

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023 AT 6.30PM AT BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH, HORTON.

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PUBLIC FORUM One member of the public was in attendance at the meeting.

3356 ATTENDANCE Councillors Ann Winter – Chairperson, Barry Mosley – Vice-Chair, Ray Buckler (Parish and District Councillor), Mike Schmidt, Rob Hutchinson, Julie Layzell and Andy Johnson.

3357 APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES Peter Babbington and Dave Johnson.

3358 DECLARATION OF INTEREST None.

3359 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (NOVEMBER) The minutes of the meeting held in November, having previously been circulated, were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon.

3360 PROPOSED BASE STATION UPGRADE AT CS12367401 – NYEWORTHY FARM, HORTON Cllr Barry Mosley provided the Council with the background history of the site/previous applications for similar development. After discussing the proposal it was considered that the new larger mast will cause a major visual impact difference with additional concerns over the size and proximity to residential properties.

Action: The clerk is to acknowledge the email from the consultant and inform them that the Council's formal comments will be provided to SSDC as part of the formal planning application process.

3361 PLANNING APPLICATION(S)

1.1 22/03228/HOU - 2 Slades Orchard Horton - Erection of single-storey side extension to dwelling

The Council voted to support the application.

Action: Clerk to inform SSDC.

1.2 22/03175/FUL - Land Os 4257 Part Shave Lane Horton - Erection of a single new dwelling and detached double garage with home office space.

The Council did not discuss or consider the application as SSDC had refused the planning application before the meeting.

3362 PLAYING FIELD – GENERAL UPDATE Due to bad weather the repairs haven't been undertaken. The concrete base for the bench has been installed, bench is to be sited imminently.

Action: Cllrs Barry Mosley, Ray Buckler, Andy Johnson and Rob Hutchinson to carry out repairs and install a bench when the weather improves.

3363 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE Cllr Barry Mosley has spoken with the supplier to confirm an order will be placed however, before this, requested details on reference sites to look at. From the date of order, the devices will be delivered within 5-10 days.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler to contact SCC Highways and formally request four new poles are installed for the devices to be sited on.

- 3364 DEFIBRILLATOR – POWER SUPPLY – UPDATE** No update.
- 3365 MAINTENANCE OF VERGES AND HEDGEROWS – UPDATE** No works have been carried out for the last few weeks due to poor weather. Weed killer has been used (not by the parish council) on some of the verges therefore, once the weather has improved this area needs to be cleared first. Members of the public present stated they carry out works around the traffic island and kerbside to keep the vegetation back. Parish Council to carry on with works.
- 3366 A358 UPGRADE DCO APPLICATION – UPDATE** National Highways have announced that the DOC application for the project has not been submitted to the Secretary of State and that the project is now on hold due to environmental mitigation not being where it needs to be. It has been identified that the ecology on site is much richer than they may have anticipated. It is not known when an application will be submitted.
- 3367 THE COMMUNITY OF PARISHES (CoP) – FUNDING REQUEST** An idea was put forward by CoP that all parishes which form part of the group allocate 10% of the upcoming precept amount and be given to CoP so that it can be used collectively to fund legal representation at the public inquiry for the proposed A358 upgrade project.

It has now been announced by National Highways that the current proposals are now on hold and therefore it was decided that the allocated monies are removed from the draft budget and the matter will be considered at a later date, if necessary. Item deferred.

- 3368 DOG WASTE BINS – UPDATE** No further updates were received on progress from SSDC, however, SSDC has relocated the bin that was next to the bus shelter which is now next to the fingerpost sign.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler (in District Councillor capacity) is to speak with SSDC and ask for an update.

- 3369 NALC CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE** ‘NALC, SLCC, and OVW believe now is the time to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced because there is no place for bullying, harassment and intimidation within our sector. The pledge is easy for councils to sign up for and it will enable councils to demonstrate that they are committed to standing up to poor behavior across our sector and to driving through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

We invite all councils to take the Civility and Respect Pledge.’

The Council voted to unanimously support and adopt the pledge.

Action: Clerk to upload pledge to the parish council website.

3370 FINANCE

15.1 To Approve Financial Statement 2022/23 - Unanimously Approved.

15.2 Annual Budget 2023/24 - Unanimously Approved, subject to an amendment removing monies for the A358 CoP funding.

To agree on the precept amount 2023/24 – Five Cllrs voted to support the proposal not to increase the precept amount and request the same as the last financial year. £14,000 was the agreed amount.

15.3 Proposal – To approve payment of the following cheques:

15.3.1 D White – Wages and Expenses - Cheque No. 000836 - £744.08 - Unanimously Approved.

15.3.2 C Duff – Backpay (1st April 2022 – 15th May 2022) – Deferred.

15.3.3 R Buckler – Expenses - Cheque No. 000837 - £33.54 - Unanimously Approved.

15.3.4 HM Construction – Bench - Cheque No. 000840 - £456.00 - Unanimously Approved.

15.3.5 MF Salaman - Playing Field Maintenance - Cheque No. 000839 - £480.00 - Unanimously Approved.

15.4 Cheques Issued Under Delegated Powers Since Last Meeting

15.4.1 Broadway Hill Methodist Church – Hall Hire – Noted - Cheque No. 000835- £39.00 - Unanimously Approved.

15.4.2 D Newman – Playing Field Maintenance – Noted - Cheque No. 000834 - £75.00 - Unanimously Approved.

3371 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Somerset Emergency Community Contacts (SECC) – noted.

3372 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRPERSON None.

3373 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 9th February 2023 commencing at 6.30pm.

3374 CLOSED SESSION

- Clerk's contract – revised contract upping hours from 5 hours per week to 6 hours per week unanimously agreed upon and signed.

Appendix 1 – District Councillor Report

Items of note are as follows:

1) A358 - The progress on this project has now stalled. Highways England are "working on " environmental issues, which have spilled into this year. It appears the deadline to reach the next stage has now been compromised by this delay, plus there is a financial review of highways projects this is now taking place.

2) Local Community Networks - I was at a meeting last year concerning the setup of the LCN - The outline is now available, but nothing fully agreed. Next SCC meeting is 18th Jan.7.

Subject to Members' approval of the recommendations in this report, it is intended that

the following will be in place for 1 April 2023:

- **LCNs' purpose and initial roles and functions will be agreed and widely communicated**
- **LCN geographies will be defined**
- **City, Town and Parish councils and local community groups will know which LCN they are in, and the other parishes within it**
- **There will be a defined staffing structure with agreed job descriptions and a timetable and approach for recruitment**
- **Initial 'link officers' identified for each LCN, who may be drawn from existing staffing / roles**
- **The Pilot LCNs will have agreed infrastructure and support to enable their successful transition into the new LCN arrangements**
- **Headline Terms of Reference will be in place for LCNs**
- **Agreement with key partners on how they will engage with LCNs at a local level and strategically.**

3) CIL and 106 monies outstanding - I have a list from SSDC - There are no outstanding .payments shown for Horton - if you think there are outstanding projects, please inform Kirsty (or via me) at SSDC urgently

4) Flooding - although I have seen the agreement/progress re Stibbear lane and Old A303 at Stubbs lane - I cannot foresee any work on this or other SCC roads until later this year or even 2024. Work on Highways England main roads should still be pursued.

5) Staffing at SSDC and SCC - now we are less than 90 days to the new Council, there is an increasing demand on the council staff + less staff to complete the work as employees are considered for the move from District to County positions.

6) I have no current casework for the Horton residents -If anything relating to District emerges in the next three months I will liaise with Sue or Val, to ensure a handover will take place on anything that spills into April.

Cllr Ray Buckler