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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 15th March 2023 **at:** 7:30pm

**Present:** \*Councillor Farley, Councillor Beacom, Councillor Smith, Councillor Thorogood, Councillor Reeson, Councillor Tinny.

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), Councillor Harry Munt, 1 Member of the Public

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

District Councillor Costello, Councillor Rant, Councillor Banwell, Councillor Candy.

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

**Councillor Harry Munt** provided an update to the Parish Council on the new Somerset Council.

* There has been two big budget meetings, the main topics were Adult Social Care & Childrens Social Care along with the Council Tax relief scheme.
* A new constitution has been passed for the Unitary Authority.
* It has been confirmed the planning will be done on a North, South, East, West committee basis. Councillor Munt will be on planning for the North.
* The New Council’s Plan is on the website.
* An update on schools in the County. In May 2020 Ofsted found 9 areas of weakness in 22 schools. Improvements have been shown in 7 of the 9 across these schools.
* Finally, Councillor Munt advised that Somerset has been selected to pilot the recycling of soft plastics. This will be rolled out over the coming years starting with Mendip area.

Councillor Munt asked if there were any questions from Councillors.

* Councillor Smith asked if any progress had been made with Pilcorn Street? Councillor Munt advised he is hopeful that quotes from contractors will be sought soon.
* Councillor Beacom asked about the planning structure and when this will be implemented. Councillor Munt advised that it will be from 1st April, although there will be some training needed prior.
* Councillor Farley highlighted that although numerous reports have been made to Highways with regards to the pedestrian crossing we have still not had any response. Councillor Smith advised that he has re submitted this once again as well as some other items to Aileen.

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

Nothing to report.

1. **to receive the clerks report and resolve any suitable action required.**

Councillor Farley asked if all councillors present had had the opportunity to read the clerks report, it was confirmed they had. It was noted the councillors felt this is a good way to be informed of the day to day running of the council between meetings.

1. **to confirm the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 15th february 2023**

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 they wished to raise anything. They said they were attending to raise concerns about the visibility at Mudgely Crossroads. Following a serious incident last year and then 6 days later another serious accident. The Member of the Public feels that something needs to be done, particularly on the Sand side as the junction is almost blind when emerging onto the main road.

A discussion ensued Councillor Smith advised that he has reported this to Somerset County Highways who believe the signage is adequate and meets statutory requirements.

Councillor Reeson advised having experienced a similar situation on a regular commute to Shepton Mallet action had been taken to review the hedge line, he posed if this is something we can do?

Councillor Farley suggests that the Parish Council could approach the farmers to ask them about improving the visibility splay. Councillor Thorogood asked if incidents are recorded and if the numbers are monitored. It was suggested if the police are in attendance the incident would be recorded however ‘near misses’ will likely not be recorded.

Councillor Harry Munt asked if he could interject – Councillor Farley invited him to speak. Councillor Munt advised he will speak to Aileen Fletcher – SCC Traffic Engineer and see if there is anything that can be done beyond statutory requirements.

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

* Councillor Tinny advised that following the reporting of the hazardous waste containers that had been fly tipped in at least one gateway withing the Parish and another close by. The containers had been removed.
* Councillor Thorogood advised that he has been using the infrared camera in a number of properties, and so far all residents have been very appreciative. Councillor Thorogood advised although we will soon be entering warmer weather parishioners will still have uses for the infra-red camera such as leak detection and solar panel efficiency. Councillor Reeson has said he will continue to further research the paperwork before it can be used independently by parishioners and also what form of calendar management system to use, such as Google Calendar.

Councillor Thorogood then advised the Parish Council that he had a statement he wished to read with regards to his involvement with Theale Village Hall

The statement was tabled and read by Councillor Thorogood.

Councillor Farley then opened the session up for Councillors to ask questions.

* Councillor Smith asked if the current terms of the lease being met. Councillor Thorogood advised that the renewed lease is still to be received, but they are carrying out satisfactory maintenance in order to meet the terms of the current lease agreement.
* Councillor Reeson should we suggest an informal meeting? Councillor Farley confirmed that the trustees are holding the AGM in April and it would be best to wait until the new committee are formed. Hopefully looking to proceed after the new committee is formalised.

Both Councillors Reeson and Farley agree that Councillor Thorogood has done a sterling job in securing the funding and securing the new lease. Councillor Beacom extended her good wishes and said the Parish Council will do all they can to help support the current tenuous relationship.

