

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023 STRAIGHT AFTER THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AT BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH, HORTON.**

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**PUBLIC FORUM** Five members of the public attended the meeting. Cllr Val Keitch (divisional member) was also in attendance at the meeting.

Cllr Sue Osbourne (Divisional Member) was not in attendance of the meeting. Refer to **Appendix 1** for a copy of their report.

**4022 ATTENDANCE** Councillors Ann Winter – Chairperson, Barry Mosley – Vice-Chair, Mike Schmidt, Rob Hutchinson, Dave Johnson, Ray Buckler, Peter Babbington, Julie Layzell and Andy Johnson.

**4023 APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES** None

**4024** (Missing from Agenda) **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** None.

**4025 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON** Cllr Ann Winter announced that she was stepping down as s Chair and proposed that Cllr Ray Buckler be elected as Chair, this was seconded and unanimously agreed.

**4026 COMPLETION OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS** Completed.

**4027 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR** Cllr Barry Mosley is currently Vice-Chair, and it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that he will remain in this position.

**4028 COMPLETION OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FORMS** Completed.

**4029 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (APRIL)** The minutes of the meeting held in April, having previously been circulated, were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon. Amend cheque numbers.

**4030 CHAIRPERSONS ANNOUNCEMENTS** Please refer **Appendix 2**.

**4031 TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE UNDERMENTIONED**

- 8.1 Village Hall – Cllr Ann Winter
- 8.2 Playing Field – Cllr Ray Buckler
- 8.3 Footpath Working Party – Cllr Mike Schmidt
- 8.4 South Planning Committee - Cllr Julie Layzell
- 8.5 Police Liaison Officer – Cllr Barry
- 8.7 Horton Charity – Cllr Ann Winter
- 8.7 Defibrillator – Cllr Dave Johnson
- 8.8 Speed Indicator Device - Cllr Barry Mosley/Ray Buckler
- 8.9 Village Maintenance – Cllr Andy Johnson/Rob Hutchinson
- 8.10 Local Community Network – To be decided at a later date

*Action: Clerk to update the website.*

**4032 20/03277/FUL – LAND NORTH OF BROADWAY HILL, HORTON – UPDATE** Application is to be considered at the Planning South Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2023. Somerset Council only allow 5 speakers per planning application. The specific issues the parish council will raise at the meeting include traffic, scale of the development, lack of amenities within the villages, pedestrian safety, loss of biodiversity and lack of doctor and school spaces.

It's noted that the education authority has not provided comments on the application, Cllr Val Keitch is to speak with the education authority before the committee meeting as she is under the impression that the school is currently at capacity. Cllr Val Keitch and Adam Dance to attend the committee meeting and voice their concerns regarding the application at the committee meeting.

*Action: Parish Cllrs to meet before the committee meeting to formulate their speeches.*

**4033 GRANT FUNDING**

- 10.1 Horton and Broadway Youth Group – Invite to the next meeting to get an idea of equipment/grant funding needed.
- 10.2 Defibrillator for the Village Hall – Defer to next meeting.

*Action: Clerk to add to June's agenda.*

**4034 HORTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER** Cllr Ray Buckler has produced a newsletter which will be circulated throughout the village advising residents of all the projects the parish council have undertaken and completed. Cllr Buckler to speak with Jan Humphreys (Horton Gazette) and ask if a copy of the newsletter can be included in the next edition of the Horton Gazette.

*Action: Cllr Buckler to speak with Jan Humphreys (Horton Gazette) and publish the newsletter.*

**4035 PLAYING FIELD – GENERAL UPDATE** Defer to next meeting.

*Action: Clerk to add to June's agenda.*

**4036 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE** One of the SIDs has been placed on Broadway Hill and has been capturing data. Cllr Ray Buckler has spoken with Somerset Highways and the pole required on Hanning Road will not be installed before July 2023.

**4037 DEFIBRILLATOR – POWER SUPPLY – UPDATE** Power supply still waiting to be installed. The clerk has been completing all the necessary forms requested by the National grid.

**4038 MAINTENANCE OF VERGES AND HEDGEROWS – CONTRACTOR QUOTE** Cllr Val Keitch to speak with the relevant person at Somerset Council to enquire if there is a service level agreement for verge maintenance works around Horton. Once a copy of this has been reviewed, the parish council can then formulate a plan to cover any further works required which do not form part of the service level agreement.

*Action: Cllrs Ray Buckler and Barry Mosley to send all the necessary details to Cllr Val Keitch.*

**4039 FINANCE**

- 15.1 To Approve Financial Statement 2022/23 - unanimously approved.
- 15.2 Financial Audit 2022/23
  - 15.2.1 Proposal – To Approve Section 1 (Annual Governance Statement 2022/23) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23Form 3 - unanimously approved.
  - 15.2.2 Proposal – To Approve Section 2 (Accounting Statements 2022/23) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23Form 3 - unanimously approved.
  - 15.2.3 Internal Audit Report 2022/23Form 3 - unanimously approved.
  - 15.2.4 Proposal – To Approve Summary of Receipts and Payments Statement for 2022/23 - unanimously approved.
  - 15.2.5 Proposal – To Approve Cashbook and Bank Reconciliation as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022/23 - unanimously approved.
  - 15.2.6 Proposal – To Approve Supporting Notes Attached to the Receipts and Payments Statement 2022/23 - unanimously approved.

