ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
10th March 2020

PRESENT Councillors R Cave (Chairman), S Webb (Vice Chair), C James, G Wilson, P Batchelor, C Hukins, A Kerry, G Kerry, D Seares, S Pumphrey

IN ATTENDANCE
4 Parishioners, Mr Hayward Burt (District Councillor)

A Parishioner informed the Members that he would be recording the meeting. He enquired how his recent application, for the co-option of a Parish Councillor, had been unsuccessful as he regularly attends meetings. Chairman referred to his recently received communication and stated he felt that he could not support the application as the applicant is currently in conflict with the Parish Council. Chairman stated this was his own opinion and he had not discussed the matter as whole with the rest of the Members.
Mr Hayward Burt – District Councillor reported the following matters:-

- Churchfields is now on the market without the car park
- Future Area East Committee Meetings would be held in the Memorial Hall
- There would be a South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Customer Services available in the Balsam Centre
- SSDC had made a grant of £12,000 towards the purchase of a new CAT bus
- The West Street planning application would be discussed at the Regulation Committee meeting to be held on the 17th March

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
William Wallace (District/County Councillor), PCSO Jan Sparkes, PCSO Tim Russell .

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
G Kerry declared an interest in Agenda item 6 1) – Determination of Applications – Thales. S Webb declared an interest in Slades Hill.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 11th FEBRUARY 2020
It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by A Kerry that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY 2020
R Cave reported that he and the Clerk had received telephone calls from Mr Phillips in relation to the comment that Parishioners felt intimidated by some of his actions in relation to the proposed Manor Farm development. He would like expansion on this comment. G Wilson would contact the Parishioners.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting as discussed:-
1) Great British Spring Clean 2020 – 20th March – 13th April 2020. Clerk reported that the In Bloom Group and Scout Group are hoping to participate. Information to be put on notice boards and website.
2) Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) – National Community Buildings Survey. Clerk would complete on behalf of the Village Hall and Social Club.
3) SALC – Promoting recruitment to our new Somerset Citizen's Panel. Chairman read out the email dated 27th February. Information would be put on website. If anyone is interested in joining the Panel should reply to the Clerk.
4) SALC – Dormant Assets – Noted
5) Crime Figures – Templecombe – Feb/March 2020. Chairman read out the report. A copy would be put on the website.

6 PLANNING
1) Determination of Applications
Application no 20/00183/FUL – Erection of equestrian storage building – Temple Lane Stables Temple Lane Templecombe **(Approved)**
Application no 18/01597/FUL – Diversification to allow campsite with associated infrastructure – Land at Templars Farm Temple Lane Templecombe **(Approved)**
Application no 18/02739/OUT – Outline application for residential development comprising up to 70 dwellings and associated open space, landscaping works and area for school expansion, together with new access and drainage infrastructure – Land at Slades Hill Templecombe **(approved).** It was noted that some of the conditions, not referred to on the decision notice, remained within the 106 Agreement including the School fencing.

2) Notification of Area East Committee Meeting to be held on the 11th March 2020 at 9.00 am at The Council Offices Churchfield Wincanton (Sarah Webb)

S Webb reported that there were no matters of concern to report.

3) Housing and Economic Lane Availability Assessment (HELAA) – Call for New development Sites 2000 (closing date for forms 27.3.20)

Clerk had circulated the various information received on the HELAA 2000. This is being produced by SSDC and will include an update of the Council's previous HELAA published in September 2018. The HELAA will be part of the evidence base used to identify additional sites for housing or employment to meet the Districts future requirements and to inform the five-year supply of deliverable housing land. Members had the following comments:-

- There are currently applications outstanding that are opposed
- Any HELAA site included, without permission, should be removed
- Considering land stock it is felt we have more than enough available
- Should the Parish Council talk to other Councils in respect of accumulative development
- All opportunities should be used to address the damage being caused to Rural Settlements

Clerk would reply accordingly.

4) Other

S Webb reported that she had received an e mail from a Parish Councillor in Haselbury Plucknett in respect of a recent planning issue they were currently having which mirrored what we are experiencing. It was agreed that S Webb should arrange a meeting with the Parish Councillor. S Pumphrey would also be happy to attend.

Notification had been received from SSDC in respect of inclusion of the West Street planning application at the Regulation Committee Meeting to be held on the 17th March. D Seares and G Wilson indicated that they would be attending.

A Kerry reported that he had spoken to the Construction Supervisor, at the Co-Op site, as to what measures would be taken to control the parking outside of the shop front and on the pavement. Reference was made to the approved plans but it did not appear to include bollards. The inclusion of bollards was expressed to Co-op when the application was initially discussed. Clerk was asked to write to Co-op and the Planning Department enquiring as to what they intend to do to prevent the pavement being used for parking and thus obstructing the footpath.

