

## MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT VICTORIA ROOMS, MILVERTON ON MONDAY 7th AUGUST 2023 at 7:00 pm

<b>Present</b>	R Burton (Chair)	M Dinning	G May
	H Burton	J Hoyle	T Phelps
	P Chambers	C Mann	J Townend
	A Dakowski	A Mather	

In attendance: Mr T Payne, Clerk to the Council  
SC Cllrs G Wren and D Mansell  
C Brewer, Regional Manager of Village Agents  
8 Members of the public

	<p><b>Public Questions</b> Comment were made regarding the possibility of reducing the speed limit on the road coming into Milverton from Wiveliscombe. It was noted that Somerset Highways had been contacted by this matter in the past, though clarification of the definitive answer would be sought. Comment was made on the need for a dog waste bin to be sited in Houndsmoor. It was noted this issue was covered later in the agenda (Item 10.1)</p> <p><b>Reports from County and District Councillors</b> SC Cllr G Wren reported that the budget of Somerset Council was still a matter of concern, with the post- 1 April investigations leading to a larger than expected deficit. If measures were not taken the deficit was projected to increase from £40million to £100million. A review had identified several headings under which savings could be made , including efficiency savings, alternative service delivery and asset management.</p>
1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> None were received</p>
2.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr P Chambers - Item 7.1 - Planning matter re Secret Meadow</li> <li>- Cllrs T Phelps &amp; J Hoyle re Item 8 - Grant request re The Globe Inn Community Group</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 3rd July 2023</b> The minutes were approved as circulated.</p>
4.	<p><b>Actions from previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- None not covered elsewhere on the agenda</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Consideration of Planning Applications for comments to SC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>23/23/0020 Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 30 Courtfield, Milverton</i> Following discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council support the application.</li> </ul> <p><i>(Cllr P Chambers left the room prior to the following agenda item)</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>23/23/0023 Application for a lawful development certificate for an existing use of a building as a single dwelling and occupation of a dwelling in breach of an agricultural occupancy condition at Secret Meadow, Weekmoor Lane, Milverton</i>            Under the nature of the application, the PC is asked for any evidence which Somerset Council may also take into account in deciding the matter.            The Parish Council resolved to respond to SC in line with a note prepared prior to the meeting stating that the Parish Council is aware that the business of an operating sawmill was sold around 2018 and that prior to this date, ie within the relevant employment period for the application, the nature of the business, presumably registered, and assuming it was in fact operating within Clanville Sawmills Limited, may not have been limited to letting. Despite this not necessarily subsequently being considered as agricultural employment, Somerset Council may wish to seek clarification of the position.  <i>(Cllr P Chambers returned to the meeting)</i> </li> <li>- <i>23/23/0025 Demolition and part retention of barns and erection of 3 No. dwellings with associated works, access and landscaping on land at Weekmoor, Weekmoor Lane, Milverton</i>            Following discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council support the application         </li> </ul>
<b>5.2 Report on Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters</b>	<p>Clerk reported that the recent application re Soap House, Sand Street, had been approved by SC. SC Cllr G Wren noted that there were differences between the solar farm applications at Preston Farm and that at Watchet, which had recently been refused by the SC Planning Committee.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Role of Village Agent</b></p>
	<p>Christone Brewer gave a brief report detailing the type of work that Village Agents undertake, which includes assistance with form completion for benefits, help with debts through agencies/charities and assistance with housing. Support is also given to carers across Somerset. Sharon Coles has recently been appointed as the new VA for the area.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Flooding in Milverton and Preston Bowyer</b></p>
	<p>Chair reported that the s19 Report to be undertaken by Somerset Council had not yet been authorised. Chasing emails had been sent. In the absence of progress, Chair is to write to the SC Chief Executive and M.rs R Pow MP</p>
	<p>An area of Woodbarton has not yet been completely cleaned following the flooding and this is to be chased up.</p>
	<p>Chair had attended a meeting on 2 August with Mike Rigby (SC Lead Member Transport and Digital) and David Carter (SC Service Director, Infrastructure and Transport regarding road drainage in the parish. It was noted as possible that an LCN could employ a Parish Steward to undertake works on the highway such as gulley clearance, as an add-on to services provided by SC (the estimated cost of this would be cf90/100k). This matter would be on future LCN agendas. It was also noted training for residents to clear gullies in a flood event may be possible (<i>Notes on the meeting to be placed on the PC website</i>)</p>
	<p>A further meeting is to be arranged re Creedwell issues and the agreed works regarding the spring in Jubilee Gardens are to be chased.</p>
	<p>Thanks were offered to Chair for his work in dealing with the flooding matters</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Consideration of Grant Request</b></p>
	<p><i>(Cllrs J Hoyle and T Phelps left the room prior to the following agenda item)</i></p>

