

MINUTES OF ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT DINDER VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 13th MAY 2024, 7PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs F Brown; P Blatchford; M Cooke; E Danson; T Hathway; M Hayden; K Hoogesteger; I Humphreys; S Johns; M Lunnon; S McCoy; M Mitchell; J Reeves; J Zorab.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Pool (Parish Clerk); Simon Davies (RFO); Somerset Council Cllrs H Shearer & T Robbins; 8 members of the public.

01. ELECTION OF CHAIR, OUTGOING CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR.

Both Cllrs Zorab and Hathway agreed to stand for re-election and were duly nominated. After re-election, the Chair reminded councillors about respectful dealings with members of the public. She also stressed the need for more participation in committees, urged newer councillors to become involved and that sharing roles could be beneficial to full-time working councillors and could be accommodated. Cllr Zorab also updated the meeting on the imminent auction of Bowring Close plots, noting that this Council's measures to protect the two plots had now been referenced in the legal packs. The Chair also noted that social occasions were valuable, enjoyable and thanked the Clerk for her input.

RESOLVED: Cllr Jacqui Zorab was re-elected as Chair.

RESOLVED: Cllr Tony Hathway was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

02. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Councillors Jenny Baker, Joe Joseph and Gill Pettitt sent apologies for either work commitments or medical reasons.

RESOLVED: to accept the reasons offered for absence.

03. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jim Reeves declared a **personal** interest in Item 15 (Coxley Path project).

Cllr Martin Cooke declared a **personal** and **pecuniary** interest in Item 9, due to his travel expenses claim.

04.A TO APPOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRS

The Council agreed on the following Committee membership:

Asset Management Committee: Cllrs F Brown, M Cooke, I Humphreys, M Lunnon, S McCoy, M Mitchell, J Reeves & J Zorab. **Chair:** Cllr J Zorab.

Finance & Scrutiny Committee: Cllrs J Baker, M Cooke, E Danson, M Hayden, S Johns & G Pettitt. **Chair:** Cllr M Hayden.

Planning Committee: Cllrs F Brown, T Hathway, M Hayden, K Hoogesteger, M Lunnon, J Reeves, J Zorab. **Chair:** Cllr M Hayden.

Staffing Committee: Cllrs J Baker, M Hayden, K Hoogesteger, M Mitchell, G Pettitt, J Zorab.

RESOLVED: Terms of Reference are to be adapted to accommodate increased committee membership.

RESOLVED: To approve the above councillors as committee members and approve the appointment of the Chairpersons of Planning, Asset Management & Finance & Scrutiny.

RESOLVED: to defer the appointment of the Chairperson of the Staffing Committee until the next meeting (14th October 2024).

04.B TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF WORKING PARTIES AND GROUPS

The Council agreed on the following membership:

- Allotments: Cllrs M Cooke & M Hayden.
- Easton Jubilee Playing Field: Cllrs M Cooke & M Lunnon.
- Environment Working Group: Cllrs J Baker, M Cooke, T Hathway, I Humphreys, J Joseph, G Pettitt. **Lead Cllr**: G Pettitt.
- Rights Of Way: Cllrs M Lunnon & I Humphreys.

RESOLVED: to approve the above councillors as members of working groups.

RESOLVED: to defer decisions about the Traffic In Villages Working group until a later date.

The Council agreed to disband the following:

- Heritage Signs Working Group
- Local Authority Reorganisation Research Working Group

The Council agreed to keep the following in abeyance:

- Strategic Planning Working Group

RESOLVED: To disband or continue the above working groups.

04.C TO APPOINT MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL AGENCIES

The Council agreed on the following representatives:

Local Community Network (LCN): Cllrs T Hathway & M Hayden

LCN Representatives for working groups:

- Active Travel: Cllr T Hathway.
- Highways & Traffic: Cllr F Brown.
- Flooding: Cllrs J Reeves & M Lunnon.
- Rights of Way/ Parish Paths Liaison Officer: Cllrs I Humphreys & M Lunnon

Brittaines Charity: Mrs Linda Danson

Community Speedwatch : Cllr M Hayden

Coxley Memorial Hall Committee: Cllrs M Mitchell & J Reeves

Horrington Primary School Governor : Cllr P Blatchford (should an opportunity arise)

Dulcote Recreation Ground Board of Trustees (reporting to Full Council): Cllrs M Cooke, E Danson, K Hoogesteger, S Johns, S McCoy, M Mitchell, J Zorab

RESOLVED: to approve the councillors above as representatives of the external agencies and organisations

05. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: To exclude the press and public from Item 18.

06. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Residents from East Horrington raised concern about the failure of Truespeed connections and the difficulty in getting a resolution, despite discussions with the company. It was acknowledged that the Council had limited action options but encouraged residents to lobby Truespeed collectively, as well as contacting 'Connecting Devon & Somerset' for support and requiring any commitments from Truespeed to be made in writing. Somerset Cllr Tony Robbins offered to discuss with Wells City Clerk Steve Luck & Cllr Jim Reeves agreed to pass on the contact he has from a former complaint and pass to the resident. The Clerk is to facilitate this.

07. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS

Somerset Councillor Heather Shearer promoted Somerset Council's AGM next week, as well as the campaign to promote and increase awareness of Fostering and encouraging people to consider foster-parenting. Cllr Shearer also agreed to try and find the contract details

for 'Connecting Devon & Somerset' for residents regarding broadband connectivity. Cllr Shearer reiterated the very difficult situation regarding Bowring Close.

