

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6.30PM AT BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH, HORTON.

Page 1250

**PUBLIC FORUM** Six members of the public were in attendance at the meeting. One member of the public thanked the Council for undertaking the works of removing weeds/cutting back vegetation along footpaths around the village and the newly painted fingerpost.

**3337 ATTENDANCE** Cllrs Ann Winter - Chairperson, Barry Mosley – Vice-Chair, Ray Buckler, Mike Schmidt, Julie Layzell, David Johnson, Peter Babbington and Rob Hutchinson.

**3338 APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES** None.

**3339 DECLARATION OF INTEREST** Cllr David Johnson declared an interest in agenda item 6 (minute ref. 3342) as he is the applicant of the planning application that is to be considered during the meeting. Cllr Johnson will leave the room when the application was being voted on.

**3340 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR** Clerk notified SSDC of the vacancy and advertised the position in line with the statutory time requirement. The clerk received no response from SSDC. It was therefore considered due process had been adhered to and therefore the parish council could continue with co-opting a new councillor. Two applications were received expressing an interest in the position. During the meeting, both candidates gave a brief introduction to themselves and answered any questions asked. A secret ballot was conducted and Andy Johnson was voted the successful candidate voted onto the Council and joined the Cllrs at the table for the remainder of the meeting.

**3341 COMPLETION OF DECLARATION OF OFFICE AND REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS** Both forms were provided to Andy Johnson for completion.

*Action: The clerk is to provide a copy of the completed register of interest form to SSDC.*

**3342 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (SEPTEMBER)** The minutes of the meeting held in September, having previously been circulated, were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed on subject to a minor amendment (ref. 3328) to correct ownership of the project (Cllr Barry Mosley's project).

**3343 PLANNING APPLICATION(S)**

5.1 22/02652/S73A - Land Adjacent Thatchcroft Pound Road Horton - Erection of 2 No. detached dwellinghouses and 2 No. detached car ports and formation of access. S73A application to vary condition 5 (window restriction) of approval 17/03925/REM to remove the requirement for the windows for bathroom and Bedroom 1 in the first floor of the rear (north-west) elevation of Plot 2 to be non-opening.

The applicant (Cllr David Johnson) explained the proposal to the Cllrs. The original application (17/03925/REM) received was objected to by the neighbour for reasons based on overlooking however, the neighbour has confirmed in a letter to SSDC that they are now happy there is no overlooking and supports the current application. Cllr Johnson left the room for the Cllrs to vote on the application. The application was unanimously supported based on the neighbour's letter of support.

*Action: Clerk to inform SSDC.*

**3344 HORTON AND BROADWAY ECO COMMUNITY GROUP – THE QUEENS CANOPY** Two members of the group attended the meeting to explain their current project. The group intends to improve the environment and village. Their current proposal and the main aim is to plant more trees across the village, starting with planting a tree in line with the current nationwide initiative 'The Queens Canopy' which seeks to do two things; A. plant more trees and B. Commemorate the Queen. All trees would be given for free by the Woodland Trust in either singles or sets of 50. The group asked the Council for permission to plant a tree on the playing field.

The tree would then be registered with a plaque displayed and all future maintenance would be undertaken by the group. There is no cost to purchase a tree however the group sought approval from the Council to purchase the plaque which would cost approx. £60.

Cllrs asked various questions regarding the project and it was then unanimously agreed to support, in principle, the proposal, siting of the tree at the playing field and purchase of the plaque. When the plans have been formalised, the group will present a formal plan to the Council for further consideration.

**3345 PLAYING FIELD**

8.1 General Update – Please refer to **Appendix 1** for the update.

- Cllr Robert Hutchinson acts as deputy when Cllr Ray Buckler is unable to undertake any weekly checks.
- GB Sports have been contacted regarding carrying out necessary repairs highlighted in the annual audit report. No response received to date, Cllr Buckler to chase.
- Cllrs agree to the principle of current contractors being appointed to carry out maintenance works for a further year.

8.2 Installation of concrete base for bench – update. Cllrs Barry Mosley and Ray Buckler have marked out the location for the new bench. The contractor will carry out work w/c 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**3346 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE** A member of the public in attendance at the meeting expressed their concerns over speeding throughout the village and they were attending the meeting on a fact-finding exercise to be able to report back to the residents of Thornleigh. Cllr Barry Mosley confirmed that the Council are committed to installing a SID within Village and the Council is very aware and concerned with the speeding issue. Cllr Mosley then proceeded to update the member of the public on where the Council currently are to date with the sourcing/purchase of a SID and has received 3 quotes; Truvello – £10,150 (no install costs), Westotech - £10,262 and Elan City - £5,400. The quotes provided allow for two units. It was questioned why two units are necessary and Cllr Mosley informed the Council that a unit is required on both sides of the roads when in use.

It was agreed that the Elan City quote is preferable thus Cllr Mosley will make more enquiries with them. Money has been allocated in the upcoming budget for the purchase.

*Action: Cllr Mosley to make a few more enquiries. Cllr Buckler to work on the requirements of additional street furniture with Cllr Mosley.*

**3347 DEFIBRILLATOR – POWER SUPPLY – UPDATE** Approx cost to install a power supply is £2,300. A further discussion was had concerning the need for a power supply and it was decided that it is necessary to provide one to preserve the life of the defibrillator.

