

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14th MARCH 2024 COMMENCING AT 6.30PM
AT BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH, HORTON.

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PUBLIC FORUM One member of the public was in attendance of the meeting. Cllr Sue Osbourne (Councillor – Somerset Council) was unable to attend the meeting. Refer to **Appendix 1** for a copy of Cllr Osbourne’s monthly report.

4159 ATTENDANCE Councillors Barry Mosley – Vice-Chair, Ann Winter, Peter Babbington, Mike Schmidt and Robert Hutchinson.

4160 APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES Councillors Ray Buckler – Chairperson, Julie Layzell and Andy Johnson. Cllr Dave Johnson has notified the clerk and council of his resignation from the Council.

4161 DECLARATION OF INTEREST None.

4162 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (JANUARY) The minutes of the meeting held in February, having previously been circulated, were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon, subject to the inclusion of the planning application comments.

Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Ray Buckler for a copy of the required planning comments submitted.

4163 PLANNING APPLICATION(S)

5.1 AMENDED PLANS - 23/01649/FUL - Land North Of Broadway Hill Broadway Hill Horton - Construction of 49 dwellings and formation of vehicular access: Proposed Amendments - Amendments to housing mix - which now proposes 4 x 2-bed houses, 18 x 3-bed and 10 x 4-bed

Somerset Council Planning Officer file note online Case officer file note online - *“For clarification, the amendment recently consulted on was an amendment to the mix of market housing only – to provide more smaller units. No change to the overall housing numbers (or the number of affordable homes) are proposed.”*

The parish councillors discussed and considered the amended plans and voted to unanimously object to the amended plans. Comments to be submitted to Somerset Council are as follows:

“In response to the recent amended plans notification, the parish council wish to confirm that the original objections submitted by the parish council still stand and that the recent amendments do not overcome these objections”.

Action: Clerk to send comments to Somerset Council.

5.2 24/00301/HOU - Stonegarth 7 Goose Lane Horton Stonegarth 7 Goose Lane Horton - Erection of two-storey front extension to dwelling

The parish councillors discussed and considered the amended plans and voted to object to the application. Comments to be submitted to Somerset Council are as follows:

“Horton Parish Council considered the application during the parish council meeting last night. I can confirm on behalf of the parish council that the parish council objects to the proposal for the following reasons:

1. Scale/bulk/design - it is considered that the proposed size of the extension is too big and will significantly impact the street scene and neighbouring property.
2. Loss of light - It is considered that the proposed projection of the extension could harm the neighbouring property in terms of loss of light.”

Action: Clerk to send comments to Somerset Council.

4164 PLAYING FIELD UPDATE No update.

4165 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE Cllr Barry Mosley to speak with Cllr Andy Johnson regarding the logistics of the installation of the pole to be installed on the Shave Lane junction. The SID located near the Village Hall seems to be intermittently working currently, Cllr Ray Buckler and Barry Mosley to look into this.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler and Barry Mosley to look at SID near Village Hall.

4166 DEFIBRILLATOR Cllr Ann Winter contacted London Hearts to enquire if they provide defibrillator training, and they confirmed that they do not. Cllr Winter has been trying to get hold of the Vice-Chair of Broadway Parish Council to obtain the details of who they used to provide defibrillator training recently. At the next Village Hall meeting, if free training cannot be found, Cllr A Winter will request that they pay for a third-party company to provide a training session.

4167 MAINTENANCE AROUND THE VILLAGE – UPDATE G Spiller is agreeable to carry out necessary work as and when required. It is anticipated that the first lot of maintenance works will be carried out at the end of April, then early June, and depending on the weather, September and November. Cllr Robery Hutchinson to put this in writing to the contractor. Horton Stone and Puddlebridge are not covered by the contractor however Cllr Hutchinson will carry out the necessary work with a strimmer.

4168 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK – UPDATE No update.

4169 FINANCE

Proposal – To approve the following:

11.1 2023/24 financial statement – Unanimously Approved.

Proposal – To approve the following cheques:

11.2 D White – Wages and Expenses - £748.60- Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000892.

11.2 SSE Energy Solutions – Electricity - £7.06- Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000893.

4170 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- Temporary Road Closure: ttro965162S -Broadway Road and Suggs Lane, Broadway. The works are expected to commence on 3rd April 2024 and last for 2 days (09:30 - 14:30) to enable Wessex Water to carry out reinstatement works.
- City, Town and Parish Council Update – Sandbags - Given the occurrence of several flooding-related major incidents in 2023/24, there is public interest in flood protection measures. Therefore, a new consistent policy has been drawn up and has gone through the democratic process; it will be implemented from March 2024. The decision notice (5th March 2024) confirms that (subject to call-in) Somerset Council does not provide sandbags or equivalents to householders and businesses as from 13th March.
- Highway Maintenance Devolution - Options for local enhancement to routine highways maintenance services.
- Somerset Council has been appointed and funded by Defra to lead the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for Somerset.

