



# HORSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL



## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at St Margaret's Hall, Horsington

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

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from Judith Hodges and Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor).

**Public Forum** – No members of the public present so no matters were raised for discussion.

**99. Unitary Councillors' Report** – The Unitary Councillors were not present and had not been able to prepare a written report.

**100. Declarations of Interest / Dispensations:** There were none declared.

**101. The Minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023:** were taken as read and as PROPOSED by Gillian Miles, SECONDED by Mark Tucker, were approved unanimously.

**102. Matters Arising:** (a) Referring to Minute 94, a member stated that they were in the process of amending the wording of the Cemetery regulations, and agreed revised terms in respect of flower vases and the accepted dimensions for plaques; the revised version to be forwarded to the Clerk once finished.

b) Referring to Minute 94(b) a member asked whether any response had been received from David Harness with regards to the removal of the dangerous tree in the cemetery, and the Clerk undertook to check with him.

**103. Planning - a): Applications:** The following applications had been received since the previous meeting. These were noted together with the comments that had been submitted where appropriate:-

**24/00081/FUL** – The erection of an agricultural building for the housing of livestock, storage of machinery and storage of hay and other feed. Location: **Tower Hill Barn Tower Hill Horsington**

**23/02687/FUL** - Demolition of Garden Store and Outside WC to allow for the creation of a new 3 Bed End Terrace Dwelling with off street parking for up to No. 3 cars with a bin and bike store. - **1 Houndsmill Horsington**

**23/03126/HOU** - Erection of a 2 storey side extension to replace an existing single storey side extension, Demolition of an existing porch and replace with a new porch and front door, Demolition of an existing rear lean to extension, Replace existing windows. - **The Mead Cheriton Street South Cheriton**

**24/00297/HOU** - Single storey extension and internal alterations - **1 And 2 Pear Tree Cottage Cheriton Street South Cheriton**

**24/00128/S73A** - S73A application to remove condition 3(agricultural occupancy) of approval 02/00896/FUL for The erection of an agricultural workers dwelling Location - **Southlands Marsh Lane South Cheriton**

**24/00636/TPO** - Application to fell No. 1 tree as shown by the Yeovil District Council (HORS 1) 1976 Tree Preservation Order - **The Birches 60A South Cheriton**

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

**23/02687/FUL** - Demolition of Garden Store and Outside WC to allow for the creation of a new 3 Bed End Terrace Dwelling with off street parking for up to No. 3 cars with a bin and bike store - **1 Houndsmill Horsington**

**GRANTED**

**23/03126/HOU** - Erection of a 2 storey side extension to replace an existing single storey side extension, Demolition of an existing porch and replace with a new porch and front door, Demolition of an existing rear lean to extension, Replace existing windows - **The Mead Cheriton Street South Cheriton**

**GRANTED**

**23/03171/TCA** - : Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to 02 No. trees and to fell 05 No. trees within a Conservation Area - The Mead Cheriton Street South Cheriton –

**NO TPO NECESSARY**



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- 23/03194/P3MA** - Prior approval for proposed Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service use (Class E) to dwellinghouse ( Class C3) for 1 No. dwelling - **Land OS 8238 Cabbage Lane Horsington.** **WITHDRAWN**
- 24/00081/FUL** - The erection of an agricultural building for the housing of livestock, storage of machinery and storage of hay and other feed - **Tower Hill Barn Tower Hill Horsington** **REFUSED**
- 24/00185/DOC1, 24/00186/DOC1, 22/01814/HOU & 22/01815/LBC** Proposal: Discharge of Conditions No. 4 (Repointing), No. 5 (Structural Repairs) and No. 6 (Making good) of Planning Application 22/01814/HOU & Discharge of Conditions No. 3 (Pointing), No. 4 (Structural Repairs) and No. 5 (Making Good) of Planning Application 22/01815/LBC - **43B Cheriton Street South Cheriton** **APPROVED**
- 23/02803/TCA** - Notification of intent to fell No.01 tree within a Conservation Area - **Barton Ridge Rectory Lane Horsington** **APPROVED - NO TPO**
- 23/02853/TCA** - Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to No.1 tree within a Conservation Area - **Lawnside 62 South Cheriton** **APPROVED - NO TPO**

(c) : **Other Planning:** None.

**104. Footpaths** – Members agreed that it was too wet underfoot to inspect the footpaths currently and replace direction arrows, but anticipated that this would be carried out after the Easter period.

**105. Cemetery** – (a). A member reported that payment was due for a recent burial and the Clerk undertook to watch out for it.

