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WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**Held at:** The Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore, BS28 4EA **on:** Wednesday 14th December 2022 **at:** 7:30pm

**Present:** Councillor Farley (Chair), Councillor Beacom, Councillor Loughery, Councillor Smith, Councillor Reeson, Councillor Rant

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), Member of the public - Ms Lisa Crittenden

## to receive any apologies for absence (and record approval if appropriate)

**Apologies:** Councillor Tinny, Councillor Thorogood, Councillor Candy, Councillor Banwell, County Councillor Munt.

## reports from county and district councillors (by invitation)

No councillors present at the meeting.

1. **to record any declarations of interest**

No interests to declare

1. **to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 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

1. **to confirm the minutes of the planning meeting held on 30th November 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

1. **public participation –** *(max. time 10minutes)*

Councillor Farley asked the member of the public if she wished to address the council.

Lisa said she would. She addressed the council. Speaking of the Theale Village Hall progress. She thanked Councillor Thorogood for all his hard work on the grant applications so far. Sedgemoor have now confirmed to the village hall management committee that their grant application for £47,500 has been successful, the management committee will now meet to discuss the first phase action plan.

Chair Councillor Farley addressed the council and suggested that agenda item 22.12.11 be brought forward whilst the member of the public was in attendance. This was agreed by the councillors. Agenda item 22.12.11 was brought forward.

1. **matters arising and questions raised by councillors –** *note: for information only as resolutions cannot be agreed at this agenda item*

The Clerk advised she had received an email form Councillor Banwell requesting that an agenda item be added to January’s meeting to discuss ideas to mark the Kings Coronation.

Councillor Reeson addressed the council. He advised that the thermal imaging camera has arrived. He has been researching a similar scheme in Cambridge. He will continue to put together the finer details about how the scheme will work for parishioners.

1. **to resolve the repair work to the fencing at the cemetery. (ar)**

Councillor Reeson advised that he had spoken J. C Bethell Services with regards to the fencing repairs who has since provided a quotation to the clerk to carry out the works.

**Decision:** Resolved Councillor Beacom proposed the repairs be carried out at J.C Bethell Services earliest convenience. This was seconded by Councillor Farley. The rest of the Councillors voted unanimously.

**ACTION: The Clerk will speak to J.C Bethell Services to advise of the council’s decision.**

1. **financial matters**
2. audit of accounts 01st November – 30th November 2022 *(to receive a report from Cllrs Beacom and Farley)*
3. to approve payment on invoices, including those listed on attached document

* Councillor Farley advised that as she is now chairman and a signatory on the bank account, best practice would be another councillor take on the monthly bank check. Councillor Smith has agreed to take on the check with immediate effect.
* Councillor Reeson highlighted the festive light company payment – this is for the parts needed to carry out the repairs required for the cross-street decorations. Councillor Reeson also thanked Jason Beasley, Mike Rogers, and Dave Tucker for giving their time freely in the erection of the lights and The George for providing breakfast rolls and hot drinks, alongside other villagers while they were being erected.

1. **to agree the budget and precept for 2023 – 2024**

Councillor Farley spoke on behalf of the Finance and general purposes committee, who had met the previous evening to make their recommendations for the setting of the Budget and the Precept, the Clerk presented the proposal to the councillors via the big screen.

A lengthy discussion ensued; both the budget and the precept were further analysed and impacts discussed. Overall, the council have taken the advice from County Councillors about needing to ‘be brave!’ taking into the uncertainty of the new Somerset Council. They also discussed how the decision would be presented to parishioners. It was suggested that a separate article be submitted to the Wedmore News team for publication in February.

**Decision:** Councillor Smith proposed that the budget and the Precept be agreed by the council, Councillor Rant Seconded. All Councillors voted in favour of submitting the Precept request to Sedgemoor in January.

**ACTION: Clerk to complete the Precept Request and submit in January.**

**ACTION: Councillor Farley to draft the information for the Wedmore News team and present to Councillors at the January meeting for approval.**

1. **to resolve funding and discuss the progress of theale village hall project (jf)**

Councillor Farley reiterated that the council have agreed to cover the legal fees for the renewal of the lease. The Council has now been approached to cover the legal fees for the orchard gifting £700.00 for the village hall management committee and the fees for the bequeather - £1200.00. Councillor Farley confirmed that the orchard has been valued and once transferred in ownership will be held in the village hall charity trust, separate from the village hall lease held by the church. Councillor Reeson confirmed that the orchard will really enhance the facility and encourage the future use and success of the hall for all.

**Decision:** Councillor Reeson proposed that the £1900 for the legal fees to acquire the orchard be paid for by the Parish Council. The was seconded by Councillor Smith. The council voted in unanimous agreement.

