ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
12th October 2021

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

IN ATTENDANCE
2 Parishioners

A Parishioner enquired how long the Members had served. Chairman confirmed the present Parish Council had served two years to date after being elected in 2019. A Councillor must miss six consecutive meetings before they relinquish their position unless they have an approved reason why they cannot attend.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Mr Hayward Burt (District Councillor), PCSO Will Mortimer

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
S Webb declared her dispensation in respect of Slades Hill development. A Kerry independently declared an interest in Agenda item 9) Highway Matters 1) Road Scheme/Draft A357 Templecombe Scheme Traffic Review.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021
It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by C Hukins 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 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting as discussed: -

1) SALC – Future Parish Elections – The Results – e mail dated 26.9.21
Chairman reported that most Councils would like to move the elections forward to May 2022.
2) DEFRA Local Nature Recovery Strategies – Consultation
Circulated to Members prior to meeting. Noted.
3) Somerset Unitary Town and Parish Council Conference 7.10.21 – update (R Cave/D Seares)
R Cave and D Seares circulated notes from the conference held on the 7th October prior to the meeting. It was generally felt that this was a poor event but that the Parish Council should be represented at any further meetings.
4) Act of Remembrance – Chairman reported that the Act of Remembrance this year would take place at the Recreation Ground at 10.30 am. Afterwards wreaths can be laid at the memorial in the Churchyard. The Church had carried out a risk assessment and it was felt numbers attending would be too great for carrying out the service safely in St Mary's Church.
5) Aerosaurus Balloon Flights – Chairman reported that an enquiry had been received from a crew member as to whether it would be possible for their balloon to use the Recreation Ground, for evening take offs. Members had no objections in principle but would initially require sight of a risk assessment. Clerk would report back to the crew member.
6) 2nd Templecombe Scout Group – Lease of the Angela Smith Memorial Hut – Chairman read out the e mail dated 6.10.21. The Scout Group had requested an extension of time to commence the new build. The Lease dated 8th April 2019 stated the new build must be started within five years. Chairman suggested the following response: -
Under the terms of the agreed signed lease dated 8th April 2019 in clause 2.1 you are required to commence construction within 5 years from the date of signing.
The Parish Council acknowledges that the Covid 19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed by Government have severely curtailed the Scout Group from proceeding with raising funds and under the circumstances and without precedent accept that an extension of time should be granted.
The Parish Council is prepared to offer an extension of time of 2 years. Meaning that construction must have commenced by the end of April 2026.
It was proposed by A Kerry and seconded by C Hukins that the response should be forwarded to the 2nd Templecombe Scout Group.
7) PCSO Will Mortimer – e mail dated 6th October – Chairman read out e mail, which gave his apologies. It was agreed that the report contained in his e mail should be published and put on the website.

The report was as follows-
I have provided the crime figures for the last month, also I would like to give you the latest update on the motor bikes, which have unfortunately caused so many issues for so many people.
At 20:00 on the 24th of September I issued a section 35 dispersal order on four of the offenders, who have continually caused Anti-Social Behaviour, either on their motor bikes or whilst sat around at the sports and social club. This meant they were banned from a designated area for 48 hours, until 20:00 on the 26th of September.
I have also visited every house on the route that they ride their bikes, trying to obtain CCTV, with the hope I could then prove some illegal behaviour, but unfortunately this was unsuccessful.
I have also informed the insurance company of one motor cyclist, that they have modified their bike, which meant that his policy would have been void.
I will continue to patrol and if I can obtain video footage of any illegal behaviour, I can assure you that they will be dealt with swiftly.

8) Draft Bus Service Improvement Plan for Somerset published – S Webb had circulated her notes on the report prior to the meeting. It was felt that the reinstalment of a Sunday service and a discount for 16- to 18-year-olds would make a difference.

9) Tony Leach's retirement from Somerset County Council (SCC) – Chairman read out e mail. The Parish Council were appreciative of the help and support shown by Tony Leach over his many years of service to the Village.

