ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
11th JANUARY 2022

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

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

Chairman opened the meeting and invited the Parishioners present to raise any issues.

A Parishioner referred to the Parish Council's response concerning the issue of white line bays in School Lane car park, contained in the draft minutes dated 14th December 2021. The Parish Council felt white lining in the car park would reduce the number of available spaces bearing in mind some of the bays would have to be for large vehicles, mother and baby parking and parking for blue badge holders. She requested the Members to reconsider their decision as she felt strongly white lining would make it safer and purposeful. Presently there were at least three vehicles permanently using the car park during the day and night. Also, the yellow lines by the school needed refreshing. Chairman thanked her for her report and said that the matter would be discussed further during the meeting.

District Councillor Sarah Dyke, Portfolio holder for Environmental issues at South Somerset District Council (SSDC), introduced herself to the meeting and reported on the wildflower giveaway. She encouraged the identification and inclusion of sites both on private and public land. The seed mixes were bespoke and therefore, suitable for most areas.
D Seares commented on Dr Lizzie Rowe's proposals for the Village and Recreation Ground.
A Parishioner suggested an area of land in Temple Lane, where trees had been removed due to the work to the Wessex Water recycling centre and would liaise with Sarah Dyke.

District Councillor Hayward Burt reported that there had been problems with the SSDC website over the Christmas period. Hospitality Grants are now available, closing date for applications is the 28th February 2022.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
C James, G Wilson.
Chairman confirmed that this was the last meeting of G Wilson's period of absence and suggested he be allowed an extension of absence up to the time of the 2022 Elections.

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) Update on traffic calming modifications. D Seares declared an interest in the Slades Hill development if the matter is mentioned during the meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH DECEMBER 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 DECEMBER 2021
None,

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting as discussed: -
1) South Somerset District Council – Elections update 3.1.22. Chairman reported confirmation of Parish/Town Elections 2022.
2) Local Community Networks – Circulated to Members prior to meeting. It was agreed to include the document on the Parish Council website. A Kerry suggested enquiring of SALC if there was an authority, we could talk to that have gone through the process.

6 PLANNING
1) Planning Application no 21/02436/FUL – Demolition of the existing building and the erection of 18 detached bungalows parking and access – Knights Templar Court Nursing Home Throop Road Templecombe – Response to amended plans/additional information.

Members considered the amended plans and information supplied prior to the meeting and S Webb's report. It was felt that a review of the new plans does not address the previous issues raised. It is also noted that further drainage plans need to be submitted. Members strongly felt that no decision should be made until these drainage plans are made available so that they could feel confident that concerns regarding the management of both runoff and sewage are addressed. The comments made on the 11th November 2021 still remain unchanged. Clerk would reply accordingly.

2) DETERMINATIONS

None.

3) OTHER

Chairman reported that Magna had acquired the land at Coombe Farm and would be holding a public consultation, afternoon and early evening in the Village Hall, on the 27th January times to be confirmed. Notifications will be delivered to nearby properties, and it was hoped Bowden Road and Vine Street would be included.

7) ACCOUNTING MATTERS

1) To approve accounts and sign cheques

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

Martin Haskett Agricultural Contractors – hedge cutting at Recreation Ground	151.20
Elite Playground Inspections – Quarterly inspection – Play area	38.40
Andrew Greene – annual works Churchyard/Burial Ground/High St	935.00
Glasdon UK Limited – Retriever 50 Dog bin bags	54.13
Peter Coombes Garden Service – Weed spraying Churchyard/strimming Throop Rd bank/Vine Street hedge and clearing up	90.00
J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses December 2021 – Rec/Bgd/Cyd	165.00
Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses January 2022	425.57

Following cheques received

None

Following monies received

NatWest Business Reserve Account	-	£0.17 as at 30.11.21 (£19,471.54)
NatWest Business Reserve Account (Play Area)	-	£0.01 as at 30.11.21 (£632.48)

Also - Utility Warehouse electricity account for December 2021 amounted to £51.51

2) Banking arrangements/internet Banking – update

Chairman reported that Clerk had spoken to the NatWest and obtained details of internet banking. It was not sure whether what they could offer would work with our Financial Regulations. Clerk would make further enquiries. It was felt this should be considered after the 2022 Elections.

3) Future Projects – update if applicable

a) Vehicle Activated Speed Signs/Speed Indicator Devices (SID)

A Kerry had circulated a report prior to the meeting. No feedback had been received to date on the meeting with Somerset County Council (SCC). Two additional proposed locations need to be formalised with the property owners. A Memorandum of Agreement would need to be signed with SCC before we can commit to buying a device. Consideration may need to be given to asking for volunteers from the Parish to help run the SID programme.