15.3 Proposal – To approve payment of the following cheques:

15.3.1 C Duff – Clerks Wages and Expenses - Cheque No. 000847 - £756.10 - Unanimously Approved.

15.3.2 Broadway Hill Methodist Church – Hall Hire - Cheque No. 000848 - £19.50 - Unanimously Approved.

15.3.3 Gallagher – Parish Council Insurance - Cheque No. 000849 - £1,036.12 - Unanimously Approved.

15.4 Income:

15.4.1 SSDC – Precept - £14,000 - Noted

**4040 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE** None.

**4041 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

- The First Meeting LCN meeting is being held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Donyatt Village Hall commencing at 7pm.
- It was agreed to bring forward the next parish council meeting to the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Election of LCN representative, consideration of the application at Nyeworthy Farm, discussion regarding the council's assets list and Cllr DBS Checks to be included on the agenda.

**4042 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 commencing at 6.30pm.

*Meeting closed: 20:16*

SOMERSET COUNCIL

BRIEFING SHEET  
FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

MAY 2023

**Recycling statistics:** DEFRA's recently published league tables shows Somerset's 2021-2022 recycling rate of 56.2% ranking it 28 out of 228 local authorities – putting it in the top 15%. Previously this was 59 out of 228, with a recycling rate of 52.4%. In 2021-22, almost 150,000 tonnes of waste was recycled or reused, saving around 133,000 tonnes of carbon. Of that, 97.2% was recycled into new products and package in the UK. Of the 5,771 tonnes of plastics collected, 99.4% were reprocessed in the UK. Somerset's recycling crews make more than 350,000 collections a week across the County.

**Soft Plastic recycling pilot:** Following the success of Recycle More collections, Somerset Council successfully bid to be part of a national 'FlexCollect' trial of kerbside collection of soft plastics. As a result a small-scale pilot of the collection of plastic bags and wrapping for recycling will be starting in around 3,600 homes across two locations in Frome. The pilot collections will pick-up a wide range of plastic bags and wrapping, including carrier bags, bread bags, confectionary wrappers, crisp packets, food wrapping and cling film. Depending on how the trials progress, it is expected that they will be expanded to more Somerset homes next year.

**Primary School places:** Nearly 99% of Somerset's youngest children were offered a primary school place at one of their top three choices, Somerset Council's latest school admission figures show. Overall, 98.94% (98.62% last year) of the 5,182 applicants were offered a place at one of their top three choices, with 94.54% (93.4% last year) receiving their first choice.

**Mental Awareness Week:** Somerset residents are being asked to share photos of their favourite 'Happy Place' in advance of **Mental Health Awareness week** (15 – 21 May). The theme of the 2023 campaign is anxiety, and those taking part can share photos of places they go in Somerset to help them to feel calmer and happier, using the hashtags **#SomersetMyHappyPlace** . The images that are shared before 15<sup>th</sup> May can be seen at [www.healthysomerset.co.uk/mental-health-awareness-week/](http://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/mental-health-awareness-week/).

**Alternative Energy payments:** Household in Somerset could still be due for government payments to help towards the costs of heating their homes, under two separate schemes. The first scheme is for those who heat their homes with an alternative fuel such as wood pellets, LPG or oil, as many do in rural urban areas. Those householders could be due a £200 one-off payment from the government, but they must apply by 31 May and the payment isn't means tested. The second scheme is for households that have not received a £400 discount on their energy bills from an electricity supplier. They may still be entitled to a £400 one-off payment from the government.

**Making Somerset Accessible:** A year-long project to make Somerset more accessible for Disabled people was launched in April 2023. To deliver the project, Somerset Council has teamed up with WECIL Ltd – a Disabled People's Organisation who offer a range of services supporting independent living. The project is now seeking volunteers to share their views and is asking for individuals and organisations to get involved by contacting [disability.in@wecil.org.uk](mailto:disability.in@wecil.org.uk)

**Highway contravention fines:** Nearly £15k of fines have been handed to BT for roadworks offences in Frome. The telecommunications firm was found guilty of two offences which included failing to ensure the safety of pedestrians by failing to install traffic management and for carrying out works without a valid permit.

**Covid booster vaccination:** The NHS in Somerset began the next phase of Covid-19 vaccinations on the 17th April with its Spring programme, geared up to protect the most vulnerable residents. More than 80 thousand people across Somerset are eligible which includes those aged 75 and above, those with a weakened immune system, and older adult care home residents. Invitations are being sent out via letter, text messages or the NHS app and appointments can be made online through the National Booking Service.

**New childminders:** Somerset Council is offering a “Golden Hello” grant worth £250 to those who would like to be a childminder. The £250 can be used to help with training and set up costs. The Council offers guidance and training to newly registered childminders and supports them through Ofsted registration and beyond. To find out more about becoming a childminder, and for an information pack please call 0300 123 2224 or visit [www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/early-years-and-childcare/starting-a-childcare-business/](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/early-years-and-childcare/starting-a-childcare-business/)

**Appendix 2 – Chairpersons Report**

Horton Parish councillors have been very busy over the last year, and I am proud of their achievements which include;

1. Significant work to challenge and to prevent the Broadway Hill Development of 49 houses. Work has included environmental issues, traffic and planning etc.
2. The painting of the fingerpost at Pottery Road/Broadway Hill.
3. The continued improvements made to the playing field re. reequipment and repairs.
4. The planting of trees in the playing field including one in the memory of the Queen.
5. The purchase and siting of the Speed Indicator Device.
6. Purchase of a new defibrillator and installation of power supply to bus shelter.
7. New/relocated dog waste bins around the village.
8. Continued involvement in challenging some of the A358 plans.
9. Carrying out of verge and hedgerow maintenance around the village.
10. Moving of venue for parish council meetings so to be able to use Wifi/IT options.