Installing a power supply was also considered to be a benefit for other future uses such as a community fridge, illuminated noticeboard etc. Ideas for future use are to be considered at a later date.

During the meeting, it was unanimously agreed to proceed with the installation of a power supply.

*Action: Cllr David Johnson to proceed with the instruction of the utility company.*

**3348 MAINTENANCE OF VERGES AND HEDGEROWS – UPDATE** The working group set up by the Council have now undertaken five sessions of work and good progress has been made. The current working party to continue carrying out work and will take place on Mondays at 9.30 am. A post will be posted on social media asking for additional volunteers to help with the work. It was agreed that high-visibility jackets are required for safety reasons. In the meantime, Cllr Ray Buckler will continue to speak with SCC Highways and National Highways to establish who is responsible for maintaining these areas in the future.

*Action: Cllr Buckler to purchase high visibility jackets and claim the cost back in expenses.*

**3349 A358 UPGRADE – UPDATE** Cllrs Julie Layzell, Ann Winter and Ray Buckler attended the latest meeting of the local parish council (14 parishes involved) which discussed the recent updates announced by National Highways stating the DCO application is to be submitted in December for consideration by the Secretary of State/public inquiry. Once the DCO has formally been submitted can be formally commented on.

*Action: Cllr Julie Layzell to keep the Council updated.*

**3350 DOG WASTE BINS – UPDATE** Cllr Peter Babbington met with SSDC recently and walked the village to discuss the lack of bins and the proposed location for additional bins. It was agreed with SSDC that four additional bins are required; the Existing bin next to the bus shelter is to be relocated next to the fingerpost sign and the bin on Goose Lane is to be increased in size however this will cost the parish council approx. £785 with the existing bin being relocated to Paulls Lane. The final place a bin is required is at the far end of the underpass on Pottery Road, this will also come at a cost to the parish council. Both new/additional bins will cost approx. £1,000. SSDC has agreed to empty all bins which will be emptied more frequently than is currently happening.

It was unanimously agreed to the principle of purchasing additional bins.

*Action: Cllr Babbington to contact SSDC and confirm provisional agreement to go ahead with the above.*

### **3351 FINANCE**

14.1.1 To Approve Financial Statement 2022/23 – Unanimously Approved.

14.1.2 External Audit Report – Noted.

14.1.3 Draft Budget 2023/24 – Unanimously agreed, in principle., subject to adding in £1,000 for bins.

14.1.4 Reserve Funds – Discussed and to be considered further.

Proposal – To approve payment of the following cheques:

14.2 D White – Wages and Expenses - Cheque No. 000831 - £505.83 - Unanimously Approved.

14.3 PFK Littlejohn - Audit (Not listed on agenda) – Cheque No. 000832 - £240.00 - Unanimously Approved.

14.4 Cllr Ann Winter - Expenses (Not listed on agenda) – Cheque No. 000833 - £20.00 - Unanimously Approved.

Incoming Monies

14.3 CIL Payment - £3,735.57 – Land at Riverside - Noted.

### **3352 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

15.1 Fire service consultation – Noted. Clerk to upload to the website.

15.2 Volunteer to be an Independent Visitor or Advocate for children in Somerset - Noted. Clerk to upload to the website.

15.3 Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit – Noted. Clerk to upload to the website.

15.4 Avian Influenza outbreak – Noted. Clerk to upload to the website.

### **3353 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

- It's been noted that the road salt grit bins have been refilled and are now full.
- Cllr Ann Winter purchased a wreath for Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the parish council.
- Parking at Neroche School, Broadway – Parking issues within Broadway at school drop-off and pick-up times. A question was asked on how this could be resolved. Unless parents are encouraged to walk, there is no other solution.

**3354 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023 commencing at 6.30pm.

**3355 CLOSED SESSION**

18.1 Agreement on NJC pay scales (to include back pay from April 2022) – Noted and agreed. Clerk to invoice for backpay amount in January's meeting.

18.2 Discussion on increasing clerk's hours – It was agreed to increase the clerk's hours from 5 to 6 per week to account for the additional work required for the now monthly meetings (excluding August and December). Clerk to amend the contract for agreement/signing in the January meeting.

**Appendix 1 – Playing Field Update Report**

Weather has limited the use of the field over the last month, not much attendance even during the ½ term. At last check the council supplied football was still in place in its net + I have a further unused football in reserve at home, ready to deploy when needed.

Missed a couple of weeks reporting of the equipment, will address that this weekend.

Work to fix the small items listed in the playfield report for some pay equipment is still outstanding , our contact Gary Barber not returned call or email from early November. Work offered by me and Rob Hutchinson, not yet carried out. Time has been mutually spent on the clearing of the old A303 during last four weeks. *Action – will try and reach GB Sports again via phone and email*

D Newman has dealt with the perimeter of the field since the last meeting, I have not seen Michelle for some time, or any invoices. However, the grass has been cut at appropriate times.

Does the Parish wish to carry on with the existing contracts again into next year? - unless we have a duty to tender again, I am content with the current arrangements. If so, I will amend the contract ready for next year (at the same price).

RTB/v2