William Wallace joined the meeting at 7.36 pm and reported the following matters: -

- By the 31st October parents have to submit their choice of schools
- Bus service improvement plan – no Government investment into bus service especially nothing for young people 16 plus. He would be bringing the matter up with David Warburton MP.

6 PLANNING

1) Planning Application no 21/02781/HOU – Erection of a first floor extension to side and a glazed entrance porch to front of dwelling – 75 Bowden Road Templecombe
Members had no objections to the application.

2) Planning application no 21/02946/HOU – Erection of a single storey side extension – Japonica Cottage Throop Road Templecombe
Members had no objections to the application.

2) Determinations
None

3) Other
Clerk reported that Street Naming and Numbering – South Somerset District Council (SSDC) had requested suggestions for the Tilia development at Slades Hill. Chairman asked Members to let Clerk have any suggestions for forwarding on to SSDC.

7) ACCOUNTING MATTERS

1) To approve accounts and sign cheques
It was proposed by A Kerry and seconded by S Webb that the following cheques be paid: -

Elite Playground Inspections – fee for quarterly inspection at Recreation Ground – October 2021	38.40
Templecombe Village Hall – Hall Hire 20/21/Donation for Art Exhibition 2021	80.00
Mrs P Batchelor – Refund for MAC Allister 18V Cordless Blower	59.99
J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses September 2021 – Rec/Bgd/Cyd	360.20
Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses October 2021	605.57

Following cheques received
None

Following monies received

NatWest Business Reserve Account
(Play Area) - £0.01 as at 31.8.21 (£632.46)

Also - Utility Warehouse electricity account for September 2021 amounted to £19.75

Received into Current Account – 1st October 2021 – Grant from SALC for Village Hall – cleaning equipment etc for re-opening after Covid 19 - £1,500

2) Future projects – update

Vehicle activated speed signs – Clerk had contacted Mr Nick Cowling – SCC and received documentation which has been forwarded to A Kerry for further investigation. Financial assistance may be available from the Police Safety Unit. It is not accessible until after an agreement is reached with SCC on placement and training has been carried out. Quotations have been received for various devices.

Potential bus shelter on the High Street – Clerk reported that a reply had not been received from SCC and had chased the matter up and had been advised to contact Road Records – SCC direct.

3) Other

No matters to report

8 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Village Hall sub-committee report

A copy of the draft Minutes from the meeting held on the 27th September had been circulated to Members prior the meeting. Chairman had attended this meeting which looked at the future improvements to the kitchen facilities. It was agreed to obtain three quotations in time for the next meeting to be held in November. A further meeting had been held to view the original plan to check it was still what was felt was needed for the update.

b) In Bloom Group – (J Carr)

The group are making plans for next year.

9 HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

A Kerry circulated his report prior to the meeting. M Pullen had been chased up for an update on the modification project for build out 4. A resource has been assigned and we will receive an update in due course. Nothing is showing on the SCC Small Improvement Scheme (SIS) projects database for South Somerset. William Wallace commented that highway projects are not on there and he would follow the matter up.

2) Clerk to update on various highway issues

Street scene issues – Clerk had raised the issue of the blocked drains with SCC

Defaced signs – Vine Street/Yarnbarton entrance – reported awaiting a response

Give way marking – Brines Orchard/The Knapp – reported awaiting a response

Request for consideration of derestriction signs – Combe Hill – SCC had now replied and based on their assessment the 30mph speed limit is in the correct location and they will not be looking to amend this.

Templecombe surgery – access issues – reported awaiting a response

Damage to raised wall – Yew tree bend – East Street/wall damage at entrance to Yarnbarton – both issues have been made safe and are awaiting a repair

Application for Tree Preservation Order (TPO) – see Tree Warden's report

Grass bank at entrance to Throop Road – Clerk had contacted Peter Coombes to see if he could carry out the cut.

3) Other

Clerk reported that she had checked the village grit bins and informed SCC Highways which ones needed filling or topping up. The salt in the bins needs forking up and several Members agreed to carry out the task.

