

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2023 COMMENCING 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. Cllr Sue Osbourne (Divisional Member) was also in attendance at the meeting. Refer to **Appendix 1** for a copy of their report.

4081 ATTENDANCE Councillors Ray Buckler – Chairperson, Ann Winter, Mike Schmidt, Dave Johnson, Ray Buckler, Peter Babbington, Julie Layzell, Robert Hutchinson and Andy Johnson.

4082 APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES Cllr Barry Mosley – Vice-Chair.

4083 DECLARATION OF INTEREST None.

4084 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (JULY) The minutes of the meeting held in July, having previously been circulated, were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon.

4085 BROADWAY & HORTON CRICKET CLUB Not in attendance, invite to October meeting.

4086 PLANNING APPLICATION(S)

6.1 To consider the following planning application: *23/01649/FUL - and North Of Broadway Hill Broadway Hill Horton - Construction of 49 dwellings and formation of vehicular access*

Residents received letters notifying them of amended plans being submitted concerning the application. The parish council had not been notified of any amendments so was unaware of such developments before the meeting.

The application was not considered during the meeting as the Council were not aware of any amendments to the scheme nor were they made aware of the day-planned website maintenance to Somerset Council's website and therefore were unable to view the application online during the meeting.

Cllr Ray Buckler to contact the head of planning and submit a complaint regarding the lack of notification concerning the amendments and planning website maintenance and therefore request an extension of time to submit the parish council comments.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler to contact the head of planning at Somerset Council.

4087 GRANT FUNDING - UPDATE

7.1 St Peters Church – A formal written request was received asking for a donation towards the upkeep and running costs of the church. It was unanimously agreed to provide a grant of £440 - Cheque No. 000867 - £440.00 - Unanimously Approved.

7.2 Horton and Broadway Youth Group – Update – Equipment ordered by clerk and subsequently received by the youth group, total cost to date is £242.05. One item was out of stock and therefore the clerk will order the remaining item when it is back in stock.

7.3 Defibrillator for the Village Hall – Update – Cllr Ann Winter provided an update. The Village Hall has agreed to the parish council purchasing a defibrillator and external cabinet to be installed externally at the village hall. The village hall committee has agreed to pay for installation and all future maintenance costs. Total purchase cost £1,195 (defib and cabinet).

Action: Clerk to order the outstanding item of play equipment when back in stock. Clerk to speak to London Hearts and order defibrillator.

4088 PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

8.1 General Update – Letter from resident received, refer to **Appendix 2** for a copy of the letter. Grass cutting and general maintenance have been carried out, some concerns about the oak tree as some of the bigger branches have dropped. Cllr Ray Buckler to obtain a quote from a tree surgeon to carry out necessary safety works to the tree. Bins being intermittently emptied by Somerset Council. The parish council are to receive £100 into the bank account shortly from the Playing Field working group bank account following a complaint they submitted to Natwest and a £100 being received as compensation as a result of the complaint.

8.2 Consider Quote for Equipment Repairs – Total quote to fix all other minor issues identified in the previous annual inspection report and the latest issues with the side/raised platform approx. £1,600.00. The quote was formally considered and it was unanimously agreed to appoint GB Sports to carry out the works as per the quote.

8.3 The Play Inspection Company Annual Report – very detailed but only minor repairs identified, except as per section 8.2 above regarding the slide/raised platform.

8.4 The Play Inspection Company Repeat Order – It was unanimously agreed to confirm the appointment for next year's annual inspection.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler to obtain a quote from a tree surgeon and to appoint GB Sports.

4089 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE Both SIDS are currently in use within the village. Data from Hanning Road from the 20th of July to the 13th of September reveals that has were 52,000 incoming vehicles, 61,000 leaving. By St Peters Church the highest speed limit recorded was 82mph by someone coming into the village, the max. speed leaving the village recorded is 70mph. Cllr Ray Buckler to speak with Cllr Barry Mosley regarding chasing the police for assistance concerning speeding.