7 ACCOUNTING MATTERS

1) To approve accounts and sign cheques

It was proposed by S Pumphrey and seconded by C Hukins that the following cheques be paid:-

J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses February 2020 – Recreation Ground, Burial Ground/Churchyard	203.50
T Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses – March 2020	474.77

2) Other

Clerk reported that the utility Warehouse electricity account for January amounted to £13.63

The following interest had been received as at 31.1.20

NatWest Business Reserve Account	-	3.30 (£19,455.91)
NatWest Business Reserve Account (Play Area)	-	0.11 (£631.95)

Following cheques received:-

Templars Tennis Club – Electricity refund – up To 28.2.20	-	£63.68
H F Miles (Funeral Directors) – Plots/fees P G Buckingham deceased	-	£472.00

A Kerry requested a note of the total expenditure on the Sports and Social Club to date. He wished to review it as a project as some of the work undertaken may be relevant to the Village Hall. Also consideration need to be given as to how we budgeted, how jobs were found and whether what happened could be prevented in the future.

8 TEMPLECOMBE SCOUT GROUP REPORT/SCOUT HUT – C HUKINS

C Hukins reported that the Executive Commitee meeting due to be held on the 18th February was cancelled. The next meeting is due to take place on the 17th March but has yet to be confirmed by the Scout Group. AGM scheduled to take place on the 13th April.

9 VILLAGE HALL

1) Proposed new Lease/Charitable Status – update

C Hukins reported that the Chairman had attended the Village Hall Committee meeting held on the 17th February and reported on the recent meeting with Battens Solicitors. After a debate the Village Hall Committee felt the option to surrender the current lease, obtain the consent to dispose from the Diocese and form a sub Management Committee under the Parish Council an acceptable way forward. The Charity status would remain unchanged. A letter of confirmation had been received from the Village Hall Committee. Clerk would contact Battens Solicitors and instruct them to commence the work required. The next Village Hall Committee meeting is scheduled for the 4th May.

10 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – (COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP)

Communications working Group report circulated prior to meeting. G Kerry reported that he had now received the quotation from Nigel Ferguson amounting to just under £600.00 with a recurring cost of £120.00 per year. The quotation covers registration of an additional shorter domain name, provision for e mail package with a mailbox for each Council member and Clerk and a refreshing of the website that meets the upcoming Accessibility Regulations. As the quotation had only just arrived G Kerry would look at it in more detail and circulate it to Members. It is hoped that the matter can be progressed without having to come back to the next Parish Council meeting.

11 ENVIRONMENT

a) Great Parish Tree Giveaway – update on recent planting

P Batchelor reported that the trees, received from SSDC, were planted on the 23rd February with the help of the In Bloom Group. Trees had also been planted on the piece of land adjacent to the Burial Ground.

12 HIGHWAY MATTERS

1) Road Scheme/Draft A357 Templecombe Scheme Traffic Review – update

And Response to Somerset County Council (SCC) – in response to meeting held on 6.2.20

A Kerry had circulated notes from the meeting held on the 6th February and follow up notes on the 28th February to aid preparation for a discussion on the next steps. SCC would need a response on the contents and the way forward:-

- Do we need further advice from Cotswold Transport Planning (CTP) before responding
- What is our response to their note

A Kerry made the following points:-

- If a scheme can be developed, that SCC agrees with, they cannot offer to manage the project. The Parish Council are not in a position to manage a project but CTP would be able to help with the design and contractors. Consideration would need to be given as to possible costs of £2,000-£2,500.
- The right scheme for the Village needs to be obtained – at what stage do we consult the Village? Prior to the meeting A Kerry had circulated four options for Members to discuss.
- Build out 4 had the benefit of reducing speeds in advance of the crossing. The build out also provided a benefit to protect the people emerging from the adjacent cottage. However, the "kink" in the alignment of the road at build out 4 makes it difficult for two HGVs to pass each other. A solution would be to realign the wall. This would require a land transfer process but SCC would be willing to meet all the necessary costs and undertake the work. Alternatively, SCC would be willing to offer the Parish Council £40,000 to develop an alternative scheme.
- SCC understood that the community's desire for a 20 mph limit had been voiced during the design stage so it had been subsequently included in the scheme. Physical traffic measures are required to facilitate self-enforcement of speed limits, which is why such heavy engineering measures had been designed and employed.

There followed a full and frank discussion on the four options circulated by A Kerry. On option 3 it was felt getting agreement from SCC to deviate from DMRB, which is continuing to be used for A roads, to MFS might affect other planning applications. Option 1 (see below) was generally supported.

Option 1

Reduce the length of the 20mph zone to start at the approach to Build Out 3 and continue to Yarn Barton - means the narrow part of the village with no continuous footpath is a 20mph Zone.
Allows for removal of Build Out 1 and 2 and also modification of Build Out 4 including possible parking restrictions outside the flats to facilitate HGV's passing in wider road area.

