

# WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**Held at:** The Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore, BS28 4EA **on:** Wednesday 19th July 2023 **at:** 7:30pm

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

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), Mr David Cox representing Wedmore Community Farm Project (DC).

**Public Participation:**

No Members of the Public were present for the meeting.

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

Councillor Loughrey, Councillor Rant, Councillor Martin, Councillor Munt, Councillor Sampson, Councillor Banwell, Councillor Tinney

## reports from somerset councillors *(by invitation)*

No councillors present.

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

Nothing to report.

1. **to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st june 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 the councillors present, had had the opportunity to read the clerks report, it was confirmed they had.

**RESOLVED:** No action to be taken.

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

**Councillor Thorogood** – Thanks to Parish Council for getting the SID back in Theale.

**Councillor Reeson** – Had wanted to ask the Somerset Councillors about the decision behind charging for the applications for road closures. Come April 2024. Raise with them ASAP. Community events will be killed off. There is a huge difference between Charity and Commercial events and this needs to be recognised by Somerset.

**Councillor Beacom** – EV chargers in the carpark, we should move forward with this project, Add to agenda for next meeting.

1. to receive an update on theale village hall and resolve any suitable action required.

Councillor Farley gave an update on Theale Village Hall, and Councillor Reeson advised that the EGM has been postponed. Both confirmed that the Committee have accepted Councillor Reeson as the Parish Council rep for Theale Village Hall Committee.

A discussion ensued.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council would like to send a follow up letter to the members of Theale Village Hall Committee given the recent updates.

**ACTION – Write a letter to sit alongside the original letter. Clerk to draft and circulate.**

1. financial matters
2. *audit of accounts 01st June – 30th June 2023 (to receive a report from cllrs beacom and smith)*

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

1. *invoices paid since the last meeting – as shown on the attached document (circulated)*

It was agreed that the invoices paid were authorised.

1. *to approve payments to be made - including those listed on attached document (circulated)*

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

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

1. to receive a presentation from wedmore village farm in preparation for a request to support an for funding

Councillor Farley welcomed DC to the meeting.

DC presented an overview of the project to the councillors. The project has been extensively researched approaching various existing groups and using local connections and relationships to establish the idea. DC explained that they have submitted applications to 4 funding sources so far and it is hoped that the Parish Council will accept the opportunity to support the project in its infancy. This could be achieved by applying to SALC for funding who are looking to award money to councils for projects led by community need, and for issues relating to reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing that are not already benefitting from funding. DC asked the Parish Council for any questions. Councillor Beacom asked for clarification as to what the proposed grant money be spent on. If awarded the Grant of £35,000 will be spent on rejuvenation and practicality of the site. There need various steps to be taken to establish the site in the first instance. DC reiterated that the project is not for profit – All money has to be for the community. Councillor Farley asked when it was anticipated the application could be ready to submit. DC confirmed it is in the final stages of completion and will be ready imminently. Councillor Beacom asked if the project sees itself as a competitor to the retailers? DC answered that it is hoped they will want to be part of the project. With no other questions Councillor Farley thanked DC for attending.

**DC left at 20.01PM**

Councillor Farley proposed a vote for if Parish Council are happy to submit the application to SALC Councillor Thorogood proposed they should and Councillor Beacom Seconded.

**RESOLVED: The Parish Council will submit an application to SALC for the Money requested by the Community Farm Project**

**ACTION: The Clerk to liaise with the Community Farm Project re the application submission, and report back to the Parish Council once the submission has taken place.**

1. to resolve to approve the updated allotment policy, handbook and letting agreement

Councillor Farley asked that all members were happy with the recommendation put forward by the allotment committee for the amendments to be made. It was agreed they had.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Beacom Proposes that the recommendation for the amendments for the policy, handbook and letting agreement be accepted. Councillor Reeson seconded the decision was confirmed unanimously.

**ACTION: Clerk to publish the updated documents on the website and any new tenants will now receive the new Policy, Handbook and Letting.**

1. to resolve to accept the revised cemetery fees as suggested by the cemetery committee

Councillor Farley asked that all members were happy with the recommendation put forward by the cemetery committee for the price amendments to be made. It was agreed they were.

**RESOLVED:** In line with the committee recommendation each fee will incur a £50 increase except for the Parishioner rate for fees incurred for the birth of a stillborn child. These will remain as £0.00. Councillor Beacom proposed, and Councillor Thorogood seconded the decision was confirmed unanimously.

**ACTION: Clerk to publish the updated fees on the website and send to the funeral directors and stonemasons in regular contact. Any new applications will be forwarded the new fees.**

1. to receive an update on the public toilet project, including to resolve acceptance of the draft schedule of works in preparation for tendering

The quotation was tabled by the clerk.

A discussion ensued.

**RESOLVED:** Option 1 of the quotation will be agreed with the architect to carry out the initial stage. It is then anticipated this will progress the second stage.

**ACTION: Clerk to instruct LSL, there is an anticipated plan and report alongside stage one of their quotation. After a further meeting it is anticipated, the project will move to stage two.**

1. to discuss the opportunity to pursue a community funded 20mph speed limit project for wedmore

Councillor Smith presented the proposal from Somerset Council in relation to this project proposal.

A discussion ensued.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk will express an interest in the first instance and will bring back further information by way of report to the next meeting.

**ACTION: The Clerk to approach Somerset Council about the initial stages for enquiry.**

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

Councillor Farley gave an update on the Planning North Development committee meeting attended by members of the public and the parish council in objection to the combe batch development. after a 2-hour presentation, debate, and speakers a deferment was voted for by the committee in order for them to attend a site visit. It is likely that a decision will then be reached at the next development meeting in August, although we will have to wait and see once the agenda is released.

1. **correspondence, and items for the next meeting**
* Update on the proposed 20MPH initiative from Somerset
* To agree the spend for Zip Wire Repairs as suggested by Playdale
* EV Chargers Project discussion.

**All business conducted the meeting was closed at 21.17pm**

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 16th August 2023