



Wedmore Parish Council

Held at: The Council Rooms, Grants Lane, Wedmore, BS28 4EA on Wednesday 16th October at 7:00 pm

Present: *Councillor Jacky Farley, Councillor Isobel Beacom, Councillor Jenny Blackshaw, Councillor Alistair Hopkins, Councillor Bill Smart, Councillor Phillip Weale,

In Attendance: Mrs Lindsey Baker (Clerk),

Public Participation:

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Pete Tinney, Councillor Shaun Thorogood and Councillor James Loughrey

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Councillor Jacky Farley seconded by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw and resolved that the apologies be accepted and approved.

24.10.2. RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors were invited to declare any interests.

No declarations were made.

24.10.3. CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER 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 18th September be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

24.10.4. 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.

24.10.5. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM SOMERSET COUNCIL COUNCILLORS (by invitation)

No members present

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

- **Councillor Jacky Farley** raised that she and Councillor Bill Smart attended the Wells Local Community Network (LCN) Meeting. They stated it was useful to gather insights and updates on neighbouring LCNs and Parishes.
- **Councillor Isobel Beacom** raised the Warm in Wedmore initiative. She advised that the Parish Council host the Warm in Wedmore initiative on the 11th and 12th of December. This initiative aims to provide support and warmth to the community during the winter months. Further details regarding the event's schedule and activities will be communicated closer to the date.
- **Councillor Jenny Blackshaw** raised it has been noted that the brambles in the cemetery require trimming. Appropriate arrangements will be made to address this maintenance issue promptly.
- **Councillor Bill Smart** advised that along with Councillor Phillip Weale, met with a member of the public residing in Cocklake to discuss concerns about the maintenance of the River Axe. Bill has reached out to the Environment Agency (EA) and the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) regarding the issue; however, no progress has been made to date. Bill is currently exploring alternative opportunities to alleviate the situation.



Wedmore Parish Council

- The Parish Council is considering the implementation of bleed kits as part of its emergency preparedness measures. Discussion will include the potential need for these kits, funding options, training for volunteers, and suitable locations for storage. Further investigation will be conducted, and updates will be provided at the next meeting
- The council reviewed its policy regarding funding contributions and confirmed that, as stated, contributions cannot be made retrospectively. Therefore, any requests for funding for expenses incurred prior to the submission will be denied, in accordance with the established policy. Any potential amendments to the policy will require further discussion in future meetings.
- **Councillor Phillip Weale** raised the external state of the pharmacy building. Councillor Jacky Farley advised she has communicated with the Isle of Wedmore Society. Further updates will be provided as the situation develops.

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.

24.10.7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FROM 1ST – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2024 (TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR'S BEACOM AND WEALE)

Councillor Isobel Beacom reported that they had carried out the monthly checks for the period from 1 September to 30 September. The checks were accepted as an accurate record to date.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Isobel Beacom seconded by Phillip Weale and resolved that the audit report for the period 1st September – 30th September 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 Isobel Beacom seconded by Phillip Weale 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 in the attached document, were reviewed.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Isobel Beacom seconded by Phillip Weale, 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.

24.10.9. REVIEW OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024 AND CONSIDER ANY REQUIRED ACTIONS

The Council reviewed the external auditor's report for the financial year ending 31st March 2024. The auditor's findings were noted, with no significant concerns raised. It was agreed that the Clerk will ensure compliance with any minor recommendations regarding petty cash.

RESOLVED: The Council accepts the external auditor's report and will take action as required.

ACTION: Clerk to implement any agreed actions or recommendations from the report.

24.10.10. RESOLVE TO REVIEW AND MAKE ANY SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS BEFORE ACCEPTING THE WEDMORE EMERGENCY PLAN 2024

The Wedmore Emergency Plan 2024 was reviewed in detail, and a few amendments were suggested by members of the Council to enhance its clarity and effectiveness. These included updating the locations of defibs, contact information and refining procedures for coordination with local volunteers. There were also some suggestions about channels of distribution.

RESOLVED: The Emergency Plan, with the suggested amendments, was accepted and approved in line with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

ACTION: Councillor Alistair Hopkins will look at the final design for the document ahead of publication.

ACTION: Councillor Phillip Weale to compile amendments and prepare the final version of the Emergency Plan for publication and distribution.



Wedmore Parish Council

24.10.11. RESOLVE TO ACCEPT AND SIGN THE NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) AGREEMENT PRESENTED BY SOMERSET COUNCIL FOR THE SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES ERECTED WITHIN THE PARISH OF WEDMORE

The Council reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding presented by Somerset Council concerning the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) installed within the Parish. Members discussed the benefits of the devices and the terms of the agreement. It was proposed by Councillor Bill Smart and Seconded by Councillor Jenny Blackshaw to sign the MoU.

RESOLVED: The Council accepts and authorises the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Somerset Council, in line with Section 72 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

ACTION: The Clerk will return the signed MoU to Somerset Council and maintain a copy of the MoU for parish records.

24.10.12. DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF MARTYN'S LAW (PROTECT DUTY) FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL, INCLUDING VENUES AND EVENTS

The Council discussed Martyn's Law (Protect Duty) and its potential implications for the Parish Council. Members acknowledged the importance of ensuring public safety and the need to assess the Council's responsibilities in this area.

RESOLVED: Further investigations into Martyn's Law implications will be made, and appropriate measures will be implemented where necessary.

ACTION: Consider reviewing risk assessments for relevant council venues and events in light of Martyn's Law.

ACTION: Organise a meeting with relevant stakeholders (venues and event organisers) to discuss the implementation of Martyn's Law.

24.10.13. DISCUSS THE CURRENT SAFETY CONCERNS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS REGARDING THE BUS STOP OPPOSITE WESTWELL LANE, THEALE.

The Council discussed safety concerns raised by parishioners regarding the bus stop opposite Westwell Lane, Theale, including the safety of children waiting for school transport. The Council agreed that further investigation was required to determine potential safety improvements.

RESOLVED: The Council will liaise with Somerset Highways to discuss possible safety solutions available given the bus stop's current location, and the concerns raised by parishioners.

ACTION: Contact Aileen Fletcher, Traffic Management Officer at Somerset Highways, to determine what actions can be taken next. Report back with findings and recommendations.

24.10.14. COMMITTEE REPORTS – For information

- **Planning** – Councillor Isobel Beacom provided an overview of the comments submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) following the recent planning meeting held on Tuesday, 8th October. Councillor Beacom detailed the objections raised regarding two applications:

Planning Application 50/24/00056/JMS: Proposal: Application for the proposed enlargement of a dwellinghouse by adding a new storey.

Location: 17 Combe Batch Rise, Wedmore, BS28 4DT. The Parish Council unanimously OBJECTS to the application due to its potential negative impact on the area's character and neighbouring amenities, as well as overdevelopment concerns and the need for a structural report.

Planning Application 50/24/00054/AGE: Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 4 self-build dwellings.

Location: Land to the West of The Cedars, Poolbridge Road, Blackford, Wedmore, BS28 4PA. The Parish Council unanimously OBJECTS to the application, citing conflicts with Policies CO1, CO2, and D9 of the Sedgemoor Local Plan and Policies WED1, WED5, and WED6 of the Wedmore Neighbourhood Plan.

24.10.15. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Nothing to record

All business was conducted; the meeting was closed at 20:05 PM

Next Meeting: Wednesday 20th November 2024 at 7:00 PM