ABBAS AND TEMPLECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting held on the
14th JUNE 2022

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

IN ATTENDANCE
3 Parishioners, Nicola Clark (County Councillor)

Chairman opened the meeting and invited the Parishioners present to report any matters.

A Parishioner wished to report information regarding the collapsed wall on the A357 (High Street) at appropriate point in the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
A Kerry, S Hood, G Wilson, Mr Hayward Burt (District Councillor), PCSO Tim Russell

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS
S Webb declared her dispensation in respect of Slades Hill development. D Seares declared an interest in the Slades Hill development if the matter is mentioned during the meeting. S Webb had now completed a new Dispensation.

3 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 10th MAY 2022 AND ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 10TH MAY 2022
It was proposed by S Webb and seconded by C Hukins that the draft Minutes, as previously circulated, from the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th May 2022, be agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.
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4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 10TH MAY 2022
None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE
Received since the last meeting as discussed: -
1) Somerset County Council – Councillor's Report – Councillors Sarah Dyke and Nicola Clark – June 2022
Noted.

6 PLANNING

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

a) Application no 22/01132/S73A – Vary condition 2 – Coombe Farm West Street – To allow change of design to extend dwelling on Plot 2 relating to planning approval 20/03243/FUL
Members discussed the above application and raised no planning objections.

b) Application no 22/01431/S73 – S73 Application to vary condition 2 of approval 17/02551/FUL – 2 dwellings to allow change to design – Land OS 4148 Pt Lily Lane Templecombe
Members discussed the above application and raised no planning objections.

c) Application no 22/00748/FUL – Land adjoining The Orchard Combe Hill – Erection of a Single storey dwelling and widening the existing vehicular access
S Webb made the following observations: -

- Proposed development would be using the existing access on the A357
- Development will further extend the boundaries of the Village
- There is already development opposite the proposed application
- No pavement access to the Village is no longer a barrier to permission
- Mix of housing styles and types

Members discussed the application and felt there was no planning reason to object to this development and therefore were in support of application no 22/00748/FUL.

2) Determinations (if applicable)
None.

3) Other
No matters to report.

7) REPORTS

a) Village Hall – Lease/Deed of Surrender

Chairman reported that he had now heard from Battens Solicitors and proposed negotiating a new lease with the Village Hall charity, on the terms of the previous lease, to include the following: -

- A term of 25 years
- £5.00 peppercorn rent
- Parish Council continue to insure the Village Hall and carry out maintenance/repairs to the exterior of the building
- Village Hall charity to maintain/repair interior of the building

Chairman will talk to the Village Hall Committee and propose that the Solicitors costs are split 50/50. Chairman proposed the terms stated above, seconded by S Webb. Members agreed.

b) In Bloom Group – (J Carr)

Chairman expressed his thanks and those of the Members to Julie Carr and in the In Bloom group for the flowers planted in the Village for the Platinum Jubilee.

8) Matters for update/information/discussion

a) SALC – Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct

Circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Chairman commented that it did not vary much from the current Code of Conduct, but it was easier to understand. It was proposed by R Cave and seconded by S Webb that the model Code of Conduct be adopted by the Parish Council.

b) South East Somerset Pilot Local Community Networks Launch – Meeting held on the 19.5.22

Chairman reported that he and Clerk had attended meeting held on the 19th May and made the following observations:-

- The intentions of the event were good, not sure what the group are seeking to achieve
- Lack of organisation especially in the breakout groups
- Speakers concentrated on their own specific subjects

Nicola Clark asked Chairman to put his views in writing to her. The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 29th June 6.30 pm at Caryford Hall, Castle Cary. D Seares would like to attend. Clerk may also be able to attend.

