

Minutes of the Meeting of Meare Parish Council
Held on Monday 19th June 2023, 7.30pm in the Chapel

Public participation

Edwin Hoskins presented an update on the fund raising activities of the youth group.

Garry Berry presented a short report in support of 49, Westhay Road planning application

Present: Cllrs Bennetts (Chair), C. Foster, T Foster, Hoskins, Lee, Neale, Richards, Winter, Wren and the Clerk Gerard Tucker

In attendance:

Cllr Heather Shearer and 16 members of public

39. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Field (work commitment) & James (Glastonbury Festival)

40. Minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2023 were Signed by the chair as a true and correct account of the meeting.

41. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Neale declared an interest in item 9 (Planning).

42. Summary of actions from the previous meeting – all completed.

- Cllr Winter to contact the resident at 40 St Mary's Road
- Clerk to write to the applicant at 49, Westhay Road to explain the Council's position
- Clerk to contact Somerset Council and follow up Farriers Close signage
- Organise a site meeting on the Playing Field
- Organise a site meeting at Avalon Marshes Centre
- Include an agenda item to discuss events inclusion on our website.

43. County Councillors Report

Cllr Shearer informed that Somerset Council has received an additional £5.4m to address the problems of potholes and road maintenance. The Avalon and Poldens Local Community Network (LCN) meets on 19th July and those interested are encouraged to attend. Cllr Shearer has taken a new portfolio position and is now tasked with leading Children's Services. Advice on adaptations for properties to assist those who are disabled or infirm is operating by appointment from the former Mendip offices.

44. Highways

a. Westhay Road Traffic Speed. A message informing that a resident had lost a beloved pet on this section of road, implying that the fact it is unrestricted was a contributor. The clerk had previously circulated the results of a traffic speed survey conducted in May 2022 which did not identify a concern enough to justify the expenditure of imposing traffic speed regulations at this location. Cllr Shearer responded to the question of a 20MPH zone and how that differs from a 20MPH limit, She offered to find the documentation that explains the differences and will circulate to members. She also added that reinstating the Speed Watch campaign may have a positive effect in reducing traffic speed.

Action: Cllr Shearer to circulate information on 20MPH zones/limits

It was proposed by Cllr Richards, seconded by Cllr Gage and unanimously **AGREED** that the clerk contacts the Highways Management team and requests an on-site meeting to discuss:

- i. Introduction of speed restrictions
- ii. Addressing the concern of inappropriate and dangerous roadside parking of a campervan in Westhay
- iii. Traffic calming near the Old School Hall in Westhay

Action: Clerk to contact Highways and request an onsite meeting.

b. Wheelwright Terrace sign. The clerk has been in contact with Autograph Homes and Somerset Council and it is hoped that a solution to this problem has now been identified.

c. Parking near the former telephone box in Westhay – see (a ii) above.

An additional item of concern regarding an overgrown shrub on the pavement outside of 54 St Mary's Road was raised by Cllr Winters. Cllr Neale is to attempt to speak with the property owner who lives in Ashcott. The clerk is to enquire from Malcolm Sweet the cost of reducing and removing the foliage. The clerk has twice written to the owner requesting that the shrub is cut back to allow pavement access.

Action: Cllr Neale to approach the owner of 54 St Mary's Road

Action: The clerk to contact Malcolm Sweet and enquire the cost of reducing the shrub.

45. Parish Matters including:

a. Playing Field update

- i. Owl nesting box location – The owl box has now been given to the Hawk and Owl Trust by the previous Village Hall Trustees!
- ii. CCTV power supply Cllr C Foster is to contact an electrician and obtain a quote for the replacing of three junction boxes which are considered to be the problem of power supply.
- iii. Review of notice board key holders. Resolved at the previous meeting
- iv. Use of the playing field by a commercial Hot Air Balloon Company. Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that whilst an occasional launch of a hot air balloon was permissible, to permit a commercial business regular access was considered inappropriate due to the proximity of properties.
- v. Installation of a new gate from the play area and replacement of the existing 12' gate in to the play area. A replacement 12' gate has been delivered and is awaiting installation. The 5' gate is awaited and will be delivered when in stock.
- vi. Anti climb paint on containers. At the suggestion of the Police, applying anti climb paint to the containers should reduce the problems of people climbing on to them. It was suggested that the youths of the village may be prepared to paint the containers in return for a donation to their fund raising.

Action: Cllr Hoskins to discuss with the youths the idea of them painting the containers

Action: The clerk to obtain quotes for the paint and materials required.

- vii. Inclusion of a dedicated disabled parking bay. The provision of a disabled parking bay near to the clothes recycling box was considered and **AGREED**.

b. Playing Field sub-committee – outcomes from recent onsite meeting

Many of the items discussed were covered in items recorded in (a) above. In addition, it is suggested that the hiring fee for the Recreation Field is £25.00 for non Meare based organisations.

