ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
8th FEBRUARY 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE
1 Parishioner, William Wallace (District/County Councillor), Hayward Burt (District Councillor), Sarah Dyke (District Councillor)

Chairman opened the meeting.
Sarah Dyke – informed the meeting of the Laptops for Learners scheme. It recycles unwanted IT equipment and then donate them back to the community. 125 devices have been given out. She would be happy for the scheme to be promoted. IT equipment can be donated at www.r3cycle.co.uk where details of drop off points can be found.
Hayward Burt reported: -

- that he had copies of the information boards supplied by Magna at the recent consultation for the West Street development.
- Sherborne Road, Milborne Port will be closed for three days

William Wallace reported: -

- Somerset County Council (SCC) had published their Revenue/Capital budget ahead of the proposed unitary in 2023
- SCC element of the Council Tax will rise by 3% which include 1% social care

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
G Kerry, G Wilson, 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) 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 11TH JANUARY 2022
It was proposed by C Hukins and seconded by S Webb 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 JANUARY 2022
None

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting as discussed: -
1) PCSO Will Mortimer – crime figures – Noted.

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. - update
Clerk reported that the Planning Officer would supply a copy of the drainage document when it was available.
2) DETERMINATIONS
None
3) LAND AT COOMBE FARM WEST STREET TEMPLECOMBE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION 27.1.22
A number of Members had attended the public consultation on the 27th January which was well attended. It was felt that the access and transport are the main issues. A further public consultation will take place and it was suggested that it should run longer to allow for people to attend after working hours.
4) OTHER
No matters to report.

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: -

T J Young – Servicing and repairs to mowers and strimmers	356.02
G Wilson – refund for green oak post for Platinum Jubilee Brazier	401.32
J W Flynn – Website annual expenses – Domain, Hosting, upgrade and Support	240.00
Milborne Port Computers – Security (3 years)/Microsoft renewal for laptop	147.88
Peter Coombes Garden Service – Amended invoice 021 o/s amount for Works to churchyard, Throop Road Bank and Vine Street hedge	90.00
D Seares – refund for tarmac – pothole Recreation Ground car park	35.15
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd – Basket ball hoop	216.00
Kompan Ltd – Wehopper – Play Area	3,684.48
J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses January 2022 – Rec/Bgd/Cyd	115.00
T Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses February 2022	462.53

Following cheques received

None

Following monies received

NatWest Business Reserve Account	-	£0.17 as at 31.12.21 (£19,471.71)
NatWest Business Reserve Account (Play Area)	-	£0.01 as at 31.12.21 (£632.49)

Also - Utility Warehouse electricity account for January 2022 amounted to £43.72

2) Future Projects – update if applicable

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

A Kerry circulated a report as to progress prior to the meeting. Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) has now been signed by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk. Signed letters of permission had been obtained from the house owners who had agreed to have a pole on their property. SCC have given agreement to the type of SID the Parish Council wish to purchase. It is proposed that the project is prepared fully so that the newly elected Parish Council can authorise taking it forward at their first meeting.

b) New bench locations – update

D Seares reported that he had met with J Nicholson – SCC and had visited the locations. J Nicholson agreed to waive the S171 Licence fees and to allow a window of three months, March, April, May, for the work to be carried out. Glasdons have indicated an eight-week delay for orders and have stated the 20th April as the earliest delivery date. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by A Kerry that the order is submitted including the plaques. Wording for the plaques can be agreed nearer the time.

3) Other

No matters to report.

8 SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Village Hall sub-committee report

Clerk had circulated a copy of the minutes from the meeting held on the 24th January prior to the meeting. Work to install the new kitchen will start on the 9th February.

b) In Bloom Group – (J Carr)

P Batchelor circulated details of the proposed planting requirements and budget prior to the meeting. D Seares indicated that South Somerset District Council (SSDC) have available Environment Community Grants. Members discussed making a donation from the Parish Council, it was proposed by D Seares and seconded by A Kerry that a donation of £300.00 be made to the In Bloom group.

9 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING MODIFICATIONS (A KERRY)

Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Awaiting a date for a site meeting to discuss the proposal put forward in our letter of the 4th January. William Wallace would chase the matter up.

10 HIGHWAY MATTERS

1) New Locations for benches – update (Clerk)

Covered under Agenda item 7)2)b)

2) White lines to School Lane Car Park/School Parking issues (update)

Clerk reported that PCSO Will Mortimer had attended the school at leaving time and found only a few issues. A letter had been sent to the School and a quote had been received from Yeomarks Lining Limited, who could provide 18 parking spaces, including one disabled bay, for the sum of £510.00 excluding VAT. Chairman proposed to accept the quotation, six Members were in favour with one against. Clerk would contact Yeomarks Limited and it was suggested the work is carried out during the School's Easter holidays.

3) Clerk to update on various highway issues

Co-op parking restriction signage - Clerk had written to Horizon Parking who confirmed that they operate in compliance with BPA guidelines and will respond to any concerns raised by the District Council should the landowner receive them.

Road junction – Bowden Road/Westcombe – SCC Highways recommended the introduction of yellow lines to cover the standard 15 metres junction protection. Subject to agreement SCC would add them to the next amendment Order. Members agreed to the addition of the yellow lines being added to the Order. Clerk would reply accordingly and ask PCSO Will Mortimer to visit the area.

Wall around the Yew Tree – D Seares had raised this issue with J Nicholson – SCC. Due to staff/skill changes and shortages he did not expect the work to take place until April.

Missing Village sign (Tower Hill) – The replacement signage is programmed to be done during this financial year – end of March 2022.