Advantage
1.Could be perceived as the 'best solution' for most villagers and still has sufficient impact on speed towards the light controlled crossing.
2. Reduces the frustration for vehicle drivers at build outs and allows mostly for driving on the 'right side' of the road.
3.Removes a lot of the visibility issues at build outs.

4.Reduces the risk of property damage in High Street around build out 4 whilst retaining protection for cottages

Barriers

1. SCC are reluctant to remove Build Out one as the start of the 20mph Zone but we have evidence that the 20mph zone was added after the build out scheme was designed. In Feb 2014 the scheme was presented as appropriate to reduce vehicle speed to the desired levels without the 20mph zone. *A 20mph zone was put in in May 2014 additional to the Build Outs after consultation with the police. Speed limit change was consulted on in the Traffic Regulation Order process and implemented in the design - presumably with few or no objections from the community. Unlikely due to it being perceived as additional to the Build Out scheme.*
2. Traffic Regulation orders needed to change speed limit and this is a consultation process requiring the support of SCC and the Community. This would be a requirement in this option.
3. Political perception of reintroducing a 30mph speed limit into a village with an accepted speeding problem.
4. The money available as indicated at the meeting would be unlikely to fund all of the changes needed.
5. SCC do not accept there is an issue at Build Out 1 other than inconvenience and congestion - it helps speed reduction which is their objective. Their current thinking is to add 'do something with parking restrictions' to free the flow out of the village.There are insufficient accident and incident reports to support the view that it is dangerous.
6. CTP would need to help us with the arguments.Currently SCC will not engage with this as we would be modifying/removing 3 out of 4 build outs. This will be difficult for them internally.
7. Practically speaking the community at large were ambivalent to the plans during the design stages - how would we obtain support from them now?
8. Still need to develop appropriate design for Build Out 4 which is acceptable to SCC
9. Impact of the Co-Op may worsen the situation in the immediate locality - may need parking restrictions?

D Seares proposed Option 1 should be accepted and this should be our response to SCC. S Webb was prepared to second the proposal but after future discussion no vote was taken. It was agreed that A Kerry should go back to CTP with the whole of the "Options for Response to SCC – Traffic Calming Version 2" document and SCC should be given a holding statement whilst we are awaiting a reply from CTP.

2) Other

No other matters to report.

13 FOOTPATHS

a) Diversion of Footpath WN 29/4 – Notice of Confirmation

P Batchelor reported that it will be necessary to remove a tree close to Empire Farm gate.

b) Diversion of Footpath WN 29/21 – Notice/Copy of Diversion Order

Noted.

c) Other

P Batchelor reported that she had put rope loops on the gates on the bridleway, across the railway line, on Temple Lane as it is felt the gates do not shut securely enough.

14 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT

C James reported that the tree in the Play Area should be monitored and if there were no signs of growth a decision needed to be made to remove it.

15 BURIAL GROUN/CLOSED CHURCHYARD

1) Maintenance of closed Churchyard and Burial Ground – update

No matters to report.

2) Other

Clerk had given information on fees and requirements for the Burial Ground, as agreed with the Chairman, to A Kerry for the website.

16 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

A) Play Area

1) Weekly/Quarterly/Annual Play Area Inspection Reports/Maintenance Action Plan

Weekly reports were noted. The issue of motorbikes and mini motorbikes being ridden on the Recreation Ground was discussed and in particular whether signs should be put up, making it clear this type of activity is not permitted, as damage has been caused. It was felt that signage may not be effective. Clerk reported that she had informed PCSO Jan Sparkes.

P Batchelor had removed the gravel from the safety surface at the bottom on the Multi Twist unit slide.

2) Other

No other matters to report.

B) Social Club

1) Social Club Report (C James/C Hukins)

C Hukins had circulated his report prior to the meeting. C James reported that the Social Club had asked about having a drinking fountain and one for dogs on the end of the building. Members felt that this may be open to abuse and felt it inappropriate. The Committee are intending to run a number of summer events.

2) Quotation for Emergency lighting – update

Clerk confirmed that Wessex Fire and Security would be attending to carry out the works required on the 19th and 20th March.

3) Quotation for Fire Alarm – update

Clerk confirmed that P D Fire and Safety would be attending to carry out the works required on the 31st March.

C) Other

No other matters to report.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 2020 (Which will follow on from the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 pm)

a) Coronavirus

Clerk had circulated up to date advice received from County/District Councils and the Government prior to the meeting. It was felt at this stage we should adhere to the advice from the Government as it is rapidly changing and it may be necessary to hold a separate meeting in due course.

b) Thales – Sonar for Dreadnought

D Seares reported the success of Thales on acquiring a sonar contract valued at £330,000.000.