WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held in the Village Hall Thursday 10th February 2022

**21/60 Attendance and apologies**

**Councillors: Read, Harrison-Sleap, Kerr, and Lodge,**

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

**Apologies: Cllrs Bray, Knight and Middleton**

It was resolved that the absence of this Councillors be recognised as approved absences for the purposes of s.185 Local Government Act 1972.

**21/61 Declarations of Interest**

**There were no declarations of interest made**

**21/62 Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 30th November 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

**21/63 Matters arising from the minutes**

* **Twenty is Plenty signs**

Six further signs have been ordered and have been placed around the Parish.

* **Somerset West and Taunton Council Free Trees Initiative.**

Cllr Kerr has collected the free trees and a discussion took place with regards to where they should be planted.

It was suggested that St Andrews Field may be an appropriate site, which would tie in with the plans for rewilding part of the field.

Members of the PCC, Village Hall Committee and Parish Council will consider the matter and report back to the Parish Council in due course.

**21/64 Parishioners Forum**

Mrs Sheila Read spoke to the Council regarding the ‘20’s Plenty for us’ campaign as she has been asked to represent Somerset as the lead in this campaign. This is a national campaign, advocating for a 20mph speed limit on roads where traffic comes into contact with people and horses. Mrs Read will liaise with Cllr Middleton to explore the possibility of liaising with surrounding parishes to further the campaign.

**21/65 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillor**

The report from John Thorne, the SCC Councillor had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Read highlighted some inaccuracies in the report, concerning the A358 Consultation, which Cllr Thorne was asked to correct.

**21/66 A358 Consultation – update**

The Planning Inspectorate has responded to the Community of Parishes representations, advising that any representation must be through the County or District Council in their capacity as statutory consultees.

John Thorne, the County Councillor, was asked to ensure that Somerset County Council are fully aware of the views of the parishes, so that these views can be put forward to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Council suggested that the County Councillor should draw up and submit to SCC, a document detailing the views of the parishes within his ward which would be available to the public. This would reassure ward members that their views were being taken seriously and provide an evidence trail.

There is a further online Community Forum event on February 15th with National Highways which members of the Council will attend.

Rebecca Pow, MP for the Parish, has agreed to attend a Parish Meeting to hear the views and concerns of parishioners relating to the proposed improvements.

**21/67 Update on Local Government Re-organisation and creation of Local Council Networks (LCNs)**

The Clerk and Chairman attended the latest meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation Advisory Board which discussed the formation of Local Council Networks (LCN).

There will be between 15-20 LCNs which will sit 6-8 times per year. Representatives of Parish Councils will be members of the network, which will have the flexibility to set their own priorities and the ability to influence the Somerset Council’s priorities and spending. The LCNs will have their own budget and dedicated Council Officer support. The initial options regarding the formation of the LCNs will be available for consultation by the summer and finalised by the end of the year.

**21/68 To agree date of Parish Meeting and subsequent Parish Council Meeting**

The Council agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 24th March at 7pm. A representative of Airband will give a presentation on its plans for the roll out of superfast broadband. This will be followed by the March Parish Council Meeting.

Dates of subsequent Parish Council Meetings were discussed and it was agreed to move the meetings to the 4th Thursday of every other month.

Meetings for 2022/23 will be:

March 24th

July 28th

September 22nd

November 24th

The Annual Parish Council Meeting this year will be held on Thursday 12th May to fulfil the requirements that a Council must meet within 14 days of being elected.

**21/69 Formal Expenditure Approval**

It was resolved to make the following payment:

1. Clerk’s Salary £294.00
2. D Kerr - Printing £ 44.00

**21/70 To discuss possible Parish celebrations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

A small planning group led by the Village Hall has been established to arrange the celebrations.

The current plans include a bonfire/beacon to be lit at the top of Griffin Lane on Thursday 2nd June and a community picnic/pizza event to be held on Sunday 5th June as part of the Big Jubilee Lunch.

The Clerk will register the Council as a participant to enable the bonfire to form part of the national chain of beacons.

**21/71 Planning – to consider any planning matters arising**

There were no planning issues to report.

**21/72 Reports of Parish Council Working Parties**

* 1. Report from Footpath leader – Nothing to report. There are some footpath signs that need replacing and these will be notified to SCC.
  2. Report from Trees/Conservation leader – Nothing to report.
  3. Report on Highway matters – Repainting of the Give Way lines at the bottom of Church Lane is still outstanding and the Clerk will chase this. There are large potholes at the edge of Church Field, which have not yet been filled, or even marked despite being reported. The Clerk will report these again.
  4. Report from SALC representative – Nothing to report

**21/73 Correspondence and matters of report.**

* **Parish Council Elections**

These will take place on Thursday 5th May. Councillors will be elected for a five-year term on this occasion.

**21/74 To agree date of next meeting**

Thursday 24th March at 7.30pm.

The meeting will be proceeded by the Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm