ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
8th September 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
1 Parishioner, Mr W Wallace (District/County Councillor), Mr H Burt (District Councillor), Mr M Pullin (County Councillor – Mendip), PC Sara Stephenson, PCSO Tim Russell

Chairman opened the meeting and commenced the open session.

Mr William Wallace introduced Mr Mike Pullin (Mendip Cabinet Member/Small Improvement Scheme –SIS/Highways Portfolio holder). They had been discussing the continuing traffic calming issues. Mike Pullin proposed a way forward, Somerset County Council (SCC) were prepared to use an improvement project to modify build out 4 in the High Street as potentially a first step. He stated that works to the whole scheme would be outside the budget. Any subsequent improvement requests could be raised as improvement projects using justification and records, or on safety grounds. The Members voted to accept the proposal unanimously. A Kerry abstained from the vote due to his potential conflict of interest.

William Wallace informed the meeting the next Small Improvement Scheme's were coming through.

Mr Hayward Burt commented on the Planning for the future white paper (Agenda item 5 2)c). SCC are proposing One Somerset and the four District Councils have voted on plans for two unitaries, Stronger Somerset.

PC Sara Stephenson and PCSO Tim Russell were in attendance and Members raised the continuing problems with vandalism and anti-social behaviour. A detailed list had been sent to them prior to the meeting. They commented that people thought they had reported a crime by putting it on Facebook, but this was not the case, it had to be logged with them either by going to a police station, ringing Crimestoppers or 999 or reporting it on the Avon and Somerset website. The Police Station, at Wincanton, is open from 10 am to 6pm. The Schools/Colleges would be returning, the Colleges on a limited basis. They currently have no schemes to support the youth to encourage them away from criminal activity. They would look at providing posters reminding people to report crimes on the 101 number.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
S Webb declared an interest in the Slades Hill site.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 11th AUGUST 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 AUGUST 2020
None

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Chairman informed the Members of the sad death of Penny White, a former Parish Councillor, at the age of 92.
Email dated 4.9.20 from Somerset Wildlife Trust - £1m Climate Emergency Community Fund would dealt with under Agenda item 17) Any other business.
Correspondence received since the last meeting as discussed:-
1)a) South Somerset District Council (SSDC) – Stronger Somerset (discussion via Zoom). Chairman would not be available for the 22nd September; Clerk would make a booking for an alternative date. Chairman would welcome comments from Members to take to the Zoom meeting.
Members commented that the documents attached were hard to read. William Wallace commented on the decision of the District Councils proposal to form two Unitaries, East and West as the District Councils were not supporting the One Somerset proposal. He felt the One Somerset option would be far more suitable despite the Taunton 'centric' fears. These would be mitigated by ample local satellite offices and still obtaining substantial savings along with simplification, from the public point of view. Costs in relation to services i.e. planning/highways may be reduced but it was felt more decision making would be passed down to Parish Council level.

2) Consultations

a) SSDC – Removal of telephone box – High Street

E mail circulated to Members prior to meeting. The telephone box was only recording a usage of twice a month. Members discussed whether it should be retained or not and there were no strong views either way. Members agreed not to object to the box being removed. Clerk would reply accordingly.

b) NALC – Changes to the current planning system – Noted

c) NALC – Planning for the future white paper.

S Webb made the following points:-

- No Section 106 Agreements
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – increased to 50 properties
- No Local Plan
- Major change to the landscape of England
- Housing number requirements are affected by developers who obtain planning permission but do not develop as these developments are taken into account when figures are calculated.

A Briefing Paper had been received from SSDC with reference to b) and c) above. S Webb would welcome further comments from the Members and would put together a response.

d) NALC – Transparency and competition (land control) – Noted.

6 PLANNING

1)a) Application no SCC/3728/2020 – Importation of inert waste – Copse Quarry Landshire Lane Henstridge – Revised transport statement

Circulated to Member prior to the meeting. No further comments to report.

b) Application no 19/03416/OUT – 60 Units and associated demolition works – Land at Manor Farm Combe Hill **(Refused)**

Noted.

c) Application no 20/01986/FUL – Extension to dwelling to provide office, garden store, car port and extend garden area – Mead Farm Temple Lane

Circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Members had no objection to the application but would ask that the current agricultural tie be extended to all parts of the extension to prevent further development of a separate property on what will be a substantial built footprint.

2) Notification of Area East Committee (via Zoom) – 9.9.20

No matters to report.

