

**Minutes of the Meeting of Meare Parish Council
Held on Monday 18th July 2022, 7.30pm in the Chapel**

Public participation

Present: Cllrs Bennetts (Chair), Field, C. Foster, Gage, Hoskins, James, Neale, Richards, Winters, Wren and the Clerk Gerard Tucker

In attendance: Cllr Heather Shearer and 11 members of public

Mr Stephen Lynas requested the opportunity to speak to the Council during public participation. He requested that the council give due consideration to requesting that a Asset of Community Value (ACV) be applied to the Bird In Hand public house in Westhay. Many questions seeking an understanding of any liabilities, the process of application and timeframes involved were raised. Cllr C Foster proposed, seconded by Cllr James and unanimously **AGREED** that the clerk is to write to Ian Munday at Mendip DC and ask that an application for an ACV at the Bird in Hand is considered.

2022/

- 101. Apologies** were received from Cllr T Foster who is currently isolating due to a family member having contracted Covid 19. Cllr Wyke (SCC) sent her apologies.
- 102. Minutes of the previous meeting.** Following a small correction regarding the detail of which Councillor proposed that a new marquee is discussed at a future meeting, the minutes were considered accurate and were approved by the Council before being signed by the Chair.
- 103. Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
- 104. Summary of actions from the previous meeting**
The clerk informed of the progress with each of the actions raised at the previous meeting:
 - a. Cllr Field met with Somerset Forge who have quoted £395 to supply and fit a new shorter finger to the existing post at the junction of Burtle Road and Shapwick Road. The clerk is to contact Bannell Engineering to seek an alternative quote. Based on the information provided, Cllr Field proposed, seconded by Cllr Hoskins and unanimously **AGREED** to proceed with the lowest quote received.
 - b. New litter bin to be installed. The clerk has met with Ray Adlam who informed that as the new fencing is imminent at the Westhay picnic area, that the installation of the bin is completed after the fence has been erected. Councillors resolved to accept this recommendation.
 - c. Clerk to follow up drains clearance correspondence with County Highways. Cllr Shearer is to follow this one up with Mike Rigby at County Hall, as we appear to be making no progress with Mendip Highways in getting this issue resolved.
 - d. Clerk to prepare a short summary of the speed monitoring of Homeway Farm corner for the parish magazine – action completed
 - e. Shaun Roberts be invited to quote for pending works on the Playing Field. The clerk has now received a mobile telephone number for Shaun and will be contacting him very soon.
 - f. Clerk to write to organisers of Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee celebrations to thank them for their input. **Action completed**
- 105. County and District Councillor reports** Cllr Shearer provided an overview of the new council, Particularly the formation of Local Community Networks, for which no budget has been allocated and no guidance provided on how parishes may engage.

Cllr Shearer has the portfolio for Adult and Social Care in county and continues to hold responsibility for Community Health and Services within Mendip DC. She agreed to support Meare PC with the issue of blocked drains and the clerk is to forward information

106. Highways updates

- a. The signage at Stileway needs to be replaced as it has faded. The road markings at the junction with the Glastonbury Road also needs to be addressed.
- b. Overgrown foliage on Ashcott Road is causing problems, particularly to high sided vehicles. The clerk was asked to write to the Avalon Marshes Partnership in an attempt to get them involved in reducing the problems in this area. It is acknowledged that there are other landowners in the vicinity where it may prove difficult to obtain a response.
- c. Additional speed camera mounting posts in Westhay. The clerk is to liaise with Roger Stacey and Cllr Tristan Foster to identify the locations for the suggested camera posts and sanction the works. It was suggested that the requirement for an additional Speed Indicator Device (SID) be discussed at the next meeting in September.
- d. Picnic area fencing and replacement litter bin. The clerk has spoken to Ray Adlam who in turn is to press Winsley White to undertake the job of erecting the fencing at this location. The replacement rubbish bin will be located at an appropriate place within the site.

