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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 19th April 2023 **at:** 7:30pm

**Present:** \*Councillor Farley, Councillor Beacom, Councillor Thorogood, Councillor Reeson, Councillor Tinny, Councillor Banwell, Councillor Loughery

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), Councillor Harry Munt, Councillor Matt Martin, Councillor Abi McGuire

**Public Participation:** Councillor Abi McGuire was in attendance, she wanted to introduce herself as an independent candidate across the Wells and Mendip Hills constituency.

## to receive any apologies for absence (and record approval if appropriate) lga1972 s85 (1))

Councillor Rant, Councillor Smith

## reports from unitary councillors (by invitation)

**Councillor Munt** – He is pleased to report that everything is going smoothly for the Unitary Council so far, which is great considering the size of the operation.

There will soon be invitations sent out to the Parish Council to attend the first LCN (Local Community Network) Meeting.

* Pilcorn Street project: Somerset have now started the technical drawings for the project. They have agreed that at this design stage both gaps are being covered within the same process. Quotes will soon be proposed from local contractors. Progress is starting to happen!
* He advised that he was due to have a meeting with Aileen Fletcher from (Traffic Engineer North Sedgemoor and West Mendip Areas) in respect of the concerns raised about the Mudgley Crossroads and the renewal of road markings at Hugh Sexey Middle School however this has been rescheduled. He will continue to pursue these queries.

Councillor Farley thanked Cllrs Munt and Martin for the update.

1. to formally accept councillor candy’s resignation

Councillor Farley advised that she had received a resignation letter from Councillor Candy.

she urged the Councillors to consider asking those they know if they would be interested in joining the Parish Council, currently the load is heavy to bear with so few.

**ACTION: Clerk will notify Somerset of Councillor Candy’s Resignation and request an advertisement for Co-Option.**

**ACTION: Clerk to Write to Judy Cand and thank her for her time and contributions.**

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

Nothing to report.

1. **to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th march 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. **to receive the clerks report and resolve any suitable action required.**

Councillor Farley asked if all of the councillors present had had the opportunity to read the clerks report, it was confirmed they had.

1. **matters arising and questions raised by councillors –** *note: for information only as resolutions cannot be agreed at this agenda item*
* **Councillor Banwell** asked about the fly tipping that had taken place on footpath AX27/51 mentioned in the clerk’s report. The clerk had reported that Somerset had again said the issue was closed due to it being the landowner’s responsibility to clear the fly tipping.

**ACTION: Clerk to meet with the Member of the Public on Thursday 20th and establish the site.**

* **Councillor Banwell** also reported for interest that she had been told that the Wedmore Playing Field Management Committee had not been asked for permission for the use of the Playing Field site for the forthcoming Great Weston Ride at this time although publicised as a meeting point.
* **Councillor Banwell asked how the planning was going for the** Parish Assembly. She suggested that all nominees could be invited, and the award presented on the night. This was agreed as a good idea. She also believes the event should be vibrant again! She also raised some concerns that the posters for display were not as inclusive for people struggling with partial or loss of sight. The Clerk agreed she would reformat the posters, to be clearer for display on notice boards.
* **Councillor Reeson** asked for an update on the Cross Farm acquisition. Councillor Farley and the Clerk advised that following the solicitor at Temple Bright being sent a copy of the plan detailing the site, some queries had been raised surrounding the notation of ‘future access route’ the solicitor has asked for clarification on this.
* The council have also sought clarification to a point within the section 106 agreement that states no equipment should be within 20m from an occupied dwelling. The council feel that this needs clarification particularly with the plans in place for the extension and the proximity to the dwellings in this area.

**ACTION: Clerk to consult with the Somerset Planning department in the first instance.**

1. **financial matters**
2. *audit of accounts 01st march – 31st march 2023 (to receive a report from cllrs beacom and smith)*

Councillor Beacom confirmed that she and Councillor Smith had carried out the monthly checks and they were accepted as an accurate record to date.

1. *invoices paid since the last meeting*
2. *to approve payments to be made*

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

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

1. to approve and sign the annual governance statement

The Clerk explained the reason for the approval and Signing of the Annual Governance Statement is such that the Parish Council must carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare the Annual Governance Statement. Following the Internal Auditor carrying out the audit the Clerk confirmed that she was pleased to report no issues were raised by the audit and therefore at the May meeting she would present the Accounting Statements for approval.