9) ACCOUNTING MATTERS

1) To approve accounts and sign cheques

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

Information Commissioner – Renewal of GDPR 2022/23	40.00
Michelle Greene – Refund for prizes for design of Jubilee Mug	32.00
Topregal UK Limited – 3 x hand dryers (Village Hall)	719.64
Direct365Online Limited – baby changer unit (Village Hall)	271.19
Marshall's Metal Fabrications Ltd – materials Jubilee beacon	300.00
Vale Signs and Print – A4 Footpath sign – Bowden Rd	15.00
Mrs P Batchelor – Refund for chains/padlocks = Recreation Ground	53.03
J Pratt (Groundsman) – Salary/Expenses May 2022 – Rec/Bgd/Cyd	470.00
T Chapman (Clerk) – Salary/Expenses June 2022	543.47

Following cheques received

None

Online Payment (automatic credit)

James Morgan-Yates £15.00 (Payment for A4 Footpath sign – Bowden Road
South Somerset District Council – CIL payments – Slades Hill/Coombe Farm - £10,146.43

Transfers

None

Following monies received

NatWest Business Reserve Account	-	£1.35 as at 29.4.22 (£19,473.55)
NatWest Business Reserve Account (Play Area)	-	£0.01 as at 29.4.22 (£82.52)

Also Direct Debit payments - Utility Warehouse electricity account for May 2022 amounted to £35.79
Biffa Waste Payments 23.5.22 - £43.68

2) Future Projects – update if applicable

a) Vehicle Activated Speed Signs/Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) (A Kerry) – Update if applicable

A Kerry had circulated his report prior to the meeting. Chairman reported that no response had been received yet from the grant application submitted with Avon and Somerset Police.

3) Donations 2022/2023

Clerk reported that a donation of £650 had been made to SSCAT during 2021/22. Chairman proposed an increase of 10% for 2022/23 making a total of £710, Members agreed. Further donations had been made in November 2021/22 as follows: -

- Poppy Appeal - £150
- Village Christmas lunch - £250
- Citizens Advice - £250

It was agreed to maintain the support for the above in 2022/23
S Webb referred to the Somerset Household Support Fund that is designed to provide financial support to vulnerable households who are struggling to afford household essentials by providing shopping vouchers and help with energy bills.

4) On-line Banking Arrangements (R Cave)

Chairman had circulated an update prior to the meeting. After further research and speaking with Justin Robinson at SALC. It would be possible for the Clerk (and in their absence the Chairman) to be authorised to set up payments with any other two Councillors to authorise the payments. It is felt the best option would be to use Unity Trust. It was proposed by R Cave and seconded by S Webb that the Parish Council should further investigate this option and not to change the Financial Regulations until we go to online banking. Agreed by all Members present.

5) Other

Chairman reported that the Clerk had been contacted by Easy2switch UK Ltd with a current electricity price with EDF. The unit price quoted was 32.9p with a standing charge of £7.50 a month fixed for 3 years. The current rate, from the 1st June, with Utility Warehouse is 47.008p. It was proposed by R Cave and seconded by C Hukins that the Clerk should initially speak with Utility Warehouse to see if there was a chance of having a deal with them, if not it was agreed to take up the EDF deal for a fixed rate for three years.

10 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC CALMING MODIFICATIONS (A KERRY)

A Kerry had circulated his report prior to the meeting detailing the proposed modifications Somerset County Councils (SCC) have suggested for build out 4. It is proposed to completely remove build out 4 and replace it with a 5m wide carriageway in the middle of the space along with accompanying additions to achieve the modification. A Kerry suggested the following proposals to potentially take the matter forward as follows: -

1 We ask SCC to reduce the carriageway width from 5.0m to 4.5m in front of the cottages to match elsewhere in the High Street – this would allow the space in front of the cottages to be increased. In addition, we should ask for the carriageway line to maintain its distance from the buildings until after Pimpernel Cottage
2 We continue to request bollards instead of 'road studs' as the demarcation of the road line
3 We follow up with Traffic Management to get the parking removed as per above before we ask for the Build Out to be removed
4 We ask our new representatives on the Unitary Council to become involved to support us

Nicola Clark reported that her and Sarah Dyke are trying to arrange a site visit with SCC and wish to be involved with the matter.
The Members present agreed for A Kerry to go back to SCC with the above proposals.

11 HIGHWAY MATTERS

1) Clerk to update on various highway issues if applicable

Collapsed wall on the A357 High Street – A resident of Kington View reported that the question of whose responsibility the wall rested with is still an issue. SCC had approached him for the possible use of his garden, they had been in touch with the owner who is contesting ownership and indicating the responsibility is with the owners of the three bungalows, who have sought legal advice.