107. Parish Matters including:

- a) Playing Field secure container storage** There are two storage containers and a lockable garage on the playing field. It was clarified that the containers do not belong to the Parish Council, although a grant had been awarded to MPAG to assist with their purchase.
- b) Vandalism at the Playing Field – cctv monitoring.** Sadly, recent incidents of vandalism have resulted in damage to a table and the petanque court. The cctv system has been checked and it transpires that there is additional work required on the equipment. Two HDMI cables need to be purchased. There is also the need to prepare and refresh the councils policy on cctv provision. Further, those who manage the system would benefit by obtaining a DBS check. The detail of the original purchase is to be shared with Cllrs James, Bennetts and Hoskins. The three parish councillors with responsibilities for the cctv camera are Cllrs James, Richards and Hoskins.
- c) Village Hall and Playing Field Committee.** The removal of the youth shelter is not without its problems as there is a large amount of concrete affixed to each leg. Cllr Neale agreed to visit the shelter and determine if he had adequate equipment to cut the fixings to remove the concrete.
- d) Parish Council and Village Hall working party.** A discussion on the purpose of a working party concluded that the Parish Council wishes to support the Village Hall and Playing Field Committee as best it can to provide a facility for the village. Cllr James proposed, seconded by Cllr Neale and unanimously agreed by councillors to organise jointly fundraising event/s in support of the village hall. This idea met with a warm response and it was resolved that representatives from both organisations would meet before September to consider this matter further. Cllr Wren is to circulate a letter sent to the clerk to all councillors which portrays the appropriate way to proceed as a council involving itself with the village hall.
- e) To consider purchasing a marquee to support village events.** There was insufficient time to consider this item which if required be revisited at a future meeting.

108. Review of the parish asset register. For insurance purposes, there is no need to record items that have a value of less than £250.00. Cllrs James and Bennetts have recently reviewed the list and have made numerous suggestions on its revision. The suggested changes are to be given to the clerk who, after amending the register will recirculate it to Councillors for their input.

109. Complying with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations). Whilst there was insufficient time to discuss this item in full, it was **AGREED** that Councillors Field and T Foster are to assist the clerk in researching the appropriate measures that need to be implemented to ensure compliance with the regulations.

110. Review of Financial Regulations Policy. Two small amendments are required on the draft prepared by the clerk. Cllr Foster proposed, Cllr Field seconded and it was unanimously **AGREED** that the revised Financial Regulations policy be adopted. The main changes are that the amendments now agreed allows the council to consider on-line banking.

111. Finances

Invoices to be paid.

Payment	Amount £
Malcolm Sweet	970.00
Somerset Association Local Councils	358.00
Steve Edwards – website support	164.00
Clerk’s salary	808.85
Clerk’s expenses	104.47

112. Correspondence – none received that has not already been distributed

113. Summary of Actions

- a. Meare Parish Council to apply to Mendip DC for the Bird in Hand, Westhay to be considered as an Asset of Community Value.
- b. Write to the Occupiers of 2 & 4 Sunnymede to raise concerns about their overgrown hedges
- c. Write to the Avalon Marshes Partnership and request that trees and foliage is cut back on the Ashcott Road.
- d. Cllr Wren to circulate correspondence on local authorities involvement with a CIO.
- e. The Village Hall committee and representatives of the Parish Council to meet to discuss fund raising.
- f. To amend the detail of committee responsibilities on the parish website.
- g. The clerk to research the detail of the original cctv installation.
- h. Cllr Neale to assess the cutting up of the youth shelter into disposable size parts.
- i. The clerk to inform County Highways of the raised drain cover concern on the Glastonbury Road near Turnbridge.
- j. Cllr T Foster to liaise with Roger Stacey to install additional posts in the parish to host the Speed Indicator Device.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th September, 7.30pm in the Chapel

Signed Dated 19th September 2022
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