



HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

Present: Adrian Pratt (Chairman), Gillian Miles, Judy Hodges and John Sansom
Barry Druce (Clerk)

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mark Tucker, Angela Clayton, Belinda Mann, and Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor)

No members of the public were present.

Public Forum – No matters were raised

55. Unitary Councillors' Report – The Unitary Councillors' written report having been circulated was taken as read. Nicola Clarke although not being present had emailed further comments in respect of the following:-

- The Wincanton planning application for 650 dwellings – a consultation event is to be held on the 17th October from 2 until 4 at Wincanton Memorial Hall. Details available online at www.westwincanton.co.uk
- Referred to concerns over the Bus service as contained in her report
- Advised that the LCN event this month focussed on Highways, Footpaths and Flooding, and that the next LCN meeting will be held on the 6th December.

This was noted by members.

56. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations: The Chair declared an interest in PA 23/02395/HOU as it was next door to his property.

57. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th September 2023: were taken as read and as PROPOSED by Gillian Miles, SECONDED by Judith Hodges, were approved unanimously.

58. Matters Arising: (a) Referring to Minute 48(a), the Chair reported that he had yet to write to Somerset Council concerning the relocation of the dog waste bins, but undertook to do so very soon, and would copy in the residents concerned to keep them in the picture.

(b) The Clerk referred to Minute 48(b) and reported that he had spoken with the council's Footpaths Officer and she had apologised for the delay in providing them but had promised to deliver them asap. Hopefully that had now happened.

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

23/02395/HOU - Demolition of existing single-storey extension and porch and the erection of a replacement single storey extension and porch - **Lawnside 62 Cheriton Street South Cheriton** – General discussion took place on this application and it was unanimously AGREED that NO OBJECTIONS should be submitted.

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

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** **APPROVED**

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

60. Footpaths – No items were raised for discussion on this topic.



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61. Cemetery – (a). The Chair reported that he had attended to the water butt problem and that they were now working fine.

(b) Discussion took place on the timetable for the tendering process for the renewed maintenance contract which was planned to be implemented from 1st April 2024, and the Clerk undertook to make enquiries with the member who had undertaken to draw up the new Schedule of Works and identify how that was progressing.

62. Play Area – (a) The Chair referred to the report that had recently been received in respect of the annual inspection of the play area equipment. He stated that in general the comments in the report referred to issues that were easily surmountable and that he had the materials to replace the broken brackets mentioned in the report and would be resolving that personally. The rest of the comments that had been raised were generally in respect of weathering and that requirement would be solved by cleaning the equipment. This was noted.

(b) A member raised the issue that the large gate to the playing field was overgrown by the adjacent hedge and on discussion it was decided that this belonged to the property owner next door and they would be contacted and asked to rectify the problem.

63. Finance

(a) The accounts as at 30 September 2023 were reviewed and noted.

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

- 1356 - £209.10 – B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 30 September 2023.
- 1357 - £45.00 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk's July salary
- 1358 - £12.00 – Hire of St Margaret's Hall, Horsington – 13 Sept 2023
- 1359 - £395.00 - R J Peters Invoice No. 26
- 1360 - £171.97 – SALC – Affiliation Fee 2023/24
- 1361 - £984.00 – S Hawkins – Invoice dated 10 October 2023

(c) No payments had been received since the previous meeting.

(d) The Clerk reminded members that the precept for 2024-2025 had to be lodged with Somerset Council by the end of January 2024 and the fact that they had decided to cancel their January meetings may be a problem to meet that deadline, and suggested that they reinstate that meeting and discontinue with meetings in February instead. Members considered this and after a full discussion it was **unanimously AGREED** that meetings in January should be reinstated and that the February meetings should be cancelled from 2024 onwards. The Clerk was instructed to notify the local publications accordingly.

(e) Referring to the move to online banking, the Clerk reported the procedure was in hand and that the interested members were gradually moving closer to completing the process and making the facility available.

64. 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 Clerk referred to the letter that had been circulated concerning the 'Zero Hour' initiative, and it was decided that there was no need for the parish council to become involved.

65. Any other business of importance: a) The Chair reported that the surround at the War Memorial required repairing by replacing the corner post and a member undertook to attend to the work.

(b) A member reported that the fence between the playground and the recreation area had collapsed and needed to be replaced. It was decided that quotes for the work would need to be obtained from 3 contractors and B Delve, Fencewise (Wincanton) and 1 other company (to be selected) should be asked to provide prices by the end of the month for consideration at the meeting being held in November 2023. A member undertook to organise the quotes.



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(c) A member reported that the tree in the cage in the village had died and that the owners of The Grange had agreed to pay up to £100 to purchase a replacement. It is believed that the tree had been killed as a result of the ground becoming contaminated from accidental spillage of toxic waste from The Grange. Discussion followed and it was felt that the ground is likely to still be contaminated which raised the question over whether it is suitable to replant anything there whilst the ground remained in that condition, which could be several years. It was decided to leave this open for the time being, but the Chair would liaise with the Clerk over contacting The Grange concerning their offer to donate £100 towards the cost of tree replacement.

(d) The Chair reported that the problem tree in South Cheriton would need to be removed by an expert due to its proximity to power cable, etc., so 3 tenders to carry out the work would need to be obtained. The Chair undertook to seek 3 tenders from appropriate experts and seek their advice at the same time on the dead tree discussed above.

(e) A member reported on the planned event to raise funds for Macmillan Nurses and Horsington Church, which is scheduled to take place in May 2024, and included a barn dance, village party and afternoon teas, and declared his disappointment over the fact that no response had been received from Wessex Internet following his request to them for sponsorship for the event. The member was congratulated on his efforts so far.

(e) The date of the next meeting is the 8th November 2023

The meeting closed at 20:10.