10 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (D SEARES/G WILSON)

a) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – set up a working group – update

C Hukins reported that the school had been contacted and S Webb had spoken to several of the Village groups.

b) Roadside wildling enquiry – Dr Lizzie Rowe

D Seares reported that he had met with Dr Rowe at the Recreation Ground and had looked at using the inside of the Recreation Ground hedge and had spoken to Groundsman.

11 FOOTPATHS REPORT (P BATCHELOR)

P Batchelor circulated her report prior to the meeting. Overgrown vegetation on the Empire Farm footpaths has now been mown. Hiscock's Lane has had the hedges and grass cut.

Kington View footpath – there has been a request to remove some tree branches which overhang the path and over towards the adjacent garden. A site meeting will be arranged to establish how much of the trees need to be cut back and quotations sought from tree surgeons.

12 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT (C JAMES)

1) Yew Tree – junction with East Street/High Street – application for Tree Protection Order (TPO) – e mail date 30.9.21 – Phil Poulton

Phil Poulton indicated that the potential benefits to be gained by serving an Order upon the tree appear to minimal and on behalf of SSDC would be declining the request for a Tree Protection Order.

13 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

P Batchelor suggested replacing the tree in the Churchyard which could be dedicated to the Platinum Jubilee. A yew tree was suggested. Clerk would ascertain whether permission is required from the Diocese.

15 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

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

Report circulated prior to meeting. The Recreation Ground working party propose using the £2,000 Grant from Dikes towards the purchase of a rotating seesaw and had provided three quotations, supply only. Chairman proposed that a maximum budget of £7,000 be made and the group left to decide which model to purchase. This would allow for installation and safety surface.

1) Zip Wire – update

P Batchelor reported that Steven Day – Elite Playgrounds has quoted £150 excluding VAT for the labour to treat the timber posts. The varnish would cost in region of £74 for 2.5 litres. It was agreed that this should be carried out and the costs met from the maintenance grant.

2) Other

There had been further incidents of residents bringing dog waste from home and putting it in the dog bins at the Recreation Ground. It has been suggested that new stickers are purchased for the dog bins to make the rules clear to the users of the Recreation Ground. It was proposed by D Seares and seconded by A Kerry that 10 stickers should be purchased for the fronts of the dog bins. All Members agreed. A statement would also be included on the website.

P Batchelor reported that investigations are being made into replacing the bollards along the Recreation Ground footpath and to bar unauthorised vehicular access to the football pitch. Suggestions made were the use of cycle stands, Lego type blocks with scaffold tubes.

The Rights of Way Officer had carried out a site visit and although she does not think the path represents a trip hazard, she would ask SCC Highways to have a look. It does appear SCC is responsible for the paths upkeep.

The quarterly inspection had been carried out and nothing urgent was found.

S Webb commented that dogs were being taken into the Play Area when it clearly states, "No dogs".

Clerk confirmed that the hedge cutter would be at the Recreation Ground on the 13th October.

B) Social Club

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

Report circulated prior to meeting. C Hukins reported that the October meeting had not taken place. C James asked that the Club inform the Committee when a meeting is cancelled. Subsequently C Hukins had met with the Chairperson and discussed the interpretation of the Lease. R Cave confirmed that the Sports and Social Club hold a licence that allows them to hold a set number of private Club events in a year. It was asked whether the Social Club inform that Police when private events are taking place and obtain the appropriate risk assessment.

C) Refuse collection – update

Clerk reported that another Company had carried out a one-off collection. The paperwork/Direct debit form had been completed and was with Biffa. We are now waiting for the delivery of the bin and confirmation of the collection day.

D) Other

No matters to report.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2021

S Webb reported that she had spoken to Donna Bridgwood in respect of the Village Christmas trees. The organisers are having difficulty ordering the 48 4ft Christmas trees as the previous supplier was not supplying trees this year. Any information on an alternative supplier would be welcome.