



HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

Present: Adrian Pratt (Chairman), 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: Apologies were received from Mark Tucker.

Public Forum – No matters were raised

45. Unitary Councillors' Report – The Unitary Councillors' written report having been circulated was taken as read. Nicola Clarke reminded members that the next LCN meeting was being held on the 4th October 2023, and invited members to attend. She reported that the Somerset Council was due to issue a survey to all residents, seeking their opinion on the future processes to be used in respect of planning applications, and act as a public consultation to steer new developments. In answer to a question from the Chair, Nicola stated that the Somerset Council were faced with difficulties with finances and were examining cuts to reduce costs which was making life difficult for the staff. In answer to a question concerning how the costs review would affect the Council's policy for providing adult and child care, Nicola stated that this too was a very difficult area and had the added problem of having to comply with the Government's regulations. Following a question on whether the Somerset Council's step was to declare bankruptcy and follow other Authorities in the UK who had taken that step, Nicola stated that this was probably unlikely as Somerset Council is carrying financial reserves which should cope with the demands placed upon it, despite having already had to dip into them.

46. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations: None.

47. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th July 2023: were taken as read and as PROPOSED by Gillian Miles, SECONDED by Angela Clayton, were approved unanimously, subject to a small amendment to minute 42(d).

48. Matters Arising: (a) Referring to Minute 43(c), the Chair reported that he had received a letter from a resident which suggested a location for the dog waste bin which was actually directly in front of a house, and that this had been discarded as inappropriate. General discussion then took place on the reasons for moving the bin at all, and the Chair explained that he had been placed in a difficult position with threatened legal proceedings being taken, and had therefore, in an attempt to mitigate and protect the Parish Council's position, had contacted the Somerset Council to see if they would consider moving the bin as it was presenting a potential health hazard. It was to his and everyone else's surprise that the Council had taken immediate action without any prior contact, and had moved the bin to its present position near the church. Various members recounted episodes that they had personally encountered with particular residents over this subject, and made their views very clear on the upsetting effects of the aggression that they had been confronted with. It was generally accepted that the location that the bin had been moved to was unacceptable, and following a detailed discussion it was finally decided that the most practical position for it would be on the strip of land on the corner near the pond, next to the tree stump, and the Chair undertook to contact Somerset Council accordingly.

(b) Referring to minute 40(b) a member stated that the footpath direction arrows had not yet been received. The Clerk reported that he had spoken with the council's Footpaths Officer soon after the last meeting, and that she had promised to deliver the arrows to Horsington that same week. The Clerk undertook to contact the Footpaths Officer again and chase this up.

(c) Referring to minute 44(b) the Clerk reported that the intended new website for the Parish Council's website had thrown up unanticipated problems, and that an alternative site was now being developed by a volunteer expert.



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

23/01773/HOU - Erection of a single storey detached garage to the front of existing garage/log store
- **2 Foxcombe Lane Horsington**

23/02115/HOU - Proposed Single Storey Extension, Proposed Loft Conversion, Additional First Floor Window to Gable End - **2 Foxcombe Lane Horsington** - Discussion took place on this PA and PA 23/01773/HOU together, and following the general consensus that all intended changes were acceptable, it was DECIDED to register a submission of NO OBJECTION.

23/02096/COL - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the proposed insertion of windows and that the use of the building falls within Use Class E. - **Land At Pevlings Farm Cabbage Lane Horsington** – General discussion took place on the merits of undertaking these changes, but as this was recognised to be a courtesy notification only, with no invitation to submit comments, it was decided that members would simply meet with the applicant and investigate the purpose for the proposed changes.

b): Decisions: The following decisions had been received since the previous meeting:-

23/01917/AGN - Notification of intent to erect an extension to an existing agricultural steel portal framed building to cover an open storage bunker - Land OS 6642, Hull Lane, Charlton Horethorne

PRIOR APPROVAL IS NOT REQUIRED

23/01847/TCA - Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area - 61 Cheriton Street South Cheriton

APPROVED – NO TPO INTENDED

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** **GRANTED**

23/01538/PAMB - Prior Approval Notification for change of use of agricultural building to form 5 No. dwellings - **Southland Farm Marsh Lane South Cheriton** **GRANTED**

22/01472/HOU - Single storey rear extension - **Keepers Well High Road Horsington** **GRANTED**

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

50. Footpaths – A member raised the question over who is responsible for maintaining the footpath that runs adjacent to the church wall, and reported that it was now very overgrown. It was agreed that this is the responsibility of the landowner and the Clerk undertook to contact the Somerset Council's Footpaths Officer to ascertain if they had any jurisdiction over this.

51. Cemetery – (a). A member reported that a cremation plot had been reserved in the cemetery for a particular individual, and that that applicant had indicated that they would like to place a memorial bench in the cemetery at the appropriate time. The applicant had been informed that this would be acceptable, subject to them retaining responsibility for maintaining the bench.

(b) A member stated that they had been approached by an applicant who wished to place a second plaque on a particular cremation plot; it was decided that this was acceptable provided the plaque was flush with the ground in accordance with the agreed cemetery rules and regulations.

(c) A member reported that payment had been received in respect of an individual's interment of ashes fee.

(d) A member produced details of an application for the erection of a headstone and this was approved.



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(e) A member of public had reported to a council member that the cemetery was not looking at its best and the Clerk undertook to chase this up. It was also reported that the water-butts in the cemetery were beginning to be a problem, and a member undertook to replace them with two drums that they knew were available.

52. Finance

(a) The accounts as at 31st August 2023 were reviewed and noted.

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

1349 - £417.50 – B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 31st July 2023 (including AOS invoice).

1350 - £45.00 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk's July salary

1351 - £390.00 - R J Peters Invoice No. 02

1352 - £83.40 - The Play Inspection Co – Annual Fee

1353 - £194.10 - B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 31st August 2023

1354 - £45.20 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk's August salary

1355 - £395.00 - R J Peters Invoice No. 16

(c) The following payments had been received:-

9th August 2023 - £100.00 – Headstone Fee received from Country Memorials for Burton

13th September 2023 - £150.00 – Purchase of Plot and Interment of Ashes Fees from H F Miles

(d) The Clerk referred to the quote that had been received from Edward Faithfull in respect of the repairs to the railings that had been damaged by the fallen tree. It was agreed that the quote (in the sum of £220.00) be accepted and a member undertook to advise Mr Faithfull accordingly.

(e) A member referred to the bench that required repair and undertook to follow this up with the contractor.

(f) A member reported that the surround at the War Memorial was damaged and the Chair undertook to investigate what was needed.

53. 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.

The Chair referred to the letter that had been received from a resident concerning the increasing incidents with dog mess through the village. He stated that he had already written to the resident and explained the situation to them, but, as was generally agreed by all, apart from monitoring and approaching offenders, there was little else the Parish Council were able to do.

54. Any other business of importance: a) The Clerk referred to the process for online banking and undertook to email explanatory details to members so that those who were interested could register to use the facility.

(b) A member reported that the problem with school children having to queue on the road had again reared its head, with parents and children not being allowed onto school property until 9:00 am. The Chair undertook to write to the head teacher and try to resolve the issue

(c) The date of the next meeting is the 11th October 2023

The meeting closed at 21:00.