* Councillor Beacom advised she will be attending a debrief of the Warm in Wedmore project on Thursday 16th March but so far she was aware that session numbers saw between 6 and 30 people in attendance. It seemed people are appreciative of the initiative.
* Councillor Smith advised that a Highways meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 5th April.

He also advised that the SID has been relocated from Comb Batch and Mudgley to Cheddar Road and Blackford. He will request the latest data from the SID’s in time for the Highways meeting.

Following a request from various members of the public about signposting the new footpath from Cheddar Road carpark and the village via Holden Hurst. Councillor Smith has been following up with the developers and a temporary solution has been agreed. Wedmore Menshed have been approached about making the signage.

The pedestrian crossing by the first school has also been reported numerous times to SCC, hopefully the works will be scheduled soon.

1. **financial matters**
2. audit of accounts 01st February – 28th February 2023 *(to receive a report from cllrs beacom and farley)*

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

1. to approve payment on invoices, including those listed on attached document

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

**ACTION: Clerk to pay any outstanding invoices**

1. to resolve the spend project for the health and wellbeing fund as requested by ‘wilder wedmore’

Following from the action of last month’s meeting to confirm the criteria for the awarded money the Clerk confirmed that SALC agree this would be a fabulous project. The Clerk also confirmed that SALC would love to share the detail and any suitable photos of the project in their wider Health & Wellbeing project and on the SALC website.

**ACTION: The Clerk will advise Green Wedmore the application has been successful.**

1. to review a quotation from J C Bethall Services for the Fabrication of the rail for the council steps

Councillor Farley reiterated the reasoning behind the quotation, which is to alleviate the risk of trips and falls along the steps and path at the front of council rooms.

**RESOLVED:** All councillors agreed, currently it could be a dangerous hazard for visitors. The quotation was accepted and proposed by Councillor Beacom, Seconded by Councillor Thorogood to initiate the work. This was agreed unanimously.

**ACTION: The Clerk will advise J C Bethall Services to schedule the work**

1. to resolve the recommendation of the planning subcommittee to agree a quotation from wicksteed as the supplier for the new play space at cross farm.

Councillor Reeson (as elected chair of the Planning Sub Committee) addressed the council. He confirmed that a new solicitor needs to be instructed who has more experience with section 106 agreements.

He also highlighted the graffiti which had taken place at the playground and been reported through social media.

Councillor Farley asked if the Parish Council were happy to resolve the recommendation of the planning subcommittee. This was proposed by Councillor Loughery and seconded by Councillor Reeson

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council agree unanimously that Wicksteed (The preferred supplier) should be notified of the outcome and asked for a timescale for the installation.

Councillor Smith has asked that it be clear that the Parish Council’s contribution towards the new play equipment will be from secured CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funds.

**ACTION: The Clerk will notify Wicksteed**

**ACTION: The Clerk will liaise with the new solicitor once instruction has been confirmed.**

**ACTION: Notify Acorn of the graffiti to the slide in the playground.**

1. to receive an update and progress with regards to the public toilets in the borough.

Councillor Reeson updated the Parish Council on the progress of the refurbishment so far. The architects have now drawn up the plans. They have suggested that a disabled loo could be fitted in.

The Parish Council agree they would like to see the proposal prior to commitment to the project.

**ACTION: Councillor Smith will draft a brief for anticipated works.**

1. to receive and update for plans for the coronation

In Councillor Banwell’s absence, Councillor Farley had attended the Coronation planning meeting at St Mary’s. Plans taking shape include the facilitation to screen the coronation service at the church, the church can hold around 300 people. The usual 9:30am coffee and cake will be available, and it is hoped that people will bring picnics and the event will roll on for the entire day. There appears to be no desire to shut the road for the community. Others are looking at doing individual ‘Street Party’s’.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council will notify Highways that the road closure is no longer required.

Councillor Reeson asked if there is something commemorative the Parish Council can do? Councillor Beacom suggested adopting a Tree?

**ACTION: Research commemorative ideas**

**ACTION: Research the adoption of a tree**

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

None of the committee representatives had anything to report.

1. matters of report, correspondence, and items for next meeting
2. Chairman - NIL
3. Clerk – The clerk advised she had received communication from The Health and Wellbeing Group to ask about the possibility of renewing the directory. This will be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion.
4. Members - NIL

**All business conducted the meeting was closed at closed 8:35pm**