Now a section of the retaining wall on the other side of the road is also showing signs of collapsing there is a risk the road will have to be totally closed if the situation gets worse. Barriers have now been put along the section and the walkway adjusted on the side of the original collapse. Nicola Clark and Sarah Dyke would like to be kept up to date with the matter. Clerk would contact SCC Highways for an update.

Yew tree wall -The wall repairs are still outstanding and were due to be carried out in the budget for 2001/22. Clerk to contact SCC for an update.

2) Other

Somerset Bus Partnership – update (S Webb)

a) Bus Report June 2022/Somerset Bus Service Improvement Plan Funding

S Webb circulated a Bus Report prior to the meeting. The following points were noted: -

- SCC were awarded a grant of 11.9m in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) funding over three years from the Department of Transport
- Yeovil to Templecombe service no longer direct
- Further cuts envisaged in October. Presently no amendments to the service in Templecombe
- More encouragement is needed to promote bus use. Suggestions – printed timetables delivered to the Village, inclusion on website, check any timetables already on websites are in date, have copies available in the shops
- Promote sustainable travel in 106 Agreements
- Presently no integrated ticket system

12 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (D SEARES/G WILSON)

a) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations – update

Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Councillors, volunteers and all those who attended the events during the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. S Webb suggested having a meeting to establish what went well and what could be improved for future events of this nature.

b) Other

Overhanging hedges – D Seares reported that he had received a complaint about an overgrown hedge on the footpath/walkway between Alexander Court and West Street. It was agreed that initially a letter should be written to the owners of the adjacent house whose responsibility the hedge is.

The overhanging ivy on the wall of a property in the Hamlet is causing issues for people using the pavement on Slades Hill. Again, it was initially felt a letter should be sent to the house owners.

13 FOOTPATHS REPORT

No matters to report.

14 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT (C JAMES)

Hedge/oak trees outside of Rachel's Stables, Temple Lane – Chairman read out e mail received from the owner asking for permission to cut back the hedge behind the oak trees, as the hedge/brambles are now growing through the oak trees and remove some of the lower branches to aid visibility. Permission had previously been given by SSDC and the Parish Council for the owner to maintain the grass verge. Members had no objection to the maintenance being carried out by the owner, as stated at her own expense.

Platinum Jubilee tree – this will be planted in October.

15 BURIAL GROUND/CLOSED CHURCHYARD REPORT (CLERK)

Clerk reported that Mrs H Berry could not carry on with maintaining the rose bed in the burial ground. It was suggested that the In Bloom group be approached to see if they could take on the rose bed maintenance.

It was noted that the top surface of the wooden gates from the Churchyard on to the A357 is cracking. Clerk will ask Mr A Berry to see if he able to suggest a repair.

16 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS/CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

A) Play Area Report

Chairman circulated a report prior to the meeting. C Batchelor would have a look at the tractors oil leak reported by the Groundsman. The WeHopper had been greased by Kompan and would need further greasing every two to three months or when it starts to make a noise. To accomplish this the apparatus must be dismantled. Simon Williams is happy to take on the job when he attends to inspect the zip wire.

D Seares indicated that he would be happy to take on the open spaces.

1) Other

Chairman thanked the group who took down the bunting at the Recreation Ground/Social Club.

B) Social Club

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

C Hukins had circulated a report prior to the meeting. He had attended the meeting held on the 13th June. The AGM would take place on Sunday 26th June. A further AGM will be held in December.

C) Other

S Webb reported that there were several broken bottles in the car park. They had been smashed to remove security tops it was thought that some of them had been taken from the Co-op. This was an anti-social act and theft issue. Clerk would inform the PCSO.

18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY 12TH JULY 2022

Members of the public were asked to leave the meeting at this point

a) Co-option of three Parish Councillors

Members considered the two applications received, which were circulated prior to the meeting, Members agreed to the co-option of Mr P Bassett and Mr D Savage. Clerk would inform them and invite them to the July meeting.