WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 30th March 2021

**20/53 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

**Councillors: Read (Chairman), Harrison-Sleap, Kerr, Lodge, and Middleton**

**Apologies: Cllrs Bray, Knight,**

**Public: Cllr J Thorne (SCC), 2 parishioners**

**20/54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**There were no declarations of interests.**

**20/55 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held remotely on 26th January 2021 , were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.**

**20/56 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

* **Outcome of Climate Emergency Fund Bids (20/45)**

**The Council was not successful with any of the three bids submitted. It was agreed that the Council would go back to SCC and ask for details of the criteria against which the bids were evaluated to learn why the bids were unsuccessful.**

* **Parish Engagement with the community (20/48)**

**There has been limited response to the email sent requesting parishioners contact information. Following the re-opening of shops in April, the Clerk will arrange for the letter to be printed which can be distributed to properties within the Parish.**

* **Highway matters previously reported (20/51)**

**The Clerk expressed frustration that emails to Somerset Highways were not answered and that requests for updates on defects previously reported have been ignored. A list of outstanding items will be forwarded to the County Councillor to take up on the Council’s behalf.**

**20/57 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

**A parishioner has asked whether the Council has considered arranging a litter pick up throughout the Parish. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.**

**20/58 REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr Thorne submitted his report prior to the meeting and this had been circulated to the members.**

**20/59 TO CONSIDER PARISH COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION CONSULTATION**

**The Council agreed that it would respond to the Local Government Reorganisation Consultation although there was no clear support for one proposal over the other. The Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) has organised a debate between representatives of both proposals which Cllr Middleton will attend. The Council will finalise its response after this meeting.**

**20/60 TO RECEIVE REPORT ON A358 PROJECT UPDATE COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING**

**Cllr Middleton reported on the Community Forum meeting that he had attended.**

**It is intended that the Forum will meet regularly and that an independent chairman would be appointed in due course.**

**The next forum will be held in May and will focus on local access points and connectivity.**

**Plans at present show a severance of West Hatch Lane, the underpass access at Griffin Lane will remain, and there is a proposed flyover at Hatch Beauchamp/Capland.**

 **The work is planned to commence in 2024.**

**20/61 SPEED ISSUES WITHIN THE PARISH – TO CONSIDER ‘ TWENTY IS PLENTY’ SIGNAGE**

**In order to encourage motorists to drive at an appropriate speed through the Parish, it was agreed to purchase 2 signs – ‘Twenty is Plenty’ at a cost of £56.68 each. These signs will be installed in suitable places in the Parish.**

**20/62 WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES – TO CONSIDER PROBLEM OF FLY TIPPING AND NEW WASTE INCINERATOR AT BRIDGWATER**

**The Council advised John Thorne, (SCC Councillor) that recently some asbestos roofing was left on the road and despite several reports was not removed for approximately 2 weeks, which the Council considered to be unacceptable. If a similar instance should occur in future, the Council will report the matter to the Environmental Health Agency.**

**John Thorne, (SCC Councillor) was asked if any household waste was being used as fuel for the new incinerator at Bridgwater. He confirmed that any household waste that was processed and transformed into energy would be sent to the Resource Recovery Centre at Avonmouth.**

**20/63 FOOTPATHS – UPDATE FROM DOUGLAS KERR AND DISCUSSION ON MISUSE OF PATHS**

**There have been complaints recently from a local landowner that footpaths are not being used in a responsible manner and that walkers are not keeping to the marked ways. Furthermore, there have been issues with dogs not being under control around livestock and two lambs have recently been killed by a dog near to Thurlbear Woods.**

**It was agreed that the Council would send a reminder via the Village Network that dogs should be under close control at all times around livestock. A copy of the updated Country Code will also be circulated and published on the Council’s website.**

**20/64 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

It was **resolved** to make the following payments:

1. Clerk’s Salary £294.00
2. SALC - Training £ 25.00

**20/65 PLANNING MATTERS**

The Council has received 2 applications since the last meeting:

**47/21/0001/CQ – Prior approval for change of use from agricultural building to a dwelling house at The Barn, Meare Green.**

This is a similar application to a previous application which was subsequently withdrawn. The Council agreed that the comments made in respect of the previous application are still relevant and that it objects to the application on the basis that the property has been used for equestrian rather than agricultural purposes.

**47/21/0002 – Single storey extension to front of the property and erection of first floor to garage to form self contained ancillary accomodation at The Old School House, West Hatch.**

3 members of the Council will be meeting with the applicant shortly to discuss the proposal.

**20/66 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OR REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

* **Proposal for Village Shop at Hatch Beauchamp**

**Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council has advised the Council that it is exploring the viability of establishing a community shop. The proposal is supported by West Hatch Parish Council.**

* **Taylor Wimpey Development**

**The Chairman advised the meeting that surrounding parishes are looking to work together to oppose any proposed development of the Orchard Portman land purchased by Taylor Wimpey.**

* **Annual Parish Meeting**

**It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th April at 7.30pm.**

**This will be a remote meeting held via Zoom.**

**20/67 TO CONSIDER DATE AND FORMAT OF NEXT MEETING**

**The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th May at 7.30pm, subject to the Village Hall reopening by that date.**

**The meeting closed at 9.50 pm**