ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
13th July 2021

PRESENT Councillors R Cave (Chairman), S Webb (Vice Chair), C Hukins, A Kerry, G Kerry, D Seares,

IN ATTENDANCE
Mr Hayward Burt (District Councillor), 1 Parishioner

Chairman opened the meeting and invited Mr Hayward Burt to make his report. He commented on the following matters: -

- South Somerset District Council (SSDC) had appointed a new Chief Executive and Head of Planning
- Meetings were still taking place online
- Waste collections had been missed and some households had still to receive their blue bags
- Manor Farm appeal had been dismissed. SSDC do not have a five-year land supply
- It was noted that the Slades Hill development planning application had been granted and not being referred to Area East Committee. He would look into this and check it out as it had been asked for Slades Hill to be referred to Area East Committee
- Knights Templar Nursing Home planning application for development will be referred to the Regulation Committee on the 20th July. The Planning Officer was recommending refusal due to the Section 106 Agreement not being signed.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
P Batchelor, G Wilson, S Pumphrey, C James, William Wallace (District/County Councillor)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
S Webb declared her dispensation in respect of the Slades Hill development. A Kerry independently declared an interest in Agenda item 10) Highway Matters 1) Road Scheme/Draft A357 Templecombe Scheme Traffic Review.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 18th MAY 2021
a) It was proposed by C Hukins and seconded by A Kerry that the draft Annual Parish Meeting Minutes, as previously circulated, be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
b) It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by C Hukins that the draft Annual Parish Council Meeting Minutes, as previously circulated, be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
c) It was proposed by C Hukins and seconded by D Seares that the draft Minutes dated 18th May 2021, as previously circulated, be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 18th MAY 2021
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting as discussed: -
1) One Somerset – 25.6.21 Mr D Fothergill – Consultative groups/working group from Parish Council
Chairman reported that as the Secretary of State for Local Government had not yet made a decision on either One Somerset or Stronger Somerset the Parish Council should, at this stage, keep alert to the process and form a working group at the appropriate time.

2) The Queen's Platinum Jubliee Beacons – 2nd June 2022 – SALC
Chairman reported that thought should be given to events the Village may wish to take part in to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. It was suggested the Scout Group could be involved and the Social Club. A budget could be set aside, and donations asked for from the Village.

6 PLANNING

1) Verbal report on all items since the last meeting/update on Area East Committee meeting to be held via Zoom – Wednesday 19th July 2021 – Application no 20/03243/FUL – Coombe Farm West Street

Noted. This application has been referred to committee following an objection raised by the Ward member as follows: - "I do not agree with the officer recommendation as it breaches policy SS2. The council now has a five-year land supply and permission this development was given before the decision to build 49 houses further down west street putting an unacceptable strain on local roads.

After that permission was granted SSDC then discovered we had reached our five-year land supply, and rural settlements have already had more than its number of building permissions."

2) Proposed Manor Farm development – Appeal – update

Chairman reported that the appeal had been dismissed. It had been noted that a Housing Needs Survey had not been carried out for the Village. Members discussed the issue and felt that one ought to be investigated and probably carried out by an independent professional. SSDC also have carried them out. R Cave and Clerk to follow up.

3) Kier Living application for Slades Hill – update if applicable

Planning application no 21/00046/REM had now been granted on the 9th July 2021.

4) Determinations

a) Application no 21/01239/HOU – Loft conversion with Velux roof lights – 1 Warwick Close (Granted)

b) Application no 21/00523/FUL – Change of use of land agricultural to domestic garden, new access and driveway to Barns at Middle Throop Farm 13 Throop Road (Granted)

5) Other

Proposed Discharge of Condition 4 of Planning Permission no 19/03409/REM – Land opposite The Orchard Combe Hill Templecombe

Noted. It was also noted that a section of hedgerow had now been removed. Condition 5 of the original planning consent stated that no removal of hedges should take place between 1st March and 31st August, due to the potential of bird nesting habitats. There was also no written confirmation relating to the application published on the planning portal so there are concerns this was carried out after March 1st this year. S Webb would put together a response to SSDC – Planning.

21/01394/FUL – Erection of two external equipment enclosures on the west side of the new production facility – Blake House Thales Underwater Systems Throop Road

S Webb reported that most recent photos taken of the site, on the 14th July, seemed to include the external equipment enclosures as complete despite no decision being made or approval granted. It was felt this application should have been retrospective. Members were agreement for S Webb to compose a response to SSDC – Planning.

Application no 18/00650/OUT – Demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of 19 no dwellings with associated access and parking (outline application) – Knights Templar Court Nursing Home Throop Road

This application is being referred to the Regulation Committee by way of a virtual meeting on Tuesday 20th July at 10.00 am. The Regulation Committee last considered this application on 20th November 2018 (following referral from Area East Committee) and resolved to grant the application subject to completion of a S.106 Legal Agreement to secure the relevant planning obligations. Officers have negotiated positively in an effort to resolve an acceptable Agreement, to the point where it solely remained for the Applicant to complete the signature of the Agreement. Despite repeated requests the Applicant has chosen not to complete the Agreement. Accordingly, the application is recommended for refusal.

