

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.30PM AT BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH, HORTON.

Page 1310

PUBLIC FORUM No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Osbourne (Councillor – Somerset Council).

4115 ATTENDANCE Councillors Ray Buckler – Chairperson, Barry Mosley – Vice-Chair, Ann Winter, Mike Schmidt, Dave Johnson, Julie Layzell, Andy Johnson and Robert Hutchinson.

4116 APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES Cllr Peter Babbington.

4117 DECLARATION OF INTEREST None.

4118 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (OCTOBER) The minutes of the meeting held in October, having previously been circulated, were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon.

4119 PLANNING APPLICATION(S) No applications to consider.

Planning Application Update - 23/01649/FUL - Land North Of Broadway Hill, Broadway Hill, Horton - Construction of 49 dwellings and formation of vehicular access - The parish council comments have been submitted and uploaded to LPA's website, refer to **Appendix 1** for a copy of the comments.

4120 PLAYING FIELD UPDATE General Update – Refer to **Appendix 2**. Ray to provide written notes.

4121 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE

- Cllr Barry Mosley has requested a replacement pole on Potter Road/Shave Lane from Somerset Council however they have advised due to contractual reasons with a new contractor they cannot take applications for the 2024-25 financial year. It was decided that the Council will therefore seek a quote from a third party contractor and look to get the work done independently.
- Broadway PC have identified four sites to locate a SID and the locations have been submitted to Somerset Council for approval. Broadway PC does not have the funds to purchase a SID currently and has requested to borrow Horton's in the meantime, this is to be considered at a later date.

Action: Cllr Mosley to obtain a quote for a replacement pole.

4122 DEFIBRILLATOR

- 8.1 Power Supply Update – All installed and invoiced, the project is now complete. Remove as an agenda item.
- 8.2 Additional Defibrillator Funding – Application – Clerk received an email from London Hearts advising new funding is available for a defibrillator which would seek a saving of approx. £500 off the current quote.
- 8.3 Village Hall – As per 8.2 above.

Action: Clerk to submit a funding request for defibrillator grant funding. Locations of both defibrillators are to be advised of on social media and the Horton Gazette.

4123 MAINTENANCE AROUND THE VILLAGE – UPDATE No further updates at this time.

4124 LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK – UPDATE Cllr Ray Buckler is currently in talks with Somerset Council concerning the goings on at the last meeting regarding the Places for People consultation, all other parishes in attendance of the meeting were unaware of the current consultation. Cllr Val Keitch is aware of the issue and Cllr Buckler is awaiting a response to his complaint.

Action: Cllr Buckler to keep chasing Somerset Council for a response.

4125 DBS CHECKS – UPDATE All Cllrs except Cllr Robert Hutchinson have now received the results of the DBS checks. Cllrs Robert Hutchinson is still pending and requires further action.

4126 FINANCE

- 12.1 To Approve Financial Statement 2023/24 – Unanimously approved.
- 12.2 Draft Budget 2024/25 – It was agreed to continue to include the previous loan payment amount within the budget (approx. £6,500) and use this money for other projects within the village such as further works at the playing field, verge maintenance around the village etc. Other potential projects to be carried out and to be considered further include the installation of additional seating around the village, providing residents with grants to plant more trees, installing hedges at the playing field, upgrading the noticeboard, providing a bin in the bus shelter and a book exchange.
- 12.3 Annual Audit Sign-Off – 2022/23 - Unnaniously approved and formal sign-off received from external auditors.
- 12.4 Banking Arrangements – Update – As per October 2023 minutes.
- 12.5 Proposal – Cheques To Be Issued
 - 12.5.1 C Duff – Wages and Expenses – Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000873 – £264.18.
 - 12.5.2 D White – Wages and Expenses - Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000874 – £415.93.
 - 12.5.3 B Mosley – Expenses - Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000875 – £18.00.
 - 12.5.4 A Winter – Expenses - UUnanimouslyApproved - Cheque No. 000876 – £20.00.
 - 12.5.5 HMRC – NI Contributions (backdated to 2016 to date) – Incorrect. Employer liability (cost) covering the period of employment for D White when employed covering maternity leave. Payment issued to the clerk to pay on behalf of the parish council due to payment needing to be paid electronically and the parish council not set up with online banking - Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000881 – £325.55.
 - 12.5.6 SALC – Membership Fee & Training - Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000877 – £298.79.
 - 12.5.7 PKF Littlejohn – Audit - Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000878 – £252.00.
 - 12.5.8 DJ Broome Electrical – Defibrillator Power Supply Installation - Unanimously Approved - Cheque No. 000879 – £369.00.
 - 12.5.9 ElanCity – SID Parts - UUnanimouslyApproved - Cheque No. 000880 – £200.74.
 - 12.5.10 London Hearts – DDefibrillator– On Hold.

4127 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 13.1 Chapter 8 Course – Help in finding a venue for training events. Clerk to email a copy of the email to Cllr Ann Winter.
- 13.2 Community Review Project – Expressions of Interest – Noted.
- 13.3 St Peters Church - Thank you letter – Noted.