4) Budget for 2022/2023 – Precept 2022/2023

Clerk had circulated a copy of the proposed budget 2022/2023 and summary of accounts as at the 31st December 2021. Members discussed the proposed budget and made the following comments: -

- P Batchelor would obtain a quotation for the proposed fencing to the MUGA
- Chairman reported that a quotation had been received from Tom Trouton for the repairs to the churchyard walls, resulting from the 2020 Quinquennial, amounting to approximately £5,000 and this had been included in the 2022/2023 budget
- A further £5,500 had been included for the Village Hall
- £2,500 had been included in the budget for the additional benches at the Recreation Ground and in the Village. D Seares reported that the benches were now £506 each and the tamper proof kits £20 each, with possible additional materials the total expenditure could be £2,666
- Clerk would provide a quarterly review

It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by C Hukins that the proposed budget for 2022/2023 be accepted. Six Members agreed with two abstentions.

Members discussed the Precept 2022/2023 and it was felt no increase should be made. A Precept of £30,199 would be submitted to SSDC. Seven Members agreed with one against.

5) Other

No matters to report.

8 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Village Hall sub-committee report

Clerk reported that the water heater in the kitchen and under counter fridge were now not working and would need to be taken into consideration with the kitchen refurbishment. The next meeting had been moved to the 24th January at 7.30 pm.

b) In Bloom Group – (J Carr)

Maintenance is being carried out when necessary.

9 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING MODIFICATIONS (A KERRY)

A Kerry had circulated update prior to meeting. A letter had been sent to K Jones, M Pullin, W Wallace and H Burt suggesting a way forward which allows retention of protection at the Cottages. A copy of the letter had been circulated to Members.

10 HIGHWAY MATTERS

1) New Locations for benches – update (Clerk)

Clerk reported that a reply had now been received from the Road Records at SCC. A letter of agreement could now be signed. A S171 Licence for works adjacent to the Highways will be required and it is advisable to ask the Highways Inspector to confirm the positions of the benches before installation. D Seares will send details of the seats and locations to S Webb. To coincide with the Platinum Jubilee, it was agreed the five benches should each have a plaque. The plaques would need to be ordered at the point of ordering the benches, costing approximately £100 each. S Webb would look at the wording.

2) Bulge on wall – High Street - update (Clerk)

Clerk reported that J Nicholson SCC had now replied indicating that their paper records show this wall was discussed in 2006. There has been no clear establishment of responsibility/ownership, the SCC Structures Department believed it was SSDC and SSDC do not believe it is theirs as they sold the land. There is no mans land from the retaining wall to the property fences shown at the Land Registry. J Nicholson had received an e mail from SSDC Building Control indicating the wall would benefit from maintenance and they will monitor it.

3) Drains/Gullies – update (Clerk)

Clerk reported that some of the drains had been emptied and checked within the Village. Some on Bowden Road and Church Hill had not been dealt with. A planned clean is due between 11th February and 2nd March, if no action is taken the matter will be chased up.

4) Clerk to update on various highway issues

Co-op parking restriction signage – Clerk reported that the Manager had indicated he had already approached Horizon and been informed that as the signage is considered a temporary structure no planning permission is required for the signs. He suggests that the Parish Council take the matter up with Horizon direct.

Road junction – Bowden Road/Westcombe – Clerk had e mailed SCC and received an acknowledgement that matter has been referred to the Traffic Team for action/advice.

Yellow junction box at the entrance to School Lane – Likewise this matter had also been referred to the Traffic Team for action/advice.

White lines to School Lane Car Park/School parking issues – Chairman opened the discussion following on from the report given by a Parishioner during the open session. The following points were made/raised: -

- Currently there is some overnight parking permitted. It was generally felt this was not generated from the yellow lines now on Yarnbarton/Station Road
- Councillors' views were equally split between those Members who thought marked spaces would have no impact on safety. Lessening the number of spaces would increase the obstruction on the road. Others were in favour of marked spaces but had concerns how the system could be regulated short of employing a full-time parking warden, which the Parish Council does not have the funds to cover. This also could lead to further complaints if vehicles are straddling the lines.
- Several spaces would have to be dedicated to mother and child/blue badges/larger vehicles so this would restrict the number of spaces that could be provided.
- It was also felt the situation could be eased if more parents could be encouraged to walk their children to and from school. The light-controlled crossing was provided, after the crossing patrol had been withdrawn, to give safe access from the western end of the Village.
- The following actions were agreed: -
  - To put off deciding on marking out parking spaces or not until more information could be obtained on costs involved
  - Ask the PCSO Will Mortimer to attend the area at school leaving times and discourage the on-street parking
  - Write to the School asking them to help by appealing to parents either to walk their children to school or at least be more considerate in their use of cars.

5) Other

Somerset Bus Partnership – update (S Webb)

S Webb reported that the next Bus Partnership meeting would take place on the 24th January. Tilia,s Transport Consultation will encourage use of bus and rail as an alternative to car usage and it is thought they would be supporting this initiative by providing bus passes, to the residents of Knights Meadow, for the first year. Clear timetables and notices are needed for the Village bus stops.