7 ACCOUNTING MATTERS

1) To approve accounts and sign cheques

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

Elite Playground Inspections – fee for quarterly inspection report July 2021	38.40
Information Commissioner – Data Protection fee renewal 2021/22	40.00
Flying Colours – purchase of community flag	131.34
D Seares – Refund for cement – Lily Lane seat	9.58
T D J Hunt – Repair to PTO Shaft tractor/grease/grease gun G Coupler	224.30
J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses June 2021	580.48
T J Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses July 2021	474.07

Following cheques received

None

Following monies received

NatWest Business Reserve Account	-	£0.15 as at 28.5.21 (£19,470.55)
NatWest Business Reserve Account (Play Area)	-	£0.01 as at 28.5.21 (£632.44)

Also - Utility Warehouse electricity account for June 2021 amounted to £24.26

The sum of £56.84 will be paid into the NatWest – refund from the donation given towards the Christmas Hampers Fund
A grant of £2,000 will be received via Dikes to be spent on improvements to the Recreation Ground.

Clerk had also circulated the balances of the various accounts, as at the 30th June 2021. Members discussed various capital projects that could be given consideration as follows: -

- Improvements to the Village Hall – Kitchen/toilets/change of heating to heat pump
- Green projects – solar panels on the roof of the Sports and Social Club. It was thought that the roof of the Village Hall was not appropriate.
- The grant of £2,000 via Dikes has to be spent on improvements at the Recreation Ground. Could look at equipment that was beginning to wear out or a new piece of equipment.
- Look at a project for older parishioners
- Footpath outside of Village Hall/Churchyard paths
- Extra benches

A Kerry would re-circulate the list he put together previously to Members and matter would be included on the Agenda for the August meeting.

2) Donation 2021/22 – SSCAT bus

The three-year agreement with the SSCAT bus had now ended. It was proposed by R Cave that the Parish Council continue to donate and put forward the sum of £650. All Members present were in agreement.

3) Other

Chairman reminded Members when purchasing, on behalf of the Parish Council, invoices need to be in the name of Abbas and Templecombe Parish Council or a cash till receipt.

8 VILLAGE HALL SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (C HUKINS)

C Hukins circulated his report prior to the meeting: -

- Fire extinguishers had been checked by Chubb
- Hall bookings were going well and some of the regular groups had returned
- The kitchen was still not being used

Chairman thanked C Hukins and proposed that the Minutes and Agendas, of future meetings, should be put on the Parish Council website. Parishioners are welcome to attend a meeting.

a) Quotation for five-year electrical test

Clerk reported that three quotes had been obtained for an electrical check ranging from £180 to £225 (excluding VAT). Members agreed to go ahead with the quote received from NDM Electrical Contractors amounting to £150 (excluding VAT).

9 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP REPORT (A KERRY/G KERRY)

A Kerry circulated his report to Members prior to the meeting. The following points were noted: -

- Website and email system continue to operate satisfactorily
- Items are being posted regularly on issues which it is thought people will find informative in addition to the legal commitments
- Items will be posted on a weekly basis covering issues such as planning, material from Somerset County Council (SCC), SSDC, Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) and other items Parishioners will find useful

It was suggested a plastic banner could be obtained to promote the website.

10 HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

A Kerry circulated his report to Members prior to the meeting. The following points were noted: -

- As agreed at the last meeting attempts have been made to engage with SCC Highways regarding the plans for the modification of Build Out 4 which was agreed at out September 2020 meeting.
- Due to Covid restrictions our request for the assigned engineer to visit prior to completing the design work has not happened

- Councillor Mike Pullin was contacted by telephone on 9th July. He confirmed the ongoing commitment to carry out the work and had spoken to the planning team. He confirmed that a response would be forthcoming within in the week with more information. No timescale could be given at this stage.

2) Co-op double yellow lines – update (Clerk)

Clerk had circulated copies of the objections received from SCC Highways as a result of the recent consultation. The Members present agreed that they were still in favour of having the yellow lines installed. Clerk would inform SCC Highways.

3) High Street issues – (A Kerry/R Cave)

A Kerry reported that he and R Cave had met with a Parishioner regarding his concerns about traffic speeds on the High Street and near miss accidents between the Yew Tree and Yarnbarton.. They explained the situation with the traffic calming, fixed speed cameras and the difficulty for the speed enforcement officers to cover the High Street area on their visits to the Village. Also, the speed watch scheme, run by volunteers, had a lack of support from the authorities which caused the scheme to be disbanded. He was advised to report incidents using 101 and directly to SCC in the form of complaints.

