ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
12th APRIL 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE
6 Parishioners, Mr William Wallace (District/County Councillor)

Chairman commenced the open session. Mr William Wallace made the following comments: -

- Elections would be held on the 5th May.
- 18 million had been budgeted for Adult Social Care and 8.4 million for Schools. No monies would be borrowed
- Bus Partnership funding now allocated. Some authorities did not receive any finance assistance
- Highways had intimated how they are going to address build out 4
- He had contacted the Footpath Office at Somerset County Council (SCC) with regard to liaising with Mr Phil Poulton in connection with the trees adjacent to Casterbridge Place
- The energy payment of £150.00, payable up to a Band D property, will be paid back through the Council Tax but he was not sure of the timescale.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
G Wilson, PCSO Will Mortimer, Mr Hayward Burt (District Councillor), S Hood

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 10) 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 8th MARCH 2022
It was proposed by C James 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 8TH MARCH 2022
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting as discussed: -
1) NALC correspondence (Circulated to Members prior to the meeting)
Smaller Councils 11.3.22 – No specific issues to feed back to NALC
Ukraine 14.3.22 – Members agreed to signing up. Chairman to action.
2) Elections – update – Chairman read out e mail dated 7.4.22 giving details of steps to take when co-opting where a Council has vacancies to fill.

6 KINGTON VIEW FOOTPATH/CASTERBRIDGE PLACE – REMOVAL OF TREES – UPDATE
1) Response from adjacent resident – email dated 17.2.22 (Deferred from March 2022 Meeting)
Prior to the meeting a copy of the replies, provided by P Batchelor, Chairman and Clerk, to the questions raised by a resident of Casterbridge Place had been circulated to Members and the resident.
The ownership of the area of trees had not been established. It was felt the Parish Council should take advice from an expert. A Kerry referred to the report from the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) Tree Officer Mr Phil Poulton, and it was strongly felt that he should be asked to visit the site and give his professional opinion on the condition of the trees. Mr William Wallace had previously indicated that he had been approached on the matter and had contacted Mr Poulton. Chairmen felt that the Parish Council should make direct contact with Mr Poulton as to a site meeting. Also, SCC Highways should be asked if they will clear the dropped leaves from the footpath at the appropriate time of the year. For the future it should be established, when looking at planning applications with adjoining boundaries, where responsibility for them falls.
S Webb suggested that if Mr Poulton comse out for a site visit he should also look at the planting on the bund at Slades Hill.

The following comments were made by the neighbouring residents who were present: -

- If the group of four trees were deemed to be healthy, he would be happy for them to remain
- Adjacent resident would investigate having a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) put on the main tree of concern

6 PLANNING

1) Applications (if applicable – received since publication of the agenda that require a decision prior to the next meeting)

a) Application no 22/00754/S73A - S73A application to vary condition 6 to allow revised design of the surface water drainage system relating to planning approval 20/03243/FUL – Demolish of Farm buildings and domestic garage and erect three detached houses and two semi-detached dwellings, garages with parking and amend field access – Coombe Farm West Street

Members considered the above application. The change was not clear, it now appeared the drain was more in front of one of the dwellings. It was considered "before" and "after" details would be appreciated. Members had no objections.

b) Application no 22/00839/S73A – S37A application to vary Condition 01 (approved drawings) of reserved matters consent 19/03409/REM to include material amendments to the Porch of Plot 2 – Land opposite the Orchard Combe Hill Templecombe

It was noted that only one of the dwellings was being progressed. Members had no objections.

2) Determinations (if applicable)

Application no 22/00509/HOU – Single storey extension – 24 Brines Orchard Templecombe **(Granted)**

3) Other

No matters to report.

8) REPORTS

a) Village Hall

Prior to the meeting Chairman had circulated an e mail giving details of the meeting held with Mr Parkinson LLP as suggested by SALC in respect of the management of the Village Hall. Guidance has also been sought from the Solicitor at Batten and Co who dealt with the surrender of lease. Two options had been given by Mr Parkinson: -

- Act as if the surrender had never happened. The charitable committee have continued to run the Village Hall and the Parish Council have not been involved with the running of the building. The Parish Council needs to establish whether it could simply let the original lease term expire and then offer a new lease.
- Act as if the surrender has happened. The Parish Council has no entitlement to access funds in the trust accounts and cannot use them to fund the kitchen works. The Trustees would still have to submit a return to the Charity Commission. If the Parish Council wants the charity to run the Village Hall again it will need to issue a new lease and start again

The charity can only spend any funds on the Village Hall. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by D Seares that the Contractors invoice for the kitchen refurbishment should be settled by the Parish Council. All Members agreed.

b) In Bloom Group – (J Carr)

Work was continuing in preparation for the Platinum Jubilee displays on a regular basis.

9) ACCOUNTING MATTERS

1) To approve accounts and sign cheques

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

A R Hunt – Installation of Village Hall Kitchen	16,330.91
N F U Mutual – Insurance renewal 2022/23 – Tractor	136.11
S Webb – Refund for the purchase of Platinum Jubilee mugs	683.76
Martin Haskett Agricultural Contractors Ltd – hedge cutting Churchyard Boundary hedge	114.00
Andrew Greene – gutter cleaning/repairs – Village Hall	70.00
Elite Playground Inspections – April quarterly inspection fee = Recreation Ground	38.40

J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses March 2022 – Rec/Bgd/Cyd 385.00
T Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses April 2022 437.55

Following cheques received
SSE Wayleave payment – 2022/23 15.61
Sports and Social Club – Water refunds 419.33

Online Payment (automatic credit)
HMRC Vat payment - £2,323.77

Transfer
From NatWest Business Reserve Account (Play Area) to Current Account - £550.00

Following monies received

NatWest Business Reserve Account - £0.15 as at 28.2.22 (£19,472.03)
NatWest Business Reserve Account
(Play Area) - £0.00 as at 11.3.22 (£82.50)

Also Direct Debit payments - Utility Warehouse electricity account for March 2022 amounted to £43.38
Biffa Waste Payments 21.2.22 - £43.68 21.3.22 - £43.68

Chairman also reported receipt of the following amounts direct to the current account: -

- SSDC – Precept 2022/23 - £30,199
- SSDC – CIL payment – Land at Slades Hill - £9,143.87
- SSDC – CIL payment – Coombe Farm West Street - £1,002.56

2) Review of Internal Controls
A copy of the internal controls had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by C Hukins that the internal controls be agreed.