4) Other

Somerset Bus Partnership – update (S Webb)

S Webb had circulated a report on the meeting held on the 24th January prior to the meeting. She highlighted some of the main points: -

- Pilots are already progressing for electric buses with solar power. These buses would be compatible with rural routes and would have a range to rollout in Somerset. Funding was due in April 2022 but is now deferred and has been cut from £3bn to £1.4bn due to the cost of maintaining existing services during Covid
- Any reduction in services to the Village need to be taken into account as to how sustainable we are when replying to planning applications
- Need to support Somerset Bus Partnership and links going forward
- Next meeting is on the 21st February.

11 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (D SEARES/G WILSON)

a) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – update

S Hood reported that the initial public meeting held on the 26th January was well attended. The working group had also held a few more meetings to look at the timetable of events. The following points were raised and discussed: -

- Any ideas should be channelled through the working group.
- It was felt that commercial trading was not appropriate but if organisations taking part wished to raise funds for their own cause that would be acceptable.
- The Social Club could consider providing ice creams.
- The Royal Scarecrow competition will be judged on the 28th May
- A design for the mugs is being provided by the school
- A budget for the Platinum Jubilee was circulated and the following points were made: -
    - ❖ The Sports and Social Club could be approached to donate the expenses for the DJ and band
    - ❖ Parish Council had now agreed to make a separate donation to the In Bloom group
    - ❖ Item not yet costed – oak tree

b) Other

Area East Thermal Imaging Camera

D Seares reported that the initiative will go ahead, he has 24 homes on his list. An additional Android device will made available for the second half of the week.

Dog Fouling Posters

Clerk reported that the school were happy to take up the project to design a poster. Mr Webb had replied asking for details of size, type of design etc. Chairman asked D Seares to have look at the requirements and come back with a suggestion to take the matter forward.

12 FOOTPATHS REPORT (P BATCHELOR)

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

P Batchelor reported that she had contacted Phil Poulton, Tree Officer for SSDC for advice about the trees along the Kington View footpath. He advised the following:

- If a Public Right of Way is obstructed then it should be logged with Somerset County Council on their online fault reporting, as they have a statutory duty to remove any obstruction.

- The current policy of the County regarding trees is that if they are healthy, they are unlikely to cause harm. Statistically, the chances of someone being hit by a falling tree are very minimal. Therefore, trees should be left where possible.
- It is worth checking the Land Registry for ownership of the land where the hedge and trees are growing. This should be done, so that if the Parish Council subsequently carry out the work, it can be said that all reasonable endeavours have been undertaken to find out to whom the land belongs.
- Once the Parish Council agree to cut a particular piece of hedge or trees, there will be the expectation that the Parish Council will undertake any future maintenance at the request of residents.
- SSDC used to act as contractors on behalf of SCC, but this is not now the case.
- Any qualified tree surgeon would give good advice on the maintenance of hedges and trees, should the Parish Council decide to go ahead with any works.
- As a county Somerset has only 4% tree cover, compared to a national average of 12%, rising to 26% in Sussex. He therefore recommended not felling trees where possible.

Since receiving that advice, Clerk has checked the Land Registry and from the plan it would appear that the hedge along the Kington View footpath does not belong to Casterbridge Place.

The streetlight has again been logged with SCC as only working intermittently. At the same time, a request has been made for them to remove the branch which has grown up around the streetlight to improve the lighting of the footpath and the stone steps.

Members agreed, considering the above report, that no further action should be taken at this time. A Greene would now be asked to carry out the annual cut of the hedge along the footpath. A resident of Kington View, who has concerns over the tree overhanging the footpath, informed the meeting that his insurance company had intimated it may affect his insurance cover. Chairman asked him to forward any information to the Parish Council as further consideration may need to be given to the matter. Chairman stated that the Parish Council would be happy for the residents of Casterbridge Place to carry out any cutting back on their side of the boundary.

b) OTHER

P Batchelor had reported the poor state of the wooden pedestrian gates across the railway on footpath WN/29/2 to Network Rail. They are checked every three months and are due for replacement at the end of 2022.

13 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT (C JAMES)

C James had no problems to report and suggested checking the trees in March/April.

14 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

No matters to report.

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. The following matters were reported: -

- A quotation had been obtained for sports fencing to go around three sides of the MUGA/ basketball court, 3 metres in hight from CLD Fencing Systems – supply on £4,456.28. A further £4,500.00 would need to be allowed for installation. It was felt this could be considered in connection with the 106 Agreement for the West Street development and include the lining and surface.
- Chairman thanked D Seares for filling in the pothole in the car park

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

Scheduled delivery date of seesaw to installer 18th February, he can carry out the installation on 3rd and 4th March. He will also put up the new basketball hoop.

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

A quotation has been received to replace the existing posts with wooden knee rails from Mr Richard Pike as follows: -

Materials - £3,695
Labour - £3,895
Excluding VAT

It was proposed by A Kerry and seconded by S Webb that the quotation be accepted, provided the installation could be carried out prior to the Platinum celebrations and the height could be slightly reduced. Members present were in agreement. D Seares suggested grants should be investigated.

3) Other

No matters to report.

B) Social Club

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

C Hukins reported that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on the 9th February.

C) Other

No matters to report.

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

Several Councillors had received Phishing emails. S Webb suggested emails could be reported to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). Training is also available report@phishing.gov.uk

A meeting with the Groundman would take place on Saturday 11.30 am at the Recreation Ground to discuss preparations for the Platinum celebrations and the position of the beacon.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm Signed R Cave dated 8.3.22