

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 No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

3375 ATTENDANCE Councillors Ann Winter – Chairperson, Barry Mosley – Vice-Chair, Ray Buckler (Parish and District Councillor), Mike Schmidt, Rob Hutchinson, Julie Layzell, Andy Johnson, Peter Babbington and Dave Johnson.

3376 APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES None.

3377 DECLARATION OF INTEREST Cllr Rob Hutchinson has previously declared an interest in all agenda items relating to planning application ref. 20/03277/FUL (Land North Of Broadway Hill) due to the drainage pipes on the application site being within Cllr Hutchinson’s ownership, however, Cllr Hutchinson has recently been notified by Wessex Water that the drainage pipes are to be co-opted by them and therefore the responsibility of the pipes now falls to Wessex Water going forward. Cllr Hutchinson no longer has an interest in said drainage pipes.

3378 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (FEBRUARY) The minutes of the meeting held in February, having previously been circulated, were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon.

3379 PLANNING APPLICATION(S)

5.1 23/00052/HOU – Oaklands, Church Lane, Horton – Demolition of garage and erection of 2 storey side extension, single storey rear extension and porch.

The Council supports the application.

Action: Clerk to inform SSDC.

5.2 22/03207/FUL – Land Os 7300 Adj to Wellbridge Cottage, Puddlebridge, Horton – The erection of an implement store.

The parish council comments on the application are as follows:

- Concerns were raised over the size of the proposed building and the need for such a large building for domestic use only. If the application is to be approved, the parish council requests that a condition is imposed that restricts the use of the building only be used in connection with the land outlined in red and blue on the accompanying location plan.
- Should the application also be seeking permission for the change of use of land from agricultural to residential?
- Condition 04 of the previously approved planning application 10/00440/HOU for ‘Alterations and the erection of a two-storey side extension, a two-storey rear extension and an amended vehicular access’ stated:

‘Prior to the first occupation of the first of either extension, details of the following shall be provided and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority:

- (a) a 2.4m back and parallel visibility splay across the whole site frontage,*
- (b) the proper consolidation and surfacing of the first 5m of the new access (not loose stone/gravel)*
- (c) the installation of drainage measures to prevent surface water from discharging onto the highway*

- (d) the parking/turning layout as proposed, and shall be kept clear of obstruction and shall not be used other than for the parking of vehicles in connection with the development hereby approved
- (e) the stopping up of the existing access.'

The parish council considers that part (e) of this condition has not been complied with as both accesses are now in use. Concerns were raised that should the subject application be approved and the original access still in use, the proposed building, land, and access could become a separate commercial unit/site in the future.

- Siting of the proposed building – a new building in this location should be sited next to (or as close as possible) the existing buildings on site.

Action: Clerk to inform SSDC.

- 3380** **20/03277/FUL – LAND NORTH OF BROADWAY HILL, HORTON – UPDATE** It was noted that a series of amended plans and additional information had been uploaded to SSDC's website concerning the planning application. The parish council were disappointed to note that they had not received formal notification of the amendments nor were allowed to comment further.

The clerk is to send the following to SSDC:

'Regarding the above application, the parish council is concerned to note that a series of amendments/additional information has been submitted for consideration however, the parish council has not been formally notified of these amendments and been given the opportunity to comment.

Given the number of objections to the application, please can you provide the parish council with a summary of the amendments submitted as a matter of urgency so that these can be fully considered at the next parish council meeting on the 9th March.'

Action: Clerk to email SSDC

- 3381** **PLAYING FIELD – GENERAL UPDATE** All minor works required that were highlighted in the annual audit report has been undertaken by the Council. The outstanding works need to be carried out by GB Sports, who have been chased again. Part of the slide has recently broken and has since been sealed off by the Council and is now out of use and GB Sports have been asked to fix it.
- 3382** **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE** Cllr Ray Buckler has emailed SCC Highways and requested the new highway infrastructure required for the siting of the SIDs. No response received to date.

Action: Cllr Barry Mosely to take over and chase SCC Highways for a response.

- 3383** **DEFIBRILLATOR – POWER SUPPLY – UPDATE** Cllr Dave Johnson has been in contact with National Grid again who has informed us that we could now apply for a non-metered supply which is similar to how street lighting works. This could be a significant saving to the Council. Cllr Johnson is to complete the relevant forms and report back to the Council when a response has been received.

Action: Cllr Johnson to complete and submit forms for a metered supply.

- 3384 MAINTENANCE OF VERGES AND HEDGEROWS – UPDATE** Due to bad weather the working group has not been able to undertake any further work. Nevertheless, a local agricultural contractor kindly cut the hedges for free as a goodwill gesture.

Action: Cllr Rob Hitchinson to request a quote from an agricultural contractor to carry out the necessary works throughout the upcoming year.

- 3385 DOG WASTE BINS – UPDATE** One new bin has been situated under the underpass however this has been put in the wrong location and will be relocated to Goose Lane shortly the correct bin to be put under the underpass. Works are to be completed by the 17th of February 2023.

- 3386 GRATUITY PAYMENT FOR PREVIOUS CLERK** The current Clerk received a call in 2022 from the previous clerk, Ms Gill Horner, of the Council stating a gratuity payment was owed to her as she had reached retirement age. The current clerk was unaware of such an agreement/decision that was previously made. The clerk requested Ms Horner provide the Council with some evidence to consider the matter further.

No information was received and sum 9 months later Ms Horner contacted the clerk asking for an update. The clerk informed Ms Horner that no evidence from her had been received, nor had a formal request for the matter to be considered. Nevertheless, the clerk agreed to list the matter on the next agenda. In the meantime, the clerk contacted SALC who informed the Council of the following:

‘The ability for a council to make payment of a gratuity was repealed in 2012. However, they might still be entitled to the payment if, prior to the 2012 date, it was her contractual entitlement. Does the council have a copy of their contract of employment? It’s worth noting that the NALC model contract in place at that time made reference to a discretionary gratuity and did not make it an entitlement. Therefore, if they were working under that model, they will be relying on some other contractual provision.

If you can gather the paperwork you have, I can run it past the NALC solicitors for an opinion, just let me know.’

Cllr Ann Winter approached several previously elected councillors to discuss the matter but none of them could recall such an agreement.

To date, still, no formal request has been made to the Council from Ms Horner.

Action: Clerk to email Ms Horner to request that a formal request is made for the matter to be considered further and if such request is to be made, evidence needs to be provided. If any information is received, the Clerk is to forward it to SALC/NALC for their opinion.

3387 FINANCE

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

13.2 Bank Signatories – For the clerk to amend the current signatory list with Natwest Bank it needs to be minuted. It was agreed to remove all previous members of the council that are no longer on the parish and to add Cllrs Ann Winter, Barry Mosley, Ray Buckler, Peter Babbington and Rob Hutchinson.

3388 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.1 Consultation Notification – Somerset Council Statement of Community Involvement – Noted.

14.2 National Grid overhead refurbishment meeting - save the date – It is considered that the wrong Horton Parish Council was notified. The clerk is to respond to the email to inform them of this.

3389 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRPERSON None.

3390 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 9th March 2023 commencing at 6.30pm. Cllr Peter Babbington informed the Council he will be unable to attend this meeting.