



# HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

**Present:** Adrian Pratt (Chairman), Mark Tucker, Angela Clayton, Belinda Mann, Gillian Miles, Judy Hodges and John Sansom.                      Barry Druce (Clerk)                      Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor)

No members of the public were present.

**Apologies:** No apologies were received.

**Public Forum** – No matters were raised

**35. Unitary Councillors' Report** – The Unitary Councillor stated that no written report had been prepared this month as her colleague Sarah Dyke was standing as a candidate in the local parliamentary elections and care was being taken to ensure compliance with purdah. Nicola reported that the threatened strike action by the refuse crew had been postponed for 2 weeks whilst talks continued, and was hopeful of a satisfactory resolution. She stated that every library in the County now offer customer services for all council matters, designed to prevent residents from having to go to the main offices. Nicola also stated that the Somerset Council's Licencing Policy has come up for review and will follow a 6 month consultation process. Asked by a member if all the council offices are now fully manned, Nicola stated that some staff were still able to work from home, and that the staffing structure was taking longer than had been anticipated. The management tier levels 1, 2 and 3 have been appointed and they are now looking to complete the lower levels, though this is causing some delays and affecting performance, but reassured members that she is and should be regarded as the point of contact for members dealing with enquiries. A member raised the issue of the changes being planned by the NHS to centre the stroke critical care services to Taunton and commented on the reasons being given or the move. It was pointed out that the Parish Council had lobbied the NHS concerning this move, and Nicola stated that this had also been raised as a concern by the Somerset Council who were working hard on the issue.

**36. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations:** None.

**37. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023:** were taken as read and as PROPOSED by Mark Tucker, SECONDED by Gillian Miles, approved unanimously.

**38. Matters Arising:** (a) Referring to Minute 34(f), the Chair reported that he had yet to write to the head teacher over the concerns with road safety, and undertook to follow that up asap, but a member stated that it had appeared to have sorted itself out as children were now being welcomed onto the premises by staff members and were no congregating along the roadside. This was happily noted.

(b) The Chair referred to Minute 34(c) and reported that it has been arranged with his family member to remove the dead tree at South Cheriton, who had elected to carry out the work free of charge. Members expressed their gratitude to him.

(c) A member referred to Minute 34(d) and reported that she had contacted Edward Faithful over the renovation of the bench and that he had agreed to carry out the work and provide all materials; when he intended to start work and his quotation had not yet been received and the member undertook to chase him up on this.

(d) Referring to Minute 34(b) the Clerk reported that he had in fact been approached by the Village Hall Treasure, Chris Bailward, who had raised the issue of returning to pay the rent in place of the reciprocal arrangement, and that the Parish Council had been offered the reduced rate of £6.00 per hour with a minimum 2 hour hire per session. Members discussed the situation fully and as PROPOSED by Mark Tucker, SECONDED BY John Sansom, unanimously AGREED to adopt the proposal to revert to paying the rent on the offered terms, and to commence the new arrangements with effect from the September 2023. The Clerk was instructed to advise Mr Bailward accordingly.



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**39. Planning - a): Applications:** The following applications had been received since the previous meeting:-

**23/01581/LBC** - Internal works to replace lower ground stairs within the scullery to the sitting room and restore the scullery flag floor - **Rookes House Church Lane Horsington Templecombe Somerset BA8 0EG** – the Chair stated that this proposal was concerned entirely with internal improvements and could see no problem with it. Members agreed and decided to submit no comments.

**23/01532/OUT** - Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of 1No.dwelling using existing access - **Land OS 6061 Lower Road South Cheriton Templecombe Somerset** – The Chair explained that the proposed intention was to erect one bungalow on the site, and as such, presented no real problem. Lengthy discussion followed however on the potential for future further development there which would be less desirable and inappropriate, largely because of the inadequacy of the infrastructure in that area. It was pointed out that the Parish Council had been notified of this Outline application only as a matter of courtesy, but it was nevertheless decided to return comments based along those lines.

**b): Decisions:** No planning decisions had been received since the previous meeting.

**c) : Other Planning :** No other planning issues to be discussed.

**40. Footpaths** – (a) A member stated that the footpath adjacent to the church had not been cut and stated that it appeared that no-one attended to it nowadays. Discussion revealed that this was still the responsibility of the landowner and reliance was placed on their preparedness to undertake the work.

(b) A member requested and discovered that the Clerk had not yet ordered any new directional arrows to be used to mark the footpaths, and Nicola Clarke undertook to provide the Clerk with the appropriate contact details. The Clerk undertook to then order the appropriate signs and provide them to members for installation.

(c.) A member raised their concern over the fact that inappropriate and potentially dangerous cattle were being allowed to graze in the field adjacent to the well-used footpath that ran behind the church in the direction of Templecombe. The Chair undertook to contact the owner and request that they be removed. Nicola Clerk stated that in the event no satisfactory response was received, the Parish Council should refer the matter to the Somerset Council's Health and Safety Officers.

**41. Cemetery** – a). The Chair stated that it had been arranged for the hedge to be cut that very day.

(b) A member reported that a request had been received for the erection of a headstone and that they were in the process of dealing with it.

## **42. Finance**

(a) The accounts as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were reviewed and noted.

(b) The following cheques were authorised for payment:-

1344 - £200.00 – B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
1345 - £45.20 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk's salary  
1346 - £550.00 – R J Peters Invoice No. 093  
1347 - £272.00 – S Hawkins – Invoice 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

(c) Monies Received – None



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(d) The Chair raised the subject of replacing the parish Council notice boards. He stated that the one located near the school had disintegrated and asked whether members felt that there was a need to replace it. After a short discussion it was unanimously AGREED that this location should now be dispensed with.

The Chair then reminded members of the general state of the board at South Cheriton and suggested that this should be replaced with a new one at a net cost of approximately £166.00. General opinion was that it was high time for this change and it was unanimously AGREED to purchase a new board for that site as suggested.

The wooden notice board was then discussed and the Chair suggested that repairs should be carried out to the board and a new single- pane door be fitted. This was unanimously AGREED and the Chair undertook to follow this up.

**43. Correspondence** - The Clerk reported that items of interest that had been received through email had been circulated to all councillors, and referred to the other items that had been similarly distributed.

(a) The Clerk referred to the the proposed merger of the Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, and reported on the objections that he had submitted on behalf of the Parish Council, and the responses that had been received and distributed.

(b) The Clerk referred to the correspondence that had been received concerning the Community Funded 20mph Speed Limits initiative, and this was noted.

(c) The Chair referred members to the email that had been received concerning the state and position of the dog waste bin, and the request for it to be moved elsewhere. General discussion followed on the regularity of it being emptied and its probable misuse by visitors to the area. The problem of it being outside of the Parish Council's jurisdiction was discussed but it was finally agreed that although the majority opinion was that it was in the most practical location, the Somerset Council should be contacted concerning the problems being experienced and asked to arrange for it to be emptied asap, and consider its replacement with the more modern 'smart bin' version.

**44. Any other business of importance:** a) The Chair raised the subject of the frequency of council meetings and asked whether members felt that the number of meetings should be reduced to 10 by dropping the months of August and January. After a full discussion it was unanimously AGREED that the Parish Council should immediately reduce the number of its meetings to 10 in each financial year, with no meetings being held in both August and January. The next meeting this year would therefore be in September.

(b) The Clerk raised the question of whether members felt that their website was actually in the right place being linked to the village hall website, and whether it was being administered by the correct person. He suggested a potential alternative and was charged with making enquiries into the process and circulate details of the site to members for information.

(c) The date of the next meeting is the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**The meeting closed at 20.45.**