

# WEST HATCH PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of the West Hatch Parish Council held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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### **20/29 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Knight,

**Public:** 1 parishioner

### **20/30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **20/31 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held remotely on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2020, were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

### **20/32 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- **Local Government Reorganisation (20/22)**

Both the Chairman and Cllr Middleton have attended virtual presentations on the Stronger Somerset proposal which have been held to foster Parish Council interest in the proposal. There is a desire from Parish Councils to have some involvement in the detailed planning of the proposal should it be chosen by the Secretary of State as the way forward. SALC has confirmed that it is taking a neutral stance at present but continues to engage with parties in order to finesse the Parish Council elements of the respective business cases.

- **Update on Speeding issues (20/23)**

Following the previous meeting, the Clerk has put forward a case to SCC for a restricted speed limit in certain parts of the Parish. Traffic Management will consider the proposal and respond in due course.

- **Management of Parish website (20/33)**

The Clerk confirmed that she had now taken responsibility for the publication of all Parish Council documentation to the West Hatch Parish website. It was agreed that agendas and minutes would still continue to be posted onto the Parish Noticeboards.

- **Memorial to Dougal Clark (19/58)**

The tree has been planted and arrangements for the commemorative plaque will be finalised shortly.

- **Parish Fingerpost restoration project (20/21)**

The working party has met virtually and carried out an audit of the fingerposts belonging to the Parish. Some are just in need of decoration, others have missing posts etc. It is hoped that funds will be earmarked in the budget for 2021/22 to enable materials to be purchased. The work will be carried out by volunteers where possible.

### **20/33 PARISHIONERS' FORUM**

There were no issues raised

### **20/34 REPORTS FROM THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

No reports were available

### **20/35 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE BUDGET FOR 2021/22**

The Finance Working Party recently met and considered the budget for 2021/22.

As the Council wishes to allocate funds to start the refurbishment of the Parish Fingerposts, it is proposed to allocate a sum of £400 for this work. Other standing items in the budget such as staff costs, insurance etc are predicted to be in line with the current year. This results in budgeted expenditure of £2900 and it was proposed to levy a precept of the same amount, giving an increase of £200 overall. As a result, the annual precept payable for a Band D property will increase from £20.27 to £21.28.

**The Parish Council resolved to levy a precept of £2900.**

### **20/36 FORMAL EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

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

a) Clerk's Salary	£326.00
b) Clerk's Expenses	£ 35.00

The Clerk's salary payment includes the 2020/21 salary increase backdated to 01/04/2020

### **20/37 PLANNING MATTERS**

**Ref 47/20/0009 – Application for the existing change of use to domestic curtilage at Hillcrest, West Hatch**

This application has been approved by the District Council

**Ref 47/20/0010 – Application for a 2 storey extension to the side of the chapel.**

The Parish Council has no objection to this proposal.

## **20/38 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS OR REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

- **Climate Emergency Relief Fund**

The Parish Council considered whether it should submit an application to the above fund. The Clerk outlined the criteria and timescales as the closing date for applications is early January 2021. It was agreed that the Councillors would review the information and ask parishioners for any ideas that would be suitable.

- **Maintenance of Footpaths – landowners' responsibilities**

Following a query from a parishioner regarding landowners' responsibilities regarding the replacement of stiles etc, the Clerk contacted Somerset County Council Rights of Way team, who confirm that landowners can reclaim 25% of reasonable repair and replacement costs. Ideally the works should be confirmed first with SCC. Signposts and waymarkers are the responsibility of SCC and any missing posts can be reported via the online interactive map.

Cllr Kerr agreed that he would survey the footpath network and report any issues.

- **Highways winter maintenance programme**

The Council has not yet received details of the Highways winter maintenance programme and the Clerk has requested information regarding the provision of salt supplies.

## **20/39 TO CONSIDER DATE AND FORMAT OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via Zoom.

**The meeting closed at 8.45 pm**