3) Future Projects – update if applicable
a) Vehicle Activated Speed Signs/Speed Indicator Devices (SID) (A Kerry)
A Kerry reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had now been received signed by the representatives of SCC Traffic. This means that the next Parish Council in May will be in a position to implement the SID project i.e. having posts installed, training volunteers etc. A grant from the Police can also be applied for in due course.
b) New bench locations – update (D Seares)
D Seares reported that delivery of the benches is due at the end of April. Gartells are going to pre-cast the concrete pads and plan to deliver them on the 23rd April. D Seares will meet with P Batchelor and Groundsman to confirm the locations for the two new benches at the Recreation Ground and would hope to be able to install the benches during the last week of April/first week of May.
4) Other
No matters to report.

10 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING MODIFICATIONS (A KERRY)
A Kerry had circulated a report of his and the Chairmans meeting with SCC Highways on the 18th March to discuss the options for Build Out 4 on the High Street. The options are: -

- SCC proposes to remove the Build Out and create a 5m carriageway in the centre of the road space. They will remove the centre line
- SCC will replace the lit bollard on its own foundation with a different bollard on the new carriageway line
- SCC will remove the Give Way signs and replace with "oncoming traffic in the middle of the road"
- They propose to delineate the cottages carriageway line with "cats eye studs" so drivers know if they are close to the cottages. They want to retain the "overrun" on the carriageway lines
- They accept that two HGVs will not be able to pass at the cottages but believe the proposed carriageway will lessen the "kink" in the carriageway
- They informed us that addressing the issue of parking outside the flats is not their responsibility and we need to discuss this with Traffic – who cover the TROs and yellow lines
- This design has been audited by their road safety group and they believe it is safer than the original position prior to the build out

A Kerry reported further that he had spoken with Kerry Jones SCC Highways who had agreed to put forward the inclusion of continuing bollard posts, to provide bollard protection for the cottages, like the ones by Home Farm.
It was agreed that the Parish Council should take up the matter of the parking outside of the flats as this may take longer to instigate. Members were in favour for A Kerry to take the matter up with SCC – Traffic.

11 HIGHWAY MATTERS

1) Clerk to update on various highway issues if applicable

It was noted that a section of the boundary wall, on the High Street opposite the collapsed wall, was also showing signs of bulging. Clerk would inform SCC Highways.

2) Other

Somerset Bus Partnership – update (S Webb)

S Webb reported that the funding received, by the Somerset Bus Partnership, was substantially less than expected and prioritisation will need to be given to its allocation. The Bus company will be subsidised for loss of passengers due to Covid 19. Going forward there is a need to encourage bus travel wherever possible.

12 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (D SEARES/G WILSON)

a) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – update

A Jubilee report and updated schedule of events was circulated prior to the meeting: -
The following points were noted: -

- Details of the Scarecrow competition and Templecombe Treat Cake competition
- 180 mugs had been ordered for delivery at the end of April
- Wet weather plan needed
- Risk assessments and insurance would need to be investigated
- Parking at the Recreation Ground
- Additional costs will be incurred for fixing the brazier to the pole

b) Other

D Seares had no matters to report.

13 FOOTPATHS REPORT (P BATCHELOR)

P Batchelor reported that there were no issues at present, and she would still be happy to look after the footpaths, after standing down from the Parish Council.

14 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT (C JAMES)

C James had no report but would be carrying out an annual inspection in due course.

15 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

No matters to report.

16 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

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

Report circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were noted: -

- Quarterly inspection had been carried out It did not show any fresh concerns and all risks were rated low
- Two quotes had been obtained for fencing three sides of the basketball court: -
  CLD Fencing Systems - £5,246.96 supply and delivery of materials. Excluding VAT
  Zaun Ltd - £5,333.09 supply and delivery of materials. Excluding VAT
  PlayUK (Playgrounds) Ltd - £1,450 excluding VAT to install the above.
  Funding could be sourced from CIL monies and SSDC Community Grant.
- The WeHopper see saw had developed a squeak when rotating. This would be followed up with the manufacturers Kompan.
- Playground Covid 19 notices had been removed

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

P Batchelor reported that the work would now commence at 8 am on the 19th April

2) Other

S Webb expressed her thanks to P Batchelor and G Kerry for all their work on the Footpaths, Recreation Ground and Play Area over the many years. The new equipment installed is a tribute to them.

B) Social Club

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

C Hukins reported that he and S Hood attended the meeting held on 5th April. No meeting was held in March. Their current project is to provide hot water in the toilet wash basins. AGM date to be confirmed. Date of next meeting 3rd May.

C) Other
No matters to report.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 10th MAY 2022. This meeting will commence with the Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7 pm with the usual monthly meeting following on.
Chairman expressed his personal thanks to P Batchelor and G Kerry for their time on the Parish Council and for their work with the Recreation Ground and Footpaths. P Batchelor indicated that she would still be prepared to monitor the footpaths.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm signed R Cave dated 10.5.22