4170 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN

- Recent home burglary on Pottery Road.

4171 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 11th April 2024 commencing at 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed: 19:34.

Appendix 1 - Monthly Report for March 2024

2024/5 Council Budget: Somerset Council has voted through plans to set a budget for the coming financial year but received a stark warning of significant challenges in the years ahead. LibDem Council Members unanimously agreed a range of measures to bridge a funding gap of £100m for 2024/25, including cost cuttings, increasing Council Tax by 5%, and using £36.8 millions of reserves (a council's equivalent of savings). The proposals also include a 'capitalisation direction' request of £36.9m – seeking permission from Government to borrow money or sell assets to pay for day-to-day running costs. Amid specific plans to cut costs and increase fees, around 1,200 jobs are expected to go at Somerset Council over the next three years equivalent to about a quarter of the workforce. As a result of the cuts some Town Councils have stepped in to save services (CCTV, public toilets etc) but this has resulted in a 179% council tax increase in Taunton, 90% in Yeovil and 164% in Bridgwater. Council papers are still predicting a further £103 million budget gap in 2025/26.

Gigafactory plans for Puriton site: Agratas, a new business within the Tata Group, has confirmed its plans to build a gigafactory producing EV batteries at the Gravity Smart Campus site in Puriton, near Bridgwater. A £4 billion investment, the factory will create up to 4,000 jobs and many more as part of the supply chain. It is envisioned that the plant will be operational in the second half of the decade, eventually producing 40GWh of battery cells annually, enough to supply approximately 500,000 passenger vehicles. Once fully operational, the factory is set to be Britain's biggest battery factory, and one of the largest in Europe. Over the next five years, Somerset Council plans to invest in the infrastructure, skills, site access and connectivity which will be paid for by the Business Rates generated by the factory once it is operational.

Under the surface exhibition: 'Under the Surface' is an exhibition of photographs by renowned Somerset-based photographer Matilda Temperley, reflecting on 10 years since the devastating floods of 2013-14. It is on display at Somerset Rural Life Museum, Glastonbury from Saturday 2 March to Sunday 19 May. Alongside the exhibition, a programme of events and activities will take place supported by Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). These include family activities during the Easter Holidays, run in collaboration with the RSPCA and Somerset Wildlife Trust, where visitors can take part in climate-themed craft activities.

Healthy Somerset: A new website has been launched by Public Health to help people in Somerset lead a healthier life. The new site – www.healthysomerset.co.uk – features health and wellbeing resources tailored to all age ranges – making it even easier for users to find the information and support they are looking for. The new refreshed layout of the site breaks down services and support to represent the ages and stages of life from the 'best start in life' (0-5 yrs), through to 'starting well' (5-18 yrs), to 'living well' (18-65 yrs) and 'ageing well' (65+). To view the website and be empowered on your journey to a healthier lifestyle, visit: <https://bit.ly/healthy-somerset>.

Chard Enterprise Centre: The new Chard Enterprise centre, offers flexible office and light industrial workspace to support small and medium enterprises. Costing £4.2m the Enterprise Centre has been made possible after successfully securing £1.7m funding from the European Regional Development Fund. Chard Enterprise Centre forms part of a network of workspace services offered by Somerset Council. The Enterprise Centre network aims to offer quality workspace and business support in areas where commercial providers do not operate. There are currently 10 sites across the county and, in addition to Chard, there are centres in Highbridge, Dulverton, Wheddon Cross, Frome, Minehead, Wells, Williton, Wiveliscombe and Bruton.

Take the Pressure Off: Over half of all strokes and heart attacks in Somerset are caused by high blood pressure. Known as the silent killer, high blood pressure is quick and simple to diagnose and to treat. NHS Somerset, together with Somerset Council is launching their biggest ever campaign 'Take the Pressure Off' with the aim of testing thousands of residents to increase awareness and early detection of high blood pressure. The "Take the Pressure Off" campaign is designed to encourage residents, particularly those aged 40+, to regularly check their blood pressure and take necessary steps towards managing their health. In addition to workplace testing, the campaign will be partnering with local sports clubs to help raise awareness of the risks of high blood pressure, particularly to males and those who identify as male, across Somerset. Residents are also encouraged to borrow a free blood pressure monitor from their library to test their own blood pressure in the comfort of their home, or visit their local pharmacy for a quick and easy check.