

# WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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## **21/30 Attendance and apologies**

**Councillors:** Read, Knight, Lodge, and Middleton

**Public:** 1 Parishioner, Cllr J Thorne (SCC),

**Apologies:** Cllrs Bray, Harrison-Sleap and Kerr

## **21/31 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

## **21/32 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

## **21/33 Matters arising from the minutes**

- **Fingerpost Restoration (21/18)**

The project is slowly progressing as funds and time allows and the first fingerpost to be repainted and restored will be the post at Meare Green, but this will not happen until next Spring at the earliest. In the meantime, Cllr Middleton will look to source a supply of metal from which new arms can be made to replace any missing.

- **Twenty is Plenty signs**

The Council agreed to install 6 further signs within the Parish, these would be situated in Meare Green Lane, Lower West Hatch Lane and Higher West Hatch Lane.

## **21/34 Parishioners Forum**

Two issues have been raised relating to Meare Green Lane.

The first relates to the sale of furniture from a verge which is on a blind bend, and concerns have been raised from a road safety point of view. The Council will investigate further.

The second issue relates to potential drainage problems in the area and the Council will continue to monitor the situation.

### **21/35 To receive reports from County Councillor**

The report from John Thorne, the County Councillor had been previously circulated to the members.

Points of interest included:

**Local Government Reorganisation** – A new website has been launched - <http://www.newsomersetcouncil.org.uk>.

The boundaries for the ward divisions are being redrawn and will be finalised in the New Year.

A Local Government Reorganisation Joint Committee is being up to oversee the implementation plan and development of the new council's constitution and budget.

### **21/36 Update on Meeting held with National Highways re A358 Improvements**

Members of the Council attended a further meeting with National Highways at which the proposals submitted by 8 local Parish Councils were discussed.

National Highways have agreed that the revised location for the overbridge at Hatch Beauchamp would be put to public consultation and that an overbridge at Bickenhall Lane would be constructed but for walkers, cyclists, horseriders and agricultural vehicles only. There will be no access to the A358 from Bickenhall Lane.

It has rejected the proposals to extend the service road to Bickenhall Lane and to allow on/off access to the A358 at the Hatch Beauchamp overbridge.

The local Councils have since met to consider revise proposals which have been submitted in an attempt to reach a compromise that is most acceptable for all affected Parishes.

National Highways have announced that the public consultation will take place between 12/10/2021 and 22/11/2021 and all parishioners are encouraged to engage with the consultation and respond accordingly.

The Council expressed concern that Somerset County Council had not engaged with local parishes to learn of their issues and concerns relating to the scheme and the County Councillor was asked to report these concerns to the Leader of the Council.

### **21/37 To consider application to Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund**

It was agreed that the Council would submit an application for funds from the Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund. The funds would be given as a grant to the Village Hall to enable the creation of an outside hospitality area which would include a pizza oven and outside seating.

### **21/38 Formal Expenditure Approval**

It was resolved to make the following payment:

a) Clerk's Salary	£294.00
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### **21/39 Planning – to consider any planning matters arising**

There had been one planning application which has been approved by Somerset West and Taunton Council:

Ref 47/21/0004 – Alterations to porch and installation of a dormer window at Hunters Lodge.

### **21/40 Reports of Parish Council Working Parties**

- a. Report from Footpath leader – A replacement bridge and finger post sign has been installed behind Willows on the path to Huish Woods.

A number of damaged fingerposts have been reported and are awaiting replacement.

The drive road on the East Deane Way which has been a quagmire for a number of years has been improved with the installation of drainage and cutting of the growth. A field gate with pedestrian access has also been installed.

Many of the paths are overgrown following a wet summer which encouraged growth.

- b. Report from Trees/Conservation leader – Nothing to report
- c. Report on Highway matters – The pothole and lack of road markings at Church Lane junction have been reported. The collapsed road near the RSPCA has been mended. The road damage caused by badger activity at Slough Green has not yet been repaired.
- d. Report from SALC representative – Nothing to report

## **21/41 Correspondence and matters of report.**

- **Introduction of Recycle More**

The enhanced recycling scheme will be introduced in November. A wider variety of plastic items will be collected resulting in the collection of general waste being reduced from 2 weekly to 3 weekly.

Correspondence will be sent to each household explaining the changes in October.

- **Attendance at Remembrance Service**

The Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Douglas Kerr will lay the wreath and Keith Read will recite the names of the casualties.

- **Date of Finance Working Party**

The Finance Working Party will meet on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30pm to discuss the budget for the forthcoming year.

- **Somerset West and Taunton Council 'Free Trees' initiative**

Somerset West and Taunton Council are offering Parish Councils a selection of trees free up to a value of £50. It was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an application.

## **21/42 To agree date of next meeting**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm