



WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held at: The Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4EA

on: Wednesday 16th November 2022 **at:** 7:30pm

Present: Councillor Farley (Chairman), Councillor Beacom, Councillor Loughery, Councillor Reeson, Councillor Tinny, Councillor Banwell.

In Attendance: Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), Councillor Harry Munt (County Councillor) Mr Olly Rant (Co-opted)

22.11.1 Apologies: Councillor Thorogood, Councillor Candy, Councillor Smith

22.11.2 TO FORMALLY CO-OPT OLIVER RANT TO THE COUNCIL

Councillor Farley addressed Mr Rant and welcomed him officially to the Parish Council.

Councillor Rant signed the Acceptance of Office Register and was given the Declaration of Interest forms to complete.

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

22.11.3 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (BY INVITATION)

Councillor Munt advised that the next County Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 23rd November 2022. It is expected that the LGR Consultations will have been compiled and the data will be presented soon.

- He highlighted the details of the Transparent Language Online for Somerset Libraries members initiative. Transparent Language Online offers Somerset Libraries members the chance to learn over 110 different languages for free! Suitable for everyone to complete, from beginners to those wanting to improve their language skills. Transparent Language Online offers a wide range of learning tools suitable for both adults and children including child-specific courses – ‘KidSpeak’ • It’s completely free – no hidden costs, no subscriptions, no premium options. • Remote Access – you can learn from anywhere, in the library, at home or even on your smartphone. • Learn at your own pace and keep track of your progress in your Learning Path page.
- Councillor Munt also reported that Somerset County Council has been successful in a joint funding bid with the Exmoor National Park Authority to the Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund (WCAF) and has been awarded £300,000 – the maximum amount possible. Planting significant numbers of new trees is a key part of Somerset’s Climate Emergency Strategy to help the county achieve its ambition of becoming net zero by 2030.
- Finally, he wanted to share that officers at Somerset and Devon County Council’s have been warned that budgets will be very difficult to ascertain for the next few years. Councillor Munt urged the Councillors to take this into consideration when setting the Precept over the coming months. There may well be services that are dramatically underfunded or even no longer provided within the Local Government Restructure.

Councillor Farley thanked Councillor Munt for attending and for the updates.

22.11.4 TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

22.11.5 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 27TH OCTOBER 2022

Councillor Farley 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

22.11.6 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2022

Councillor Farley addressed the Parish Council again and confirmed everyone had read the minutes from the planning meeting.

It was accepted as an accurate record and the minutes signed

22.11.7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present

22.11.8 MATTERS ARISING AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS — *NOTE: FOR INFORMATION ONLY AS RESOLUTIONS CANNOT BE AGREED AT THIS AGENDA ITEM*

Councillor Reeson – The road condition on Mudgley Road. He stressed his concern that the persons responsible had not been more proactive in arranging the clear up. He was aware of the complaints from parishioners also shared with the clerk. It was confirmed that the links are available allowing members of the public to report any type of road condition known to Somerset County Highways.

ACTION: Clerk to reshare the links for self-reporting to Facebook

ACTION – Clerk to speak with the Wedmore News team to include the links signposting for January.

22.11.9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(A) Councillors Farley and Beacom, confirmed they had carried out the monthly checks and they were accepted as an accurate record to date.

(B) Approve payment of invoices

It was resolved to approve payment of all invoices until the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to pay any outstanding invoices

22.11.10 TO NOTE THE AGREED PAY AWARD ON ALL NJC PAY POINTS 1 AND ABOVE OF £1,925.00 FOR 2022-2023, BACKDATED TO 1ST APRIL 2022, AND TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WITH EFFECT FROM THE 1ST APRIL 2023 AN INCREASE OF ONE DAY TO ALL EMPLOYEES ANNUAL LEAVE ENTITLEMENT, IN LINE WITH CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STAFF.

The Clerk excused herself from the room while councillors discussed the relevant information with regards to the agreed pay rise and contractual changes.

The Councillors invited the clerk back in and advised that Councillor Beacom proposed to accept the changes and Councillor Reeson seconded.

ACTION: Confirm with the Monitoring Office that the pay award has been agreed.

ACTION: To update the Clerk's contract to include the changes.

