

**Minutes of the Meeting of Meare Parish Council**  
**Held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7.30pm in the Chapel**

**Public participation**

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

**In attendance:** 13 members of the public. Cllr Heather Shearer.

**Public Participation**

Edwin Hoskins presented to the council on behalf of the young people of the parish. He informed that there continues to be a strong resolve to fund raise towards youth facilities with a successful car wash, table top and cake sale and a planned race night in May. To date, £1,635 has been raised. The enthusiasm of the youths was endorsed with a round of applause.

**2022/23**

**168. Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Ros Wyke.

**169. Minutes of the previous meeting.** The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were considered accurate by majority and were signed by the Chair.

**170. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Wren declared an interest in agenda item 7c, Village Hall draw down loan agreement. Cllr Bennetts declared an interest in agenda item 10c as the applicant is a personal friend. Cllr C Foster declared an interest in agenda item 7a as he has led the tendering process for works at the playing field. Cllrs James and Gage declared an interest in agenda item 7d as they are members of the Meare and Westhay Fundraising Team.

**171. Summary of actions from the previous meeting – all completed.**

- The Clerk to organize a site visit at the junction of Shapwick Road and Burtle Road to view sign post
- The Clerk to purchase 15m of fencing for erection behind the goal on the Eastern side of the playing field.
- The Clerk to explore the cost of purchasing the gates from Somerton Town Council
- The Clerk to circulate the tender documents for works at the Playing Field to prospective interested parties.
- The Clerk to summarise the advice and guidance provided by numerous organisations with respect to the conditions for drawing down the loan from the Parish Council
- The Clerk to organize a site visit to the Avalon Marshes to view the recently submitted planning application site.

**172. County and District Councillor reports**

Cllr Heather Shearer informed that we are now close to the closure of Mendip DC and that whilst

All jobs will be transferred to the new organisation, there are concerns among staff as to their future employment with the new authority. It is expected that in the future, parish and town councils will be able to recommend planning applications are referred to the Planning Board for decision,

removing the input of the divisional member. The long awaited sign at Wheelwright's Terrace is held up as there is a requirement to have a number of signs created at the same time to save costs.

### **173. Highways**

A site visit was held at the location of Burtle Road and Shapwick Road. It was concluded that a decision of the council cannot be revisited within six months. Parishioners are to be informed of the decision of the council through an article prepared by the Parish Clerk to be included in the next parish magazine.

Cllr C Foster raised concerns about the number of potholes that are located on Glastonbury Road at Turnbridge. The clerk is to report these to the Highways Authority.

**Action:** The clerk to report the potholes at this location

Cllr T Foster raised an observation that a hedge at 54, St Mary's Road, Meare has overgrown the pavement making passage difficult. The Clerk was asked to write to the occupier and request that the hedge is cut back and maintained.

**Action:** The clerk to write to the occupier and request that hedge maintenance is carried out.

### **174. Parish Matters including:**

#### **a. Trench and Fencing in the playing field – receipt of tenders.**

Despite circulating the information to 16 prospective contractors, only two quotations were received, plus an estimate for the proposed works. Cllr James proposed, seconded by Cllr T Foster **AGREED** by majority to accept the quote from Justin Linham to undertake only the hedge cutting a tree works element of the contract at a cost of £1,650.

The contract to undertake the drainage part of the contract is to be considered at the March meeting of the council. 10-0-1

#### **b. Other playing field related matters.**

##### **Fencing**

The clerk informed that fencing from First Fence has been ordered and is to be delivered in the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Neale offered to receive and store the goods, making them more secure and easier to handle. Cllr Field offered to enquire if Shaun Roberts would be prepared to install the fencing. It was proposed by Cllr Field, seconded by Cllr T Foster that Mr Roberts and unanimously **AGREED** that a sum of £350 be set aside for completion of the works, with the Parish Council purchasing materials (postcrete) to complete the task. In the event that Mr Roberts is unable to complete this task, then a community team will be encouraged to undertake the work required. 11-0-0

##### **Gates**

Cllr Neale has offered to collect the two gates that the clerk has negotiated from Somerton Town Council in early March.

##### **Terms and conditions**

Following the concern raised by a parishioner regarding the use of the Playing Field for King Charles III Coronation, in particular the expected charge for the hire of the facility, it was **RESOLVED** that the terms and conditions for using the playing field are to be presented to the March meeting of the council for consideration and possible amendment.

### **Electricity supply to container**

Cllr James offered to arrange for a qualified electrician to visit the site and ensure that the supply is both safe and accessible. There may be a requirement to remove some items and

Cllr C Foster is to liaise with Colin Westover, the previous electrician used on the site.

**Key holders**

It was suggested that a list of key holders to the containers is compiled, as at present, many people seem to have access, which reduces the security of the site.