7 ACCOUNTING MATTERS

1) To approve accounts and sign cheques

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

Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - donation in lieu of Repair made by Marshalls	50.00
SimplyPlastics – Replacement Perspex sheets for noticeboards	129.83
D Seares – Refund for materials for repairs to benches – Recreation Ground	40.62
Somerset Association of Local Councils – Affiliation fees 2020/2021	417.30
Glasdon UK Ltd – Dog bin bags for Recreation Ground	49.32
T D J Hunt – Repair to Topper/Grease	14.30
J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses August 2020	386.40
T J Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses September 2020	530.75

2) Other

Clerk reported as follows:-

Following monies received

NatWest Business Reserve Account	-	£0.17 as at 31.7.20 (£19,468.93)
NatWest Business Reserve Account (Play Area)	-	£0.01 as at 31.7.20 (£632.38)

Utility Warehouse electricity account for August 2020 amounted to £4.52. Prior to the meeting a further cheque for £250.00 was paid to the Templecombe Assists Group – cheque no 2564

8 TEMPLECOMBE SCOUT GROUP REPORT/SCOUT HUT – C HUKINS

C Hukins reported a Zoom meeting is scheduled for 22nd September and the Scout Group AGM is scheduled for the 27th October via Zoom.

The registration of the lease had now been finalised and the Scout Group informed.

9 VILLAGE HALL REPORT

C Hukins reported that the next meeting is scheduled for 15th September.

1) Proposed new Lease/Charitable Status

Chairman reported that the draft of the Deed of Surrender had now been received from Battens and circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Members had no issues with the draft Deed of Surrender. A copy would now be circulated to the Members of the Village Hall Committee for their approval. It was thought the way forward would be for the Village Hall Committee to become a sub-committee of the Parish Council.

10 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP REPORT

Report circulated prior to the meeting. The communications group had started looking for alternative website suppliers and would put together their findings during September and submit a proposal to be voted on at the October meeting. The monthly Parish Council summary would re-commence from September.

11 HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

Covered in the Open Session.

2) Co-op double yellow lines

Clerk had contacted SCC and information received had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. SCC indicated that a retrospective request could be made as part of the previous Order but it was felt that if the Parish Council wants to proceed with yellow lines it would be preferable to submit a new Order. Members discussed whether to pursue with yellow lines, at the front of the Co-op, and all Members were in agreement. Clerk would inform SCC.

12 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

a) Somerset Climate Emergency Community Fund – e mail dated 1.9.20

A copy of e mail had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The Environmental working group had looked at the FAQ and sample application form and asked for any ideas of possible projects from Members. £1 million would be made available with bids invited for between £5,000 and £75,000. It was thought suggestions could be sourced from a wider public. Possible suggestions of solar power for the Village Hall and Social Club or solar powered speed indicators had been mentioned. All Members were agreeable to further investigation being carried out.

A Parishioner had contacted D Seares in connection with a proposed road side wilding project for the Village. Shortly leaflets would be circulated within the Village. The Members agreed in principle to support a project of this nature.

13 FOOTPATHS REPORT (P Batchelor)

Footpath report had been circulated to Members prior to meeting.

a) SCC – Notice of confirmation – WN 29/21 Bowden Road

Diversion of footpath opposite Newleaze Cottage had now been granted. The start of the path is now from the double 5-bar gates facing you, where the road kinks to the right, as you head out of Templecombe on the left-hand side and follows the hedge line instead of going diagonally across the field through a property.

b) SCC – Modification Order – Lily Lane (Bridleway)

An Order has been raised to upgrade the footpath running from Lily Lane to Stowell to a bridleway. Comments may be made up until 1st October. The contentious part is the section running through the farmyard at Stowell, but this part does not come within the Parish boundary of Abbas and Templecombe.

14 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT – C JAMES

C James reported there are three dead trees and a tree trunk along the Yarnbarton side of the Recreation Ground which would be dealt with shortly.

15 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (Clerk)

Clerk reported that the plaques for the new pedestrian gates had been ordered.

16 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

a) Play Area Report – Circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

P Batchelor reported that the zip wire is not included, other than a visual inspection, under our current Quarterly and Annual inspections. An enquiry has been made to see if it can be included. Simon Williams is available to check it on 5th October at a cost of £25. Although he is not accredited he installed the zip wire and has carried out any repairs.

b) Social Club

1) Social Club Report (C James/C Hukins) – Circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

C Hukins reported that the Golden Age Group would be returning, meeting every two weeks. The finances were improving and the building extension had now been signed off.

The youth on the Recreation Ground and vandalism were raised at the meeting and the suggestion of CCTV on the roof of the building was put forward. It was generally felt at this stage this should not be taken forward and the situation monitored if all incidents are reported.

The Social Club Committee had offered to replace two windows in the Changing Rooms, as a contribution towards the Recreation Ground. Clerk to write to the Committee accepting the offer.

Clerk reported that a section of the guttering, on the Social Club, needed attention. It was suggested that T Benjafield be asked to have a look at it.

a) Learning from Recreation Building Project – A Kerry – Report circulated to Members prior to meeting

A Kerry was proposing that the Parish Council, in conjunction with the Sports and Social Club Committee, review how the project was executed from the initial project scope to the final result achieved. Consideration being given to whether the project was good value for money and if the Club is operating differently compared with before the project. Chairman offered to prepare a review of the Parish Council's point of view.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An email had been circulated from the Somerset Wildlife Trust. Along with the Somerset Climate Action Network they are applying for £75,000 from the Somerset County Council £1 million Climate Emergency Community Fund. Members did not feel they wanted to support this bid.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm Signed R Cave .dated 18.5.21