11 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (D SEARES/G WILSON)

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

The date for the open meeting was confirmed for the 26th January at 7 pm in the Village Hall. The working group are looking at having events on the 2nd and 5th of June. D Seares circulated a suggested beacon brazier produced by G Wilson. The following two options were discussed: -

- G Wilson's design for the basket would be installed on a 8"x 8" oak post, would be a permanent structure and need lighting. The estimated cost £660
- The working group had identified a portable brazier which is lit by two gas cylinders costing £490

Members discussed the options, and it was agreed to go ahead with G Wilson's design for the brazier.

G Wilson had also put forward a parade of pageant enactors, provision of first aiders, bagpipe player and maypole. It was advised that he put his proposals in writing for the meeting on the 26th January. The meeting would be advertised on D Seares Village website and the Parish Council website.

b) Other

Area East Thermal Imaging Camera – D Seares reported that he had submitted the form for the 7th to the 14th February but had not had a reply as yet.

12 FOOTPATHS REPORT (P BATCHELOR)

a) KINGTON VIEW FOOTPATH/CASTERBRIDGE PLACE – REMOVAL OF TREES – UPDATE

P Batchelor reported that she had now had a reply from Eve Wynn – Footpath Officer SCC, who has indicated that the hedge line and tree does not belong to SCC. They would only be interested in the surface of the actual footpath. It was agreed to contact Phil Poulton – Tree Officer – SSDC to arrange a site visit to give an independent assessment on the ongoing maintenance of the trees and hedge.

It was noted the Empire Farm had erected Heras fencing next to the footpath. It was reported that a private ivy hedge was encroaching on to the pavement, making it difficult to use, between the Blackmore Vale Close and the entrance to the Hamlet. Clerk was instructed to write to the owners of the property.

13 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT (C JAMES)

P Batchelor reported that there was a need for a replacement tree on the bank at the entrance to Throop Road. She suggested a substantial Oak tree from Ashridge Trees costing in the region of £100 to include stake and fixings. It was felt it could be dedicated to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

If it is decided to replace the tree. that blew down in the Churchyard, a faculty may be needed.

14 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

See 7) 4) for details of the quotation received from Tom Touton for the repairs to the Churchyard walls.

15 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

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

P Batchelor circulated her report prior to the meeting. P Batchelor reported that the shackles and chains had been greased on the junior swings and agility trail.

The quarterly inspection had been carried out by Steve Day. There is nothing showing more than low risk and items mainly relate to general wear and tear. Where the wood has partially split on the agility trail a quotation will be found for a replacement The cost of replacing the play area gates. will be investigated.

1) Purchase of rotating seesaw – Play Equipment Grant/Dikes – update

An order has been placed for a Kompan Wehopper for delivery to our installer by mid-February. Simon Williams has scheduled the 17th/18th February to install the rotating see-saw if it has arrived by then, if it is later, it will be after the 1st March. At the same time, he will check the zip wire and put up the basketball hoop. The quote for a stainless-steel basketball hoop and net amounted to £180 plus VAT and delivery.

2) Replacement Bollards/proposed knee rail – update (D Seares/P Batchelor)

A meeting with Richard Pike, to give a quote for the proposed knee rail, has been arranged for 2.30 pm on Wednesday 12th January.

3) Other

A request had been received from a Parishioner asking for permission to use a metal detector at the Recreation Ground. P Batchelor had some reservations and asked that the Groundsman be consulted. Members agreed to allow it but not on the football pitch.

B) Social Club

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

C Hukins circulated a report prior to the meeting. The Club is looking for outside seating in the sale for use in the summer and Jubilee celebrations. A provisional date of the 30th January had been set for the AGM

C) Other

1) Proposal for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Clothes Bank – Recreation Ground Car Park – Update

Clerk reported that delivery of the clothes bank had been put on hold. D Seares felt the location for the bin was inappropriate. Members felt a decision had been made at the December 2021 meeting and it should be actioned.

S Webb reported that a section of the surface in the car park at the Recreation Ground was beginning to break up and forming a pothole. D Seares would have a look at it, he thought 2 or 3 bags of cold tarmac would be sufficient to fill it in.

P Batchelor reported that C Batchelor and Groundsman would be taking the mowers to T Young for the annual service.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2022

G Kerry reported that dog fouling on the pavements was becoming a problem in the Village. It was suggested that the school could be asked to design some posters to make people aware of the issue. A prize could be awarded for the best three posters. An article would be included in the January highlights.

S Webb referred to several gravestones that had been laid down in the closed Churchyard and some of the graves were looking neglected due to no family members left to attend to them. The laying down of the gravestones meant the loses of their names and she felt that it would be good, if possible, to reinstate some of them in due course. Clerk reported that the Church do have a register of the gravestones.