



## Wedmore Parish Council

**Held at:** The Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore, BS28 4EA **on** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 **at** 7:00 pm

**Present:** \*Councillor Jacky Farley, Councillor Isobel Beacom, Councillor Jenny Blackshaw, Councillor Pete Tinney.

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk), Shona Stewart rep Wedmore In Bloom, Councillor Harry Munt

### **Public Participation:**

- **Shona Stewart** – Wedmore in Bloom extends their heartfelt thanks to the Parish Council for their generous donation of £1,034.00. This contribution has enabled the purchase of £900 worth of tulip bulbs, which will enhance the village's floral displays come spring.  
Currently, Wedmore in Bloom manages approximately 70 pots throughout the village and tends to various areas requiring care and attention. This support significantly aids in their ongoing efforts to beautify the community.

### **24.09.1. RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** *(and record approval if appropriate) lga1972 s85 (1))*

Apologies were received from Councillor Alistair Hopkins, Councillor James Loughrey, Councillor Bill Smart, Councillor Phillip Weale, Councillor Shaun Thorogood

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Isobel Beacom, seconded by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw and resolved that the apologies be accepted and approved.

### **24.09.2. RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were invited to declare any interests.

No declarations were made.

### **24.09.3. CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21ST AUGUST 2024**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Jacky Farley, seconded by Councillor Isobel Beacom, and resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st August 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

### **24.09.4. RECEIVE THE CLERK REPORT AND RESOLVE ANY SUITABLE ACTION REQUIRED.**

The Clerk presented a report which had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Jacky Farley seconded by Councillor Isobel Beacom, and resolved that the report be noted.

**ACTION:** [The Parish Clerk is to carry out the necessary actions as agreed by the Council.](#)

### **24.09.5. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS** *(by invitation)*

**Reports Received:** Councillor Harry Munt from Somerset Council provided a report on

#### **Finance Officer Departure and Update:**

- The current Finance Officer is stepping down. A transition plan is in place to ensure continuity, with a focus on maintaining essential financial operations, including budgeting and payroll.
- The update also covered several executive-level changes, which will affect strategic financial decisions moving forward. Key areas of concern include cost management and efficiency, aligning with Somerset Council's response to the financial emergency

#### **Opportunities to Speak with the Government in October:**

- Upcoming opportunities have been identified for discussions with central government in October. This will focus on exploring support options to address local financial challenges and potentially secure additional funding to mitigate the current budget pressures

#### **Discussion:**

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Signed:

Date:



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**Kier Contract:** Councillor Jacky Farley raised questions regarding the ongoing Kier contract and the quality of work carried out under it. The council noted these concerns and agreed to review the contract's current performance and adherence to agreed standards.

- **Potholes and Resurfacing Program:** Councillor Jenny Blackshaw inquired about the status of the pothole repairs and the broader resurfacing program. It was noted that the resurfacing is ongoing, with specific areas scheduled for completion in the upcoming months. The council will provide updates as progress continues.
- **Brue Maintenance Concerns:** Councillor Jacky Farley expressed concerns over the lack of maintenance along the River Brue, specifically mentioning overgrowth and potential flooding risks. The council acknowledged these concerns and agreed to discuss maintenance schedules and responsibilities with the appropriate agencies.

### 24.09.6. MATTERS ARISING AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS – (for information only, no resolution can be made at this agenda point.)

- **Councillor Isobel Beacom** raised the Air Ambulance clothing bank needs emptying.
- **Councillor Jenny Blackshaw** raised concerns from the Wedmore Village Hall Committee about the withdrawal of funds to the Village Halls.
- **Councillor Pete Tinney** mentioned he had been into the recently opened Sexeys Arms, it seems to be gaining customers and is welcomed by the village.

**Note:** No resolutions were made at this agenda point. Matters raised will be noted for future reference or inclusion on the agenda of a subsequent meeting as appropriate.

### 24.09.7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

#### A. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 01ST AUGUST – 31ST AUGUST 2024 (TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR'S BEACOM AND FARLEY)

Councillor Isobel Beacom reported that they had carried out the monthly checks for the period from 1st August to 31st August 2024. The checks were accepted as an accurate record to date.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Isobel Beacom, seconded by Councillor Jacky Farley, and resolved that the audit report for the period 1st August to 31st August 2024 be accepted as presented.

#### B. INVOICES PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING – AS SHOWN ON THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

The list of invoices paid since the last meeting was reviewed.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Isobel Beacom seconded by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw and resolved that the invoices paid since the last meeting be authorised.