1. **to resolve to add the scribe cemetery package to the subscription program**

The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Scribe and they had now confirmed the quotation which had previously been shared. Councillor Reeson advised following his recent involvement with family members requesting information about records held he now understand the importance of the record keeping and would recommend the council invest in this software.

**Decision:** Resolved Councillor Reeson proposed the addition of the Scribe cemetery package to the subscription budget. This was seconded by Councillor Beacom. The rest of the Councillors voted unanimously.

**ACTION: The Clerk will liaise with Scribe about the set up and implementation of the Cemetery package.**

1. **to discuss and resolve the future of the cross-street christmas lights for 2023 (ar, jf)**

Councillor Farley addressed the council to confirm that they were all aware of the Freedom of Information request by a member of the public in relation to the documentation relating to the erection of the Christmas lights. They confirmed they were. Councillor Reeson addressed the council and advised that serious consideration needed to be given to the future of the Christmas lights, parishioners seem to enjoy them being erected for the festive period. But Councillor Reeson confirmed they will require regular maintenance. Currently the council are relying on the generosity of parishioners and friends to erect the lights free of charge – this may change and will need to be considered in future years as to whether the current lights are viable, or if alternatives need to be investigated. They will remain in situ for the remaining festive period of 2022.

**ACTION: Add as discussion point for January Agenda for further resolution.**

1. **to resolve the barrier service to take place**

The Clerk advised that she had been advised that the annual inspection and maintenance was due on the carpark barrier.

**Decision:** Resolved Councillor Farley proposed the inspection take place. This was seconded by Councillor Smith. The rest of the Councillors voted unanimously.

**ACTION: The Clerk will liaise with the barrier service company about a suitable date for the service.**

1. **to resolve the playground inspections to take place at wedmore, blackford, and theale**

The Clerk advised that she had been advised that the annual inspection of the playgrounds is due, the demand and scheduling advised by the company means there is currently a 16-week lead time on the inspections being carried out. It was agreed that it would be beneficial to action this, so the playgrounds are inspected prior to the usage increasing in the spring.

**Decision:** Resolved Councillor Beacom proposed the inspection take place. This was seconded by Councillor Rant. The rest of the Councillors voted unanimously.

**ACTION: The Clerk will liaise with The Play Inspection Co. about a date for the inspections.**

1. **to resolve to continue membership with the somerset playing fields’ association**

The Clerk advised that she had received an invoice for the membership to the Somerset Playing Fields Association.

Councillor Reeson asked what the membership means for the council and if it was still relevant.

The Clerk advised that membership to the Playing Field’s Association means, they can ask for advice on and assistance with the provision of playing fields and playgrounds within our community. The PFA provides advocacy/advice/information, acts as an umbrella or resource body, provides services, makes grants to organisations.

**Decision:** Resolved Councillor Farley proposed the membership fee be paid. This was seconded by Councillor Beacom. The rest of the Councillors agree unanimously.

**ACTION: The Clerk will pay the membership fee.**

1. **committee reports correspondence** *– For information*

* Cemetery – Update on complaints received after the condition of the ground following digging of graves in recent poor weather. The Clerk is in communication with both families and the grave digger.
* Facilities and Allotments – Allotment 9B has now been let and the new tenants had requested the approval to erect a shed. This has been approved in line with the conditions and recommendations of the lease agreement.
* Finance and General Purposes – Nothing to report
* Housing – Nothing to report
* Highways, Car Park & Brook – Nothing to report
* Planning – Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 20th December – Agendas will be added to notice boards Thursday 15th December.

1. **reports from representatives on committees–** *For Information*

* IOW News – Nothing to report
* Play Areas – The Clerk advised she has been in touch with Councillor Costello who has requested for a second time, a scale drawing from Wicksteed in reference the Cross Farm pump track. She is still awaiting an update
* SALC – The latest training dates have been circulated and both Councillor Rant and Councillor Loughery are undertaking training in the new year.
* Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Nothing to report.
* Village Halls – Wedmore – Councillor Smith advised that several people want to step down from the management committee, including the bookings secretary, this is an integral role which is needed asap. The Chairman would like to stand down as well as the Treasurer / facilities manager. Councillor Smith also advised that Wedmore Village Hall has achieved Hallmark stage 1&2 status.
* Twinning – Nothing to report
* Green Wedmore – Bins

1. **matters of report, correspondence, and items for next meeting**
   1. Chairman – Nothing to report
   2. Clerk – Overview of received correspondence since the last meeting.
   3. Members – Nothing to report

**All business conducted the meeting was closed at - 9:30pm**