Broadway Parish Council are struggling to find a location to site a SID but still working with highways to come up with a solution. Cllr Robert Hutchinson suggests data to be taken via a SID from Pound Road and is used to to inform parish council response on the proposed new Gallion planning application.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler to speak with Cllr Barry Mosley regarding chasing the police for assistance concerning speeding.

4090 DEFIBRILLATOR POWER SUPPLY – UPDATE Cllr David Johnson provided an update: National Grid has installed the power supply to the shelter, the last task to complete the job is to provide the electrical installation to connect the defibrillator heater and internal light which needs to be installed by a registered electrician who can provide the legal paperwork/electrical installation test certificates. Quote to install £360. It was unanimously agreed to proceed based on this quote.

Action: Cllr David Johnson to appoint an electrician to carry out the necessary installation work.

4091 MAINTENANCE AROUND THE VILLAGE – UPDATE Cllr Robert Hutchinson provided an invoice to the Clerk for maintenance works carried out by the contractor along Hanning Road, total cost £of 140. Cheque No. 000868 - £140.00- Unanimously Approved.

It was agreed that the contract would carry out further work as and when required and instructed by the Council. Previous work/overgrowth undertaken by the parish councillors has returned in less than a year and the pathway has narrowed again, to carry out work again would be less intensive and should only require strimming 2-3 times a year to maintain. Cllr Sue Osborne advised Steve Fox at Somerset Council is responsible for street works. Cllr Ray Buckler to email Steve Fox and request a meeting to discuss concerns over the lack of verge maintenance.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler to email Steve Fox.

4092 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK – UPDATE Meeting later this month. The agenda has already been issued. Cllr Ray Buckler to raise that the consultation ‘Create Places for People Consultation Document’ should be added to the agenda.

Action: Cllr Ray Buckler to request an amendment to the LCN agenda.

4093 DBS CHECKS – UPDATE All Cllrs except Cllrs Robert Hutchinson and Barry Mosley have received the results of the DBS checks. Cllrs Robert Hutchinson and Barry Mosley’s are still pending and require further action.

4094 FINANCE

- 14.1 To Approve Financial Statement 2023/24 – Unanimously Approved. No feedback on suggested spending following newsletter therefore going forward the parish council to spend monies on projects they see fit. August 2024 – issue another newsletter asking the community where the Council should spend money within the village in time for the Clerk to draft the budget for the November meeting.
- 14.2 Banking Arrangements – Cllrs Robert Hutchinson and Barry Mosley signatories outstanding. Cllr R Hutchinson will complete once DBS results are received. Clerk to ask Cllr B Mosley for an update.
- 14.3 2023-24 Budget Update – Noted.
- 14.4 Proposal – To approve payment of the following cheques:
 - 14.4.1 C Duff – Wages and Expenses - Cheque No. 000865 - £751.74 - Unanimously Approved.
 - 14.4.2 SALC x 3 – Training Courses - Cheque No. 000866 - £95.00 - Unanimously Approved.
- 14.5 To Note – Cheques Issued Under The Scheme of Delegation
 - 14.5.1 Ilminster and Broadway Hill Methodist Church – Hall Hire - Cheque No. 000861 - £250.50 – Noted.
 - 14.5.2 Michelle Salaman – Grass Cutting - Cheque No. 000862 - £360.00 – Noted.
 - 14.5.3 Play Inspection Company – Playing Field Audit - Cheque No. 000863 - £132.00 – Noted.
 - 14.5.4 MACS Print & Design – Newsletter and Gallion Leaflet Printing - Cheque No. 000860 - £116.50 – Noted.

4095 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE None.

4096 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRPERSON None.

4097 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 5th October 2023 (1 week earlier than usual) commencing at 6.30pm.

4098 CLOSED SESSION: MATERNITY COVER ARRANGEMENTS As per previous arrangements.

Meeting closed: 20.09

SOMERSET COUNCIL

**BRIEFING SHEET
FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS SEPTEMBER 2023**

Council Finances: Somerset Council has warned that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to meet its budget for 2023/24. A recent Executive report describes the council's financial position as "stark and challenging". The latest budget gap for the current year is £28.6m. The papers reveal that the Council has already drawn £18 million from reserves to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets. These figures are despite an £18.5m annual bonus created by moving to a Unitary Council and which were planned to be fully realised by next year.