**Resolved:** It was resolved to sign the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2022/2023

**ACTION: Clerk will add the Resolution to approve the Accounting Statement to the agenda for the May 2023 meeting.**

1. to resolve agreement to the proposal to invest £100,000 into a lloyds fixed term deposit account

Councillor Farley asked if the councillors present had read the proposal documentation forwarded by Councillor Beacom.

It was agreed that they had.

Councillor Thorogood asked that long term greater consideration is given to the Green Charter when investing money, after some discussion it was agreed that in the short term the investment with Lloyds would make sense.

Councillor Banwell agreed that the rate established by Councillor Beacom’s research was the best she could find also. she also recommended looking at Cater Allen (part of the Santander Group) Councillor Banwell also asked for clarification into the classification of the parish council as an entity for financial purposes as many banks will not accept this type of organisation.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Beacom that initially £100,000 be invested into a Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit Account for an initial 6 months. This was seconded by Councillor Thorogood and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION: Clerk to send over the defined classification of the Parish Council for financial purposes to Councillor Banwell for her to research alternative options for the longer term.**

1. to review an update from wedmore health and wellbeing group and discuss the idea of future directories and ‘wellbeing days’

Councillor Farley asked if all members had had the opportunity to read the report sent by the Health and Wellbeing Group.

It was agreed that they had.

A lengthy discussion ensued, covering points such as if this idea is now outdated? If there are other entities that already offer such information and if they would be willing to collaborate?

**Resolved:** Councillor Reeson proposes that the focus is directed to existing publications such as the Isle of Wedmore News, and that possibly a collaboration could be suggested.

**ACTION: The Clerk will reply to the Wellbeing Group and pose the question to the IOW News committee at the next meeting.**

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

**Highways Committee Meeting** – Took place on Wednesday 5th April – Minutes will be forwarded to all members.

**Allotment Committee Meeting** – Scheduled for Wednesday 26th April.

**Theale Village Hall Committee** – Councillor Thorogood provided an update on the AGM, He will not be participating in the progress of the project for the next 3 months. Councillor Reeson and Councillor Farley will attend a meeting with the Theale Village Hall Trustees to try and understand the situation further.

**ACTION: The Clerk will send a letter to the Theale Village Hall committee regarding the conduct of the meeting.**

1. to receive an update on application 50/20/00054 proposed development at combe batch.

Councillor Beacom gave an update on the above proposed development application. A thorough objection had been prepared and submitted to Somerset, which had been well received by numerous residents. She was frustrated to learn that after the portal closing dates Duncan Harvey the Housing Development Manager for Somerset had submitted a letter of support for the application. Councillor Beacom has questioned the validity of the survey used by the developers to demonstrate a ‘need’ for further housing in Wedmore. The developers have confirmed that there is no way of checking the responses due to GDPR. Councillor Beacom confirmed there are over 200 objections, and it is thought that the application will be heard at Development Committee possibly in May.

Councillor Reeson asked if he may address Councillors Munt and Martin about the formation and transparency of process for the new development committee. Councillors Munt and Martin confirmed that there had been some changes to the committee, but they would continue to strive for transparency for all decisions going forward.

1. **matters of report, correspondence, and items for the next meeting**

**a) chairman -** CouncillorFarley advised that she and Councillor Beacom had had an informal strategy meeting to review the priorities as laid out by the previous council. Some of the action points have been achieved and so the list will be updated and circulated for further discussion. The Committees need updating to make them more relevant to reflect the council business covered by them and some still need forming in order to ensure further governance. This will be looked at in greater depth and proposed at the May meeting.

**b) clerk –** The clerk advised she has committed to attaining the ILCA to CiLCA qualification over the summer period in the hope to start the CiLCA qualification from September 2023.

**c) members –** Councillor Beacom suggests that following the attainment by the Clerk of the ILCA a pay rise should be discussed at the next meeting

1. to resolve to exclude the press and public *(lga1972 ss 100 &10*2) (public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960 as amended.)

Councillor Farley proposed the resolution to exclude the press and the public for the council to discuss the nominations received for the Henry Butt Trophy.

Councillors Munt, Martin and McGuire thanked the Parish Council for their time and left the meeting. 20:55pm

1. to receive nominations and resolve the winner of the henry butt trophy for 2022/2023 as nominated by the parishioners.

Resolved: The votes cast a winner, it was decided that all nominees will be invited to the Annual Parish Assembly and the winner announced on the night.

**ACTION: Clerk to invite all nominees to the Annual Parish Assembly personally.**

the next meeting will take place wednesday 17th may 2023

**All business conducted the meeting was closed at closed 21:10 pm**