#### C. TO APPROVE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE - INCLUDING THOSE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT

The payments to be made, including those listed on the attached document, were reviewed.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Isobel Beacom seconded by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw and resolved to approve the payment of all invoices listed until the next meeting.

**ACTION:** The Parish Clerk is to ensure that all approved payments are processed accordingly.

### 24.09.8. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THAT THE PARISH CLERK SHOULD UNDERTAKE THE CERTIFICATE IN LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION (CILCA) QUALIFICATION, AND FOR THE COUNCIL TO AGREE TO COVER THE COST OF THE COURSE, ALONG WITH ANY ASSOCIATED EXPENSES INCLUDING MENTORING AND NECESSARY RESOURCES.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Isobel Beacom seconded by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw, and unanimously resolved that the Parish Clerk should proceed with undertaking the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification. The Council further agreed to cover the full cost of the course, along with any associated expenses, including mentoring and necessary resources required to complete the qualification.

**ACTION:** The Parish Clerk will make the necessary arrangements to enrol in the CiLCA course and provide updates on progress at future meetings.



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**24.09.9. SUBJECT TO THE RESOLUTION PASSED REGARDING THE CLERK UNDERTAKING THE CILCA QUALIFICATION, THE PARISH COUNCIL IS REQUESTED TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THE PAYMENT OF THE CLERK'S TIME SPENT STUDYING FOR THE CILCA QUALIFICATION OUTSIDE OF HER CONTRACTED WORKING HOURS, AT HER USUAL RATE OF PAY.**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw seconded by Councillor Isobel Beacom, and resolved that the Parish Clerk shall be compensated for the time spent studying for the CiLCA qualification outside of her contracted working hours, at her usual hourly rate of pay. The Council agreed that this arrangement would apply for the duration of her studies for the CiLCA qualification.

**ACTION:** The Parish Clerk is to record and submit time spent on CiLCA-related study for payment at her usual rate of pay.

**24.09.10. TO REVIEW AND RESOLVE AN OUTCOME FOR THE PROPOSAL OF AN AERIAL DRONE SURVEY OF TERRY'S WOOD BY WRIGHT AIRBORNE COMPUTING LTD, ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH ALL RELEVANT LEGAL, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS.**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Councillor Jacky Farley seconded by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw and resolved that the Parish Council approve the proposal for an aerial drone survey of Terry's Wood by Wright Airborne Computing Ltd. The Council further resolved that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure compliance with relevant legal, safety, and environmental regulations, including any required permits or consultations.

**ACTION:** The Parish Clerk is to liaise with Wright Airborne Computing Ltd to confirm arrangements for the survey and ensure that all compliance requirements are met prior to commencement.

**Councillor Bill Smart arrived at the meeting at 7:17 PM**

**24.09.11. COMMITTEE REPORTS – For information**

- **Local Community Network (LCN):**  
Councillor Jacky Farley chaired the recent LCN meeting, which focused on environmental issues. Dixie Darch shared insights on practical steps householders can take to contribute to environmental sustainability. Councillor Jacky Farley also attended an LCN Chair away day and noted that exchanging ideas with other areas was informative and valuable.
- **Brue River Drainage Consortium:**  
Councillor Bill Smart will attend the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) meeting on Friday, 20th September. He provided an update on the ongoing discussions between the Environment Agency (EA) and the Internal Drainage Board (IDB). Further updates will be provided as information becomes available.
- **Village Halls:** Councillors Jacky Farley and Bill Smart attended the Theale Village Hall (TVH) AGM. The current Chair has stepped down, and a new Vice Chair has been elected. Councillor Bill Smart could advise that the committee has been successful for £10182.00 from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England, a national charity that works to support rural communities across England) as part of their Platinum Jubilee Fund. Councillor Bill Smart also asked for an update on the position of the lease (being held up by Stone King in reference to a Land Registry issue), Councillor Jacky Farley advised she would chase again, but it is with the diocese.
- **Isle of Wedmore News (IOW):** Councillor Jenny Blackshaw could report The Isle of Wedmore News has transitioned to a Community Interest Company (CIC) and is now exploring appropriate insurance coverage for its activities.

**24.09.12. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- **Final Proposal for the Wedmore Emergency Plan Document**
- **Discussion around Martyn's Law compliance**



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**All business was conducted; the meeting was closed at 7:27 pm  
Next Meeting: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7:00 pm**