22.11.11 TO RESOLVE TO SET ASIDE A SUM OF £600 ANNUALLY WHICH CAN BE CLAIMED AGAINST THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PLAYING FIELDS PUBLIC TOILET (JB)

Councillor Banwell spoke of her proposal which had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting. It was clarified that the £600.00 is a ringfenced amount within the budget from 1st April of each year, available to the Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee to use against maintenance for the public toilet facilities only, invoices are to be itemised and the Clerk will pay the invoices from the ringfenced budget.

Decision: It was decided that the Parish Council will set aside an annual fee of £600 that will be backdated from 1st April 2023 and the invoices paid to date by the council will be deducted from the total for the remainder of the financial year. The decision was proposed by Councillor Banwell and seconded by Councillor Loughery.

ACTION: Clerk to write and inform Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee of the ringfenced funds

ACTION: Councillor Banwell to arrange a tour of the facilities with Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee

22.11.12 TO DISCUSS FUNDING AND PROGRESS OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE / TEENAGE PLAY AREA AND PUMP TRACK AT CROSS FARM (JF)

Councillor Farley clarified that following the comments made during the presentation at the last meeting, the Clerk had emailed Councillor Costello and asked if it was possible for Wicksteed to provide either a scale drawing or peg out the site. The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Costello had not yet been back in touch with a further update.

Councillors discussed various concerns and ideas including why skateboarders hadn't been catered for, considering that the target audience is teens the Parish Council have concerns that the current scale is not suited. Councillor Banwell suggested that perhaps there is the opportunity to amend the plan at this stage to only incorporate a larger pump track.

ACTION: Councillor Farley to speak with Councillor Costello for an update.

22.11.13 TO RESOLVE TO ALLOW WEDMORE GREEN GROUP THE APPROVAL TO BUILD A TEMPORARY SHELTER AT WORTHINGTON WOODS (IB)

Councillor Beacom outlined Green Wedmore's proposal for the temporary shelter (Post and roof structure), including the planning regulations. A discussion ensued.

Decision: It was decided that providing the temporary structure meets all relevant planning conditions, including being no more than 2.5 meters in height, and positioned away from all boundaries, including that of neighbouring properties, the Parish Council would have no objection to a structure being built in Worthington Woods. This was proposed by Councillor Beacom and Seconded by Councillor Farley.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Steve Mewes of the decision.

22.11.14 TO RESOLVE TO UNDERTAKE THE REMEDIAL WORKS AT THE ALLOTMENTS, INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF A SPOIL HEAP IN FRONT OF ALLOTMENT 14 AND ALSO STRIMMING OFF THE CURRENTLY UNOCCUPIED ALLOTMENTS AHEAD OF NEW LEASES BEING ISSUED. (JC)

In Councillor Candy's absence, the Clerk advised she had obtained a quotation for strimming from Will Jackson, and it was agreed by all that the price was fair. Councillor Reeson proposed that the spoil heap and any remaining rubbish be moved during Spring / Summer to avoid the mess, especially with the wet weather forecast. The Clerk was also able to advise that all remaining people on the wait list had been advised of the vacant plots and she was waiting for confirmation of any interested parties. Councillor Reeson suggested that any remaining vacant plots be sheeted for the winter to avoid further cost of maintenance being incurred over the winter period.

Decision: It was proposed by Councillor Reeson and Councillor Tinny seconded, that vacant plots be strimmed, prior to any new leases being issued. By Will Jackson, and that any remaining vacant plots will then be sheeted for winter. It was also agreed that quotes be obtained for the removal of the spoil heap for early Spring.

ACTION: The Clerk with schedule the maintenance with Will Jackson.

ACTION: The Clerk will obtain quotes for the removal of the spoil heap.

22.11.15 TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE TO ADD AN EMERGENCY CONTACT TO THE DATA BASE PROVIDED BY THE CIVIL CONTINGENCIES UNIT

Councillor Farley asked the council if they had read the correspondence in relation to the database, It was agreed they had, Councillor Farley proceeded to propose that the office number be added to the database. This was agreed unanimously.

ACTION: The Clerk will contact the Civil Contingencies Unit and get the number added to the database.

22.11.16 TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS OF THE WARM IN WEDMORE INITIATIVE TO DATE AND RESOLVE THE COUNCILS 'NEXT STEPS'

Councillor Beacom gave an update on the initiative, confirming that at the time of the meeting 11 of the 12 weeks have now been filled by local groups. The Parish Council has been allocated 14th / 15th December. She asked for volunteers to help man the day Councillor Farley and Councillor Rant have said they will be in attendance.