4128 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN

- A request from the village hall to appoint a parish council representative on the village hall committee, it was agreed in the last parish council AGM meeting that Cllr Ann Winter would be the representative.
- A few complaints from residents have been received concerning the condition of the road on Hanning Road following the broadband installation, Cllr Ray Buckler is to report issues to Somerset Council via their website.

4129 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 11th January 2024 commencing at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed: 20:13

APPENDIX 1 – PLANNING APPLICATION

Re 23/01649/Ful - Horton Parish council have considered the second application to build 49 houses on Bradway Hill.

There are no significant changes to the original application, which was refused at the Somerset area South planning meeting in May 2023. For multiple reasons.

We have supplied our objections for the almost identical application from 2020 (20/03277/FUL) and further object to the 2023 latest version for the following reasons:

1) Local and neighbourhood plans – Horton and Broadway are two distinct rural settlements each with its own Parish Council. The application seeks to concatenate the two villages as one settlement, when it suits planning needs, but uses individual stats for Horton when it benefits the developers. The need for 49 new dwellings at the Broadway location is not proven. Over the last three years Horton Parish Council have supported the development of over 40 self-build and small developments across the village. It must be noted that some have not yet been completed and there are at least seven currently unsold for many months. The demand for houses has reduced significantly recently, with increasing mortgage costs, less available income due to extreme energy prices and general economic uncertainty.

2) Local demand for new houses – The developer has failed to demonstrate the need for this many new builds at Horton, there are no village businesses that could provide work. This would mean any new residents of working age would need to travel by car to be employed. A considerable number of extra car journeys would then be taking place to get to employment at Taunton, Honiton, Chard, Yeovil etc. The nearest Train location is Crewkerne, which is also a car journey away. Public transport to fit working hours doesn't exist in Horton.

3) Local Services – Contrary to bland statements by local bodies relating to school places, doctors, dentists, banks, council offices etc. These are all unavailable on foot, again, this would significantly increase traffic through the village, especially Broadway Hill, Hanning road via the five dials junction (see next objection [4] highways issues).

4) Highways Issues – There will be substantial increase in traffic movements all leaving and arriving at the same place Broadway Hill. Horton Parish Council have placed a SID (speed indicator device) very near to the proposed side road for this development. We have individual and daily records of vehicle numbers, speeds and busy times from May 2023 to date. We know that there is significant excess speed past this point, both incoming and outgoing directions, we also see several instances where the road carries excessive numbers of vehicles due to accidents on the A303 and Southfields roundabout. The available splay to drive out from the side road proposed is far too short, added to this the hedgerows in both directions are not regularly cut back (either by Council or local owners), reducing the planned sight lines still further. Horton Parish Council fail to understand why this application is not subject to a highways study, especially as further excess traffic on Broadway hill will become a longer-term issue when the A358/A303 improvements take place. The existing village hall, located adjacent to the new development has seen an increase in weekend event bookings, this has brought additional cars to the location, which exceeds the capacity of the hall's parking places. Horton Parish Council have pictures of lines of vehicles parked in Broadway hill, which will further obscure the view of anyone pulling out of the new development, cars arriving into the village will have to cross double white lines in order to get past the stationary cars. If the development goes ahead, I expect that some of these cars will then park on the road within the development, further increasing congestion and the risk of an accident.

5) Observations on road layout within the development – The change of some parking spaces within the development are very likely to cause access issues for contractors' vehicles, waste collection, supermarket vans, emergency vehicles, especially fire tenders. There are a number of pinch points within the road scheme, which will be made worse if residents have long wheelbase SUV's and rural vehicles [e.g. Toyota Land cruiser].

Additionally:

Horton Parish, as covered in our previous document on the 2020 application object to this current version of this application:

- Adverse visual impact of this application to the overall nature of Horton, which is out of character to the main look and building type of the Horton Rural settlement.
- The poor layout of the development, the high density of the building within the location.
- Alien design style, appearance, materials, and poor landscaping.
- Unclear drainage plans, additional impact on flooding at forest mill lane.

Horton Parish Council Oct/23

APPENDIX 2 – PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

Playing Field report 05/10/23

Observations:

GB Sports have been given go ahead to fix the outstanding issues on the park. The sent the replacement panel to fit onto the slide instead of the small “balcony” with the rotted floor. This was actioned on 3rd October, by Peter B and me. We also removed the green mould and dirt from the remaining panels.

The main work still outstanding is to repair the infant swing base which was not part of the recent upgrade and installations. I have not yet been given a working date by GB sports to complete this work.

General:

Maintenance of grass and borders up to date.

I still have some concerns about the oak tree near the infant section again, re last report: *Some big branches/limbs have dropped and now in reach of people within the park. As previously, we can take on the work, if we advise the owners.* The owners have been away, plus I have not had a response from the company that did the last tree work on the oak. I will follow up in October.

Collection of bins still intermittent – Looks like it’s on every three weeks “black Bin” calendar, so should be taken next Wednesday.

I have been given the plastic caps to cover the exposed nuts on the donut swing... not installed yet as I do not think they will stay on long.

RTB 04/10