08. MINUTES OF ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2024

To confirm and sign as correct record the minutes of the Council held on Monday 18th March 2024 (attached).

RESOLVED: to approve and sign as an accurate record the Minutes of Full Council held on 18th March 2024.

09. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The accounts for payment had been checked and verified prior to the meeting by Cllrs M Hayden & E Danson.

RESOLVED: to approve the accounts presented.

10. MULTIPLE TRANSPORT ISSUES

To resolve on any preferred course of action regarding the following traffic-related matters:

10.1 Village Signs The Clerk acknowledged that more comprehensive quotes were needed for a final decision but requested that the Council advanced this issue. It was asked whether the picket fence versions were the best use of precept money but it was agreed – in principle- to gather more information for a sign at the north and south ends of the village. Quotes must include the village name, 'please drive carefully', gate/post options and large speed limit roundels. The Clerk is to investigate the position of existing speed limit roundels, the land ownership of proposed locations and the potential for repeater roundels.

RESOLVED: to advance the issue of village signs in East Horrington.

10.2 Roemead Road/B3139 Cllr Blatchford described some of the many hazards of the stretch of the B3139, as well as highlighting the resident support for speed restriction measures. Somerset Council (Highways) are scheduled to install the Burnt Cross/Whitnell Corner roundabout, with accompanying speed restrictions on the approach, but it was agreed that the Council should request extending the speed limits before construction got underway.

RESOLVED: The Clerk is to contact Somerset Highways and request that speed limit signs and/or double white lines extend east of the Rookery Farm businesses and homes

10.3 Footpaths: the Council discussed the letter from Somerset Council regarding a survey gauging interest in devolved footpath maintenance to Parish Councils. It was agreed that the proposals were not a best fit for this Council and would better respond on a case-by-case basis.

RESOLVED: to not participate in the Somerset Council survey.

10.4 Updates: The Council were updated on the costs and likely duration of TROs for Milton/Tynings Lane and the very limited feedback from parents regarding an improved crossing at Horrington Primary School.

RESOLVED: to request that Somerset Council (Highways) proceed with installation of advisory HGV signs. Cllr Lunnon is to recommend the precise locations.

11. DOG WASTE BINS CONSENSUS

Individual opinions were respected. Asset Management Committee members were able to gauge the opinions of the wider Full Council: a majority supported an appropriate and measured approach to installing dog waste bins, three councillors were absent and some councillors objected.

12. UPDATE: WELLS & RURAL LCN

Cllr Hathway updated about the various working groups that were gaining momentum on various cross-parish issues (Active Travel, Highways & Transport) and that the Flooding Working Group was awaiting a new appointment in Somerset Council. Cllr Hathway stressed that LCN representatives were encouraged from the *entire* community. The AGM is to take place on 4th July 2024.

Residents who had recently experienced frequent flooding adjacent to the River Sheppey relayed an account of the trauma, and ensuing frustrations with agency coordination. Subsequently, the **resident has requested that any paper copies of his account be destroyed and removed from the record**. The Council offered to provide details about the Somerset IDB meetings, provide residents with Cllr Lunnon's mobile number, promote the Council's flooding website page and encourage their participation in any parish or LCN groups working on the issue.

13. UPDATE: ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

The Minutes of the previous EWG meeting were approved and notice given of the pending flooding page of the Council's website that the Assistant Clerk is producing.

RESOLVED: to accept the Minutes of the EWG meeting held on 8th April 2024.

14. D-DAY80 COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

The Council approved a spend of no more than £250 and approved the arrangements, risk assessment, funding for refreshments & incidentals of £100, invitations and official registration of the beacon-lighting event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

RESOLVED: to approve funding limited to £250 for the commemoration beacon-lighting.

15. REQUESTS FOR PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT

Wedmore Parish Council Flood/Drainage

RESOLVED: to write a formal letter of support.

Shepton Mallet Amulet Theatre

RESOLVED: to write a formal letter of support

Coxley Path Project: Mr Bob Murrell was curtailed for time but also requested that the Parish Council consider financial support for the project.

RESOLVED: Cllr Danson offered to create a draft agreement document for the next Full Council meeting, to serve as the basis of Council permission for the path, if and when the agreement is agreed.

YMCA pop-up youth events

RESOLVED: to support in principle moves by YMCA Brunel to develop pop-up youth clubs, but not to approve specific funding until more is known.

16. REPORTS OF WARD ACTIVITIES

There were no ward reports.

17. DOCUMENT REVIEWS

The documents listed below were reviewed:

a) Consent to hold Contact Info, b) Data Protection Policy, c) Allotment Tenant Privacy Notice, d) Email Privacy Notice, e) General Privacy Notice, f) Privacy Impact Assessment Form, g) Social Media & Electronic Communications policy, h) Subject Access Request Form and i) Staff Appraisal Documentation

RESOLVED: to accept as presented the above documents and implement changes suggested in red text.

18. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINT

To resolve on whether to pursue a complaint about Somerset Council's management of Bowring Close.

RESOLVED: to proceed with a formal complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about Somerset Council's methods regarding the auction of Bowring Close plots.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 24th June 2024 at 7pm (Dinder).