**c. Village Hall and Playing Field progress report.**

Cllr Wren informed that the annual general meeting of the Trustees is to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Parishioners are encouraged to put themselves forward for the committee, in recognition of the enormous amount of work to be.

The clerk presented a Confidentiality Agreement for councillors to sign. Cllr Wren requested that the draft agreement is approved by the Village Hall committee. This item was deferred until the next meeting in March.

**d. Verge planting programme of activity**

Cllr James thanked those Councillors and parishioners who involve themselves in overseeing the wild flower displays in and around the village. It is intended to again have a red, white and blue theme in recognition of the pending Coronation of King Charles III. Troughs and wheelbarrow planters will be placed strategically around the parish. Cllr C Foster raised a concern regarding shrubs and trees planted on the verges, as visibility may be impaired, causing a safety concern. Cllr James agreed to remove any offending signage, trees and shrubs in recognition of the concern raised. It was **AGREED** that the annual maintenance is to be on-going and whilst a verbal update is welcomed, consent to undertake the maintenance of the floral displays does not have to be presented annually to the council for agreement.

**e. Website development progress report**

Cllr Field informed that the development of the new website was almost complete. Each Councillor has provided a photograph and a short biography. Cllr Field informed that it is the intention to present the new website to the Council at the next meeting. The new email addresses for Councillors will go live at the same time as the website is launched, which is expected to be towards the end of March.

**175. Grant applications:**

**a. King Charles III Coronation event.** Mrs Bradley requested a grant of £500 to assist with costs associated to organising an event on the Playing Field to commemorate King Charles III Coronation. Proposed by Cllr C Foster, seconded by Cllr T Foster and unanimously **AGREED**.

**b. Citizens Advice Mendip** A request for financial support has been received from Citizens Advice. The clerk was asked to enquire the level of usage by residents to the service provided by Citizens Advice.

**Action:** The clerk to contact Citizens Advice

**176. Finances**

**a. Summary of account.** The clerk circulated information on the transactions and balances of the council. No questions were raised, and Cllr Bennetts proposed, seconded by Cllr Neale and unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the financial summary. 11-0-0

**b. Invoices paid since the last meeting**

Name	Details	Income	Expend £
Gerard Tucker	Clerks salary (Jan)		837.75

EDF	Playing field supply		28.00
CRS	Fencing supplies for play area repair		70.98
Ripple Accounts	Payroll (Jan)		10.00
SALC	Training courses		70.00
Somerset Forge	Refurbishment of Burtle sign		474.00
First Fence	Fencing panels for goal area in playing field		1,354.36
Wessex Water	Water Rates for Playing Field		132.64

**c. Invoices to be paid.** Four payments were approved for processing

Payment	Amount £
Meare Church – meeting room hire	90.00
S Edwards – Website hosting	108.00
Malcolm Sweet – maintenance	35.00
G Tucker – Clerk’s expenses	77.58

**177. Planning**

**a. 2023/0005/FUL Cold Harbour Farm, Meare Road, Glastonbury**

Proposed by Cllr Neale, seconded by Cllr T Foster and unanimously **RESOLVED** to support this application.

**b. 2023/0057/CLE Penmeare Farm, Glastonbury Road, Meare**

**RESOLVED** that this location has provided accommodation for a number of years and this application is to be supported.

**c. 2023/0163/CLE The Hide, Station Farm, Shapwick Road, Westhay**

**RESOLVED** that this location has provided accommodation for a number of years and this application is to be supported.

**178. Correspondence.** Mr Richard Brown from Westhay Schoolroom Committee has written to the Parish Council asking for their support in applying for road safety measures in the form of signage and road markings at the location of the School Rooms.

**Action:** The clerk to write to the Highways Authority and request improvements.

Villager of the Year. The clerk is to prepare an article for submission in the next edition of the Parish Magazine to promote the Villager of the Year award.

**Action:**

There continues to be concerns regarding blocked drains in the parish. The clerk is to contact the Highways Authority again to report the problem.

**Action:**

**179. Actions required from this meeting**

- Malcolm Sweet to be asked to cut the verge back between Porters Hatch and The Manor.
- The Occupier of 54 St Mary’s Road to be contacted to request their boundary hedge is maintained.
- The clerk to report to the Highways Authority potholes on Glastonbury Road
- The clerk to contact the Highways Authority and request improvements to signage etc at The School Rooms, Westhay.
- The clerk is to prepare an article for submission in the next edition of the Parish Magazine to promote the Villager of the Year award.
- The clerk is to contact the Highways Authority to report the continuance of blocked drains at various locations in the parish.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The next meeting will be on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm in the Chapel

Signed ..... Dated ..... 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
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