Bus Services: Four bus services in the county are to be subsidised to safeguard their future until spring. The following services all require additional financial support, which the Council can provide as part of the Government's Bus Service support funding, which has so far been worth over £12 million for the County. The routes are:

54 Yeovil to Taunton 58/58a Yeovil to Wincanton 25 Taunton to Dulverton 28 Taunton to Minehead

First South has signalled it will review the routes later in the year, taking into account new data on passenger uptake.

Covid autumn booster programme: As the result of a newly identified variant the Covid-19 vaccine is being brought forward by one month and offered to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from the vaccination. Specifically, JCVI advises the following groups to be offered a Covid- 19 booster vaccine this autumn:

- residents in a care home for older adults
- all adults aged 65 years and over.
- persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group.
- frontline health and social care workers
- persons aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression.
- persons aged 16 to 64 years who are carers and staff working in care homes for older adults.
- Booster vaccinations are now planned to start on September 11th, 2023.

Flu vaccinations: NHS England has confirmed it will start by prioritising flu vaccinations for children from September, to prevent children from getting seriously ill and to break the chain of transmission to the wider population. School aged children will be able to get the flu vaccine at school or at community clinics, Children aged two and three years will be able to get an appointment with their GP practice. This year, based on the latest scientific evidence, the JCVI has recommended adults over the age of 65 and those with underlying health conditions will be eligible for a flu with the offer starting from early October, to maximise protection for patients right across the winter months. The flu season typically peaks in January when more people gather indoors.

Suspected Arson Attack: Police are investigating a suspected arson attack on a Somerset Council compound in Taunton which destroyed seven minibuses. The incident happened early on Thursday, 24 August in a secure compound at the Silk Mills Park and Ride site. The compound was locked and is monitored by CCTV. There were no injuries, and no other vehicles were damaged.

Roundabout sponsorship: Local businesses are being invited to take advantage of roundabout sponsorship to advertise socially responsible goods and services. The space is available for advertising a wide range of goods and services. The new ethical advertising policy means that the Council will not sanction certain adverts such as those promoting junk food, fossil fuels, gambling or consumption of alcoholic drinks. The money generated by the initiative will go back into the Council's highways maintenance budget although not specifically earmarked for roundabout maintenance.

Gambling Policy Consultation: Under the Gambling Act 2005 Somerset Council must review its Gambling Policy every three years. Comments are invited on the draft revised Gambling Policy from all interested parties including residents and those running businesses in the County, the consultation documents can be found at <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/licensing/gambling-policy-consultation> .The consultation closes on 22nd September 2023

Single use plastics ban: Trading Standards are reminding businesses, such as takeaways, sandwich bars, care homes and retailers who supply certain single use plastic items, that a ban comes into force October 1st. The ban includes all single use plastic cutlery, trays, plates, bowls, and balloon sticks, as well as banning the use of certain types of polystyrene cups and food containers used to supply food which is ready to consume.

Soft plastics recycling: More than four tonnes of plastic bags and wrapping such as bread bags and confectionary packets, have been collected for recycling as part of the Council's role in a national project to expand recycling collections. The small-scale pilot involving 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome started at the end of May.

Appendix 2 – Letter from resident

Dear Committee 13.09.23
Thank you for Horton Parish Council News letter, it is very reassuring to know that so much is being achieved to improve the needs for the residents.
In the news letter you are asking for suggestions, may I please ask for monetary help towards the playpark in Horton to continue the improvements needed to make it a safe and exciting place for people to visit.

I know before Covid the Committee were repaying a loan for the village hall, this I believe has been repaid. The Village Hall has fantastic bookings, one can only assume they are now self sufficient. Could the money now be spent to improve the equipment at Horton Playing Field. At present there is a well used football area, but a section for younger children has been taped off as it is unsafe for use and is dangerous. There is tape around it and a notice stating not to use, but on a few occasions when I have visited both the warning sign and tape have been removed.
The equipment is dangerous and needs to be replaced with new before a young child is seriously hurt.

Thank You