ACTION: Councillors Reeson, Banwell, Loughery, Smith, Tinny, Thorogood and Candy to confirm their availability.

ACTION: Councillor Reeson to share Councillor Beacom's contact details with a contact in Draycott for a similar initiative.

22.11.17 UPDATE ON THE METHODIST CHAPEL / CLT (IB)

Councillors Beacom and Farley advised they had attended a meeting with Menshed about next steps. The Menshed has now approached the Methodist Circuit with an offer for the Church, which they have advised they are happy to accept this offer with conditions.

Councillor Banwell asked where the funding is coming from, and Councillor Farley confirmed many options are being explored including CLT (Community Land Trust). Councillor Reeson confirmed that the funds are to be raised as a community rather than the Parish Council, Councillor Farley confirmed this is the case. Councillor Reeson asked if the Parish Council raise funds towards the project. Councillor Farley spoke of being mindful of the current facilities on offer such as the village halls. She has been in contact with Lympsham Parish Council as they have managed to secure funding for a similar project, she is awaiting a reply. Councillor Beacom confirmed that a business plan is being drawn up and reiterated that the Parish Council are not driving this project but will continue to have a vested interest for the community it serves. Councillor Beacom advised that at the meeting along with the opportunity of setting up a CLT another option would be a Wellbeing Charity Group, incorporating a wider scope of potential groups with interest and broadening the scope for funding. This is very much an ongoing project.

22.11.18 Committee Reports – For Information only.

- **Cemetery** – Following the last meeting Councillor Reeson has requested a quote for repairing the broken fencing on left hand side. Councillor Reeson has been able to fix one of the panels.
 - Councillor Reeson also commented that the paths are very mossy, and for health and safety this needs to be addressed.

ACTION: Clerk to speak to Will Jackson about the usual treatment.

- **Facilities and Allotments** – Already discussed at point 22.11.14
- **Finance and General Purposes** – Meeting scheduled for 7th December. Budget setting.
- **Housing** – Councillor Beacom confirmed that following last month's meeting and the discussion around the Holden Gardens CIL money release. She has received confirmation that this can be released once 50% occupancy has been reached on the development.
 - She confirmed that £250,000 had been the agreed allocation and it would be desirable for this to be spent within the Parishes.
 - Ideas include Retrofitting homes that would benefit, social housing. Councillor Banwell suggested a consultation be actioned about requirements for retrofitting. Councillor Reeson asked if a list of current social housing within the Parish had been sought.

ACTION: Councillor Beacom will speak with Duncan Harvey and ask for clarification on the criteria for spending.
ACTION: Request a list of Social Housing.

- **Highways, Carpark and Brook** – Nothing to report.
- **Planning** – Application 50/22/00064/EC The Hill, Mill Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4DW is to be discussed after the main meeting, prior to comments being submitted to the portal.
- The next meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 30th November.

22.11.19 Reports from representatives on committees

- **IOW News** – The Clerk advised she had spoken to the Chairman about the distribution in April as the usual system will not be in place due to holiday – The Parish Council have said they will manage the distribution for this period.
 - They are still looking for a new Editor.
- **Play Areas** – Nothing to report
- **SALC** – Nothing to report
- **Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee** – Councillor Loughery and Councillor Reeson had attended the Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee meeting on Monday 14th November. They had been shown the upstairs, all is progressing well. It has been decided that Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee will be managing the upstairs space themselves as a function room space.
- **Village Halls** – Councillor Tinny advised that Blackford have had a good turn out for the last few cafes.
 - The Clerk confirmed that Councillor Beacom and she had signed the new lease for Theale Village Hall.
- **Twinning** – Councillor Reeson advised that the Twinning group will extend an invitation over the Harvest Home period, this has yet to be sent.
- **Green Wedmore** – The Clerk advised she has been copied in on emails between Green Wedmore and Somerset Waste Partnership about the provision of recycling bins within Wedmore, this is ongoing.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for 28th November.

22.11.20 Matters of Report, Correspondence, and Items for next meeting

- A. **Chairman** – Nothing to report
- B. **Clerk** – Overview of received correspondence since the last meeting
 - Scribe Cemetery package
 - Wedmore's Living Advent Calendar has accepted the offer of doing a window. The Parish Council will receive further details about the action required.

ACTION: Add Scribe package to the agenda for next meeting.
ACTION: Design an Advent Window Display.

- C. **Members** – Nothing to report

All business conducted the meeting was closed at 21:00 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th December 2022