(b) A member reported that a request had been made for a presently installed headstone to be replaced with a joint headstone which would be installed centrally at the head of two adjoining plots to mark the graves of a husband and wife now both having been buried. Members agreed that this would be appropriate and the member was authorised to approve the application.

(c) A member stated that a new Register of Purchased Graves needed to be purchased at a cost of £190.00. It was decided that this was a mandatory requirement and members agreed that this should be done.

**106. Play Area** – (a) The Chair reminded members that the general repairs required at the Play Area had not been carried out yet, and reiterated that a small working party will need to be organised in the Spring to attend to it, when the weather permitted. The Chair also stated that although he had thought that he had parts that could be used to replace damaged fittings on the play equipment, the part had proved to be inadequate and new fittings would have to be obtained. This was noted.

(b) The Chair referred to the slight increase in Brian Delve’s invoice when compared to the original quotation for repairs to the play area fence, and stated that it was due to the additional spring that had been requested.

## **107. Finance**

(a) The accounts as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 and 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were reviewed and noted.

(b) The following payments which had been made were approved:-

- £204.00 - B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 31 January 2024.
- £45.20 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk’s salary
- £2,036.86 – Brian Delve – Invoice for Play Area Fencing
- £191.98 - B Druce – Clerk Salary and expenses to 29 February 2024.
- £45.00 - HMRC – Payment of PAYE deduction from clerk’s salary.

(c) The following payments had been received since the previous meeting:

- (i) £744.14– Somerset Council CIL payment.
- (ii) £15.53 – Bank Interest
- (iii) £295.00 - Cemetery Fee – Collins
- (iv) £50.00 – Cemetery Fee – Butler



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(v) £16.62 – Bank Interest

(d) **On-Line Banking** – Two members still only registered for online banking, but the Chair stated that his registration is progressing. Another member also offered to be registered for online banking access and it was agreed to start the process for them as well. A member mentioned that a new system was now available for registering for online access and the Clerk undertook to look into it.

(e) **Insurance Policy Renewal 2024-2025** - The renewal schedule having been circulated was discussed and members raised questions on whether the village pond was included in the cover, why there was a 'Hut' mentioned at the cemetery when none existed, and why cover for a defibrillator was included separate insurance was in place for that. The Clerk undertook to make appropriate enquiries and amendments accordingly.

**108. 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, making particular attention to the notification concerning the 'Hedgehog Highway Project' and the Somerset Council's Highways Services Devolution proposal, which were noted and agreed that no action should be taken with regards to either.

**109. Any other business of importance:** (a) A member reported that they had dealt with approaches which had been made by residents concerning the tree that had been felled at The Mead.

(b) A member stated that the Mobile Library was under threat due to lack of usage. It was not clear how many used the service but it had been made clear that unless numbers improved, the service was going out for consultation, but was likely to be withdrawn.

(c) A member referred to the great work that was being carried out by the 'Village Rubbish Pickers', Steve and Annie Amos, and suggested that a vote of thanks should be extended to them in recognition of their hard work, and after a brief discussion the Chair undertook to write and formally thank them on behalf of the Parish Council.

(d) A member drew the Council's attention to the fact that the car park at the school had been padlocked over the Christmas period and that had prevented any member of the public from using it. It was stated that the car park was owned by the Parish Council, not the school, and the Chair undertook to discuss this matter with the Headteacher and advise her on the future use of the car park.

(e) A member stated that they had been lobbied over the subject of the ACV application which had been made in respect of the Half Moon Inn, and read out a letter that they had received from Andrew Tarling (the landlord). The Chair reminded members that he had previously written to both parties and confirmed that the Parish Council were taking a neutral stance on this issue, and would remain impartial throughout. The Clerk undertook to respond to Mr Tarling on the Parish Council's behalf.

(f) A member referred to previous discussions concerning the installation of a mirror at a pertinent location to assist road users and announced that an appropriate location had been identified (a now disused post which once advertised the local public house), and the minimal cost of providing a mirror (£40.00) would be a small price to pay for improved road safety. The member undertook to purchase the mirror and fixings (subject to being refunded) and after a short discussion, the Council agreed to proceed with this

(g) The Chair referred members' attention to the potential problem that exists at Goathill with regards to possible 'land-grabbing', and stated that the Unitary Councillor had advised that this had been referred to the Highways Department at Somerset Council. Their advice is that the area of land that reaches up to half a metre from the road side is regarded as verges. After that point, as far as the County Council are concerned, the land owner is at liberty to adopt and use the land and they would not therefore be interested or be prepared to take any action. Members noted this decision with a degree of disappointment.

**The meeting closed at 20:55.**