4) Damage to raised wall – Yew Tree bent – East Street – update if applicable

Clerk reported that the raised wall had been damaged on the 28th June. SCC had been out and made the damage safe. The raised wall and tree fall within public highway extents and the tree is listed on SCC records as "Conifer" and inspected as part of the monthly inspection. The tree does not have an order and will need some attention once the repair has been carried out. Members felt that the tree should be considered for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Clerk would contact Phil Poulton at SSDC.

5) Road work maintenance/repairs issues within the Village

Members discussed the recent road works in the Village and made the following comments: -

- Lack of co-ordination – the works to the gabion wall at Combe Hill required a timed closure, shortly afterwards the works in connection with Thales entailed a 24hr closure at the Railway Bridge. Could thought be given to combining works to cause less disruption
- Cones were placed out, over a weekend, prior to commencement of works starting
- Opposition to 24hr closures, unless safety reasons require it, due to the disruption caused to the rural community
- If a 24hr closure is required consideration should be given to allowing access for buses/School buses
- If services need to carry out work, they can do it when they wish, therefore, giving little notice to road users.
- A Kerry and S Webb agreed to compose a letter to SCC seeking an explanation and reasoning for actions taken when road works are undertaken.

6) Grass cutting – entrance to Throop Road – update

Clerk had contacted SCC Highways. The area of verge is not recoded as needing to receive any grass maintenance. For SSDC to be employed to cut the area they would need to receive additional funding from SCC and this was unlikely to be forthcoming. SCC suggested re-assessing some sections to omit cuts adjacent to the highway where properties have been built or entrances made. This could allow for the verge to have one or two swathes cut around the edges to aid visibility. A request had been made but unlikely to be implemented until next year. SCC (Local Superintendent) would carry out a visit to see if an interim cut is required.

7) Other

D Seares reported that he had removed the wood sign "to the recreation ground" at the bottom of Vine Street. The sign was rotten and serving little purpose as there is an up-to-date sign opposite on Templars Barton.

11 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (D SEARES/G WILSON)

Chairman thanked D Seares and G Wilson for their work in installing the new benches at the Recreation Ground and in the Village

a) Additional litter bins – Recreation Ground – update

D Seares reported that the new bins order is being assembled at Glasdons.

12 FOOTPATHS REPORT (P BATCHELOR)

P Batchelor circulated her report to Members prior to the meeting. The following matters were noted: -

- Footpath on Hasketts field onto Throop Road – G Foers had installed the recycled pedestrian gate from Thales and supplied wood for the footbridge/handrail.
- Lily Lane Footpath – The proposed modification to turn the footpath into a bridleway had raised one objection. The matter would now have to be referred to the Planning Inspectorate.
- Hiscock's Lane – A complaint had been received from a resident that the track which leads from the main road north of Thales/Slades Hill had become overgrown with vegetation. The landowner was arranging to have the track mowed.

- Diverted path off Bowden Lane – Owners of Grange Farm Bowden Road had contacted D Seares as walkers were not sticking to the newly diverted path, when coming from Martin's Copse Wood. D Seares had put photographs on his website of the correct route and had suggested having some signs made by Vale Signs and Print to be put on the footpath.
- Overgrown footpaths at Empire Farm – A complaint had been received from a Parishioner as to the height of the overgrown vegetation. Rights of Way Officer will be contacted to request the owners of the Empire Farm to cut back the overgrown areas.

13 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT (C JAMES)

No matters to report.

14 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

Clerk reported that Peter Coombes had been asked to carry out weed spraying in the Churchyard and by the Village Hall.

15 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

A) Play Area Report (P Batchelor/G Kerry/C James)

Play Area report was circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The stop spring on the zip wite had broken away from its fitting on the cable and one of the cable guides in the trolley had dropped and is worn. The recent report showed this as a low risk level. Simon Williams – Play UK is due to carry out a quarterly inspection this month and he could fit the plastic guides, but the spring mechanism could not be fixed on site. Proludic will be asked to make a site visit to inspect the cracks in the timber uprights.

1) Vandalism/bad behaviour – update

The litter bin on the BMX track had been set on fire on the 3rd July. Matter has been reported to the police and a crime number obtained. A new bin has been ordered. A gathering of 30 people had occurred on the Recreation Ground the Police were informed but the group disbursed.

B) SOCIAL CLUB

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

C Hukins circulated a copy of the June Report and S Webb attended the July Social Club meeting and had circulated her report. The Club are looking to purchase additional picnic tables to increase outside seating. The Social Club Committee are working hard and looking forward to further promote and develop the Club going forward.

C) OTHER No matters to report.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 10TH AUGUST 2021 Chairman felt that face coverings should still be worn at the August meeting.

1) Co-option of one Parish Councillor

Chairman reported that there had been one applicant, details and information had been circulated prior to the meeting. The applicant was present and left the room whilst Members had a discussion. Members present agreed to the Co-option of Mr Stephen Hood to the Parish Council.