed that any time he spends on this project until his retirement will be pro bono. The project is progressing towards the creation of a CLT, it is hoped that the business plan will prove a successful not-for profit model with a progressive management structure. Plans need to be done before grant applications are submitted. It was also pointed out by the conservation officer that all time allocates to this project by members must be recorded to prove positive for application. There is still a lot to do, including an extensive feasibility study, business plan, etc. Councillor Reeson asked what timescale is being provided, Councillor Beacom advised that the doors will close on 31st August, keys will be returned to the circuit, but there will be a long process to formalise a sale date. The next step is to formally submit an Expression of interest to the Methodist Circuit. Ultimately the decision will be based on if this project will prove to be beneficial to the community.

Councillor Beacom also asked if it would be possible to put an advert/flyer for new councillors in with Cathy Butterworth’s Freepost envelope for the Wellbeing Day, which would be distributed to all Parish householders

**ACTION: Clerk to contact Cathy Butterworth and ask if it will be possible to put an advert/flyer for new councillors in the envelope for the Wellbeing Day.**

**All business conducted the meeting was closed at 20:26 pm**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 21st September 2022