There is a need to replace some of the matting beneath play equipment. Cllr Hoskins is to identify what is required.

Action: Cllr Hoskins to identify what safety matting is required

c. Village Hall update. A statement prepared by the Village Hall Committee was read out to the meeting

46. Power supply to Recreation Field

The clerk questioned why no payment for electricity supply had been made since March. EDF had informed that the Council were in receipt of a government subsidy of £250, which has offset the cost of supply for the past few months. The clerk confirmed that we remain in contract to EDF until April 2024. No actions required.

47. Planning

Application No 2023/0384/FUL.

Applicant: Mr M Jackson and Ms R Bliss

Location: 49, Westhay Road, Meare Glastonbury. BA6 9TL

Proposal: Retrospective permission for the erection of a side extension to be used as a Health Treatment facility with overnight clients accommodation. Retention of the existing residential use of the main house and retrospective consent for the insertion of 3no. roof lights in the original roof. Change of use of the site to mixed residential (Use Class C3) and health treatment use.

Having heard the presentation from the applicant's agent, in particular the provision of five on site parking spaces, Cllr T Foster proposed, seconded by Cllr Hoskins that the parish council supports the application. 8-0-0 (Cllr Neale having declared an interest in this application as being a close neighbour)

48. Website and communications

Cllr Field had requested that the council discuss and conclude if it is prepared to accept commercial advertisements for events on their website. Following discussion, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that this is the parish council's website and it would be inappropriate to include commercial notices. Locally organised events for various clubs and societies are to be permitted on the calendar of events.

49. Parish Magazine

The clerk drew councillor's attention to the fact that the majority of the parish magazine budget has now been spent for the year. The discussion that followed concluded that it was unsustainable to continue funding the magazine at this level. The clerk was asked to contact the Editor – Caroline Sanderson and request that alternative, more costs effective ways of sharing information are considered. Ideas to include;

- i. removing repetitive information e.g. councillors contact details, bus timetables etc
- ii. producing a newsletter format, rather than a magazine
- iii. a black and white production, not colour
- iv. inform businesses that the magazine is unsustainable and try to encourage more advertising.

Action: The clerk to contact the magazine editor and ask that consideration is given to the future of the magazine.

50. Footpaths accessibility

The footpath to the allotments is considered unstable. The hedge has been trimmed. Cllr Wren is to report the uneven path to Somerset Council through the web portal.

Action: Cllr Wren to report the footpath via the web portal.

51. Finances

a. Presentation of annual accounts including income and expenditure

The clerk presented the accounts and informed that two budget headings had exceeded the amounts allocated to them. Insurance and picnic area. The latter has been offset by a donation of a new bench. He also informed the council that the budget for the parish magazine has almost been spent.

b. Summary of account

The balances of each account were shared.

c. Invoices paid since last meeting

d. Invoices Paid/Received since last meeting

Name	Details		Income	Expend £
Gerard Tucker	Salary			861.31
Ripple Accounts	Payroll			10.00
M Sweet	Village Maintenance (May)			500.00
Gallagher	Annual Insurance policy			1302.95
Festive Lizards	Defibrillator grant	2,000.00	2000.00	
Anonymous	Picnic Bench donation	300.00	300.00	
Mole Valley Farmers	Playing Field gates and posts			355.27

e. Invoices to be paid.

Gerard Tucker	Clerk's expenses inc hardcore, paper	74.83
M Sweet	July – Village Maintenance	500.00
Avon Surveillance	CCTV repair	84.00
M Sweet	August – Village Maintenance	500.00
SWNHS Trust	Two replacement defibrillators	3,360.00
Baker and Adlam	Tractor fuel	120.75
Baker and Adlam	Water connection – playing field	597.50
Baker and Adlam	Pipes and connectors for ditch	3,341.94

f. future use of Barclays account

It was **RESOLVED** at this time not to change this account and to review again in the future.

52. Correspondence

LCN meeting information – as previously discussed

Traffic speed in Westhay – as previously discussed

53. Actions arising from this meeting

- Cllr Shearer to circulate information on 20MPH zones and limits
- Contact Highways and request an onsite meeting to discuss highways issues in Westhay
- Cllr Neale to visit the owner of 54, St Mary's Road to request the hedge is reduced
- Contact Malcolm Sweet and enquire what the cost would be to undertake this work.
 - Cllr C Foster to contact an electrician and obtain a quote for replacing three junction boxes.
 - Cllr Hoskins to discuss with the youths the idea of their involvement with painting the containers.
 - The clerk to obtain quotes for anti-climb paint.
 - Cllr Hoskins to obtain the cost and identify the preferred supplier of safety matting.
 - The clerk to share the council's thoughts with the editor of the Parish Magazine.

54. Next meeting; will be held on Monday 17th July 2023, 7.30pm in the Chapel.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.40pm.