	<p>A grant application had been received in respect of the group investigating the potential purchase of The Globe Inn as a community pub via a Community Benefit Society. It was noted that the pub was now up for sale, which may or may not lead to a buyer seeking to continue to operate it as a pub. The grant was requested to meet the costs of becoming a member of the Plunkett Foundation, a charity which assists community groups in purchasing village assets. It was resolved, by majority, that the grant of £275 be given.</p> <p><i>(Cllrs J Hoyle and T Phelps returned to the meeting)</i></p>
9.	<p><b>Recreation Ground Liaison</b></p> <p>A summary prepared by the Trustees of the Recreation Ground had been circulated detailing the issues that they faced. As well as a challenging financial position, being impacted by the Open Spaces grant from SC stopping from 2024/25, the agreement for the bar management has recently ended so alternative arrangements will need to be found. Cllr H Burton reported that she is assisting the Trustees in preparing a Business Plan, which should be completed during September.</p>
10.	<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <p><i>(It was agreed Committee and Other Reports to be uploaded to the PC website with the monthly agendas)</i></p> <p><b>10.1 Amenity Committee</b></p> <p><u>Toilet Block Refurbishment</u></p> <p>Some further documentation is required as a part of the snagging process and this is being chased up; A sign advising that the tap water is not for drinking is to be fitted; Advice is being sought as to the need for annual testing of the water supply system in the building and any legionella assessment. Two snagging issues have been referred to Karesa</p> <p><u>Parsonage Lane revamp</u></p> <p>A meeting has been held with Kevin Fancy to discuss the works and a quote for this is expected shortly. The quote will be broken down so that the works can be undertaken in a piecemeal fashion so that the impact on the PC budget is minimised.</p> <p><u>New Noticeboards</u></p> <p>Kevin Fancy is to provide The Milverton Trust with a quote.</p> <p><u>Jubilee Gardens</u></p> <p>No further progress by Somerset Council.</p> <p><u>Dog waste bin provision.</u></p> <p>It was noted that the best positions identified for dog waste bins were a) in Houndsmoor, close to the old BT telephone box and b) in High Street, at the junction of footpaths WG7/24 and WG7/42, with Houndsmoor being a new bin and High Street relocating that currently in Creedwell Orchard car park. The Council agreed in principle to proceed as suggested in order to encourage owners to pick up after their pets and despite this potentially not being of benefit to all villagers.</p> <p><u>Colesmore Viewing Area</u></p> <p>No further progress.</p> <p><b>10.2 Emergency Planning Committee</b></p> <p>Responses are awaited from SC Highways as regards drain clearance; Final edits are being made on the Emergency Plan; A Community Emergency team meeting was held on 27 th July, which had a disappointing turn-out. Letters outlining the content of the meeting will be sent to those who</p>

	<p>missed and a WhatsApp group will be put together once all members have been briefed; Contact made with Oake PC about possible collaboration.</p> <p><b>10.3 Allotment Committee</b> Pastors/Handouts to be provided to advertise the Open Allotment Week; Vacant &amp; overgrown plots have been strimmed; The possibility of designating one plot as a Community Allotment is to be investigated</p> <p><b>10.4 Parish Plan Working Party</b> Following a recent meeting of the WP, it was agreed to postpone the planned 'Make a Difference Day, originally scheduled for the Autumn, until Spring 2023 due to a potential clash with the Globe buy-out initiative and to allow further discussion on the best format to receive ideas eg. a survey approach as opposed to an event.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Roads and Footpaths</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Footpaths (AD)</b></p> <p><b>11.1.1 Monthly Report</b> Cllr A Dakowski reported that various mapping websites at Somerset Heritage Centre could enable historic maps of WG7/10 to be investigated. It is hoped the necessary paperwork to allow for the application to reinstate the missing line of the path will be completed shortly.</p> <p><b>11.1.2 Consideration of quote for additional clearance work on footpaths</b> After discussion it was agreed to liaise with SC Footpaths to push for landowners (or SC where appropriate) to ensure footpaths remain accessible. It was also agreed that the PC do not undertake maintenance of the triangles surrounding the roundabout, (as previously agreed in May), with any issues being directed to SC.</p> <p><b>11.2 Roads (CM) – Monthly Report</b> Cllr C Mann reported that he had again chased Kate Brown regarding outstanding issues at Preston Bowyer and the top of Wood Street. (A further request for something to be done in Wood Street had been received); The transport manager from Aggregate Industries had been contacted regarding their trucks coming through the village; Louise Fyne had been contacted regarding a possible traffic survey. It was agreed that Cllr G May would take over as Highways Officer with immediate effect.</p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Airband High Speed broadband</b> It was noted that Chair, Cllr J Townend and the Clerk had held a remote meeting with Airband representatives regarding the impact of new cabling within the parish. Further information had been requested as regards the siting of new poles and the anticipated timescale of the installation.</p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Schedule of Payments</b></p> <p>Payments to be paid online were noted as being approved:</p> <p>T Payne - July Salary £1,041.44 Clare's Cleaning - Toilet cleaning £310.00 R Westgate - Allotment strimming fee £133.45 A Dakoski - reimbursement of printing expenses for allotment posters £29.85 R Branfield - grass cutting £278.40</p> <p>Direct debits (payable in August) Google £18.40 EDF £36.00</p>

14.	<p><b>Co-option process</b>  Further to the resignation of Cllr C Gauntlett, it was agreed that the casual vacancy will be noted in the September magazine, with the required notice being advertised in order that nominations can be considered at the October meeting</p>
15.	<p><b>Bus Service in Milverton</b>  Further to C Gauntlett's resignation, Cllr J Townend agreed to produce the summary of the bus survey and continue with the review of the service in the parish</p>
16.	<p><b>Unitary Authority</b>  <b>16.1 Update</b>  No matters to report</p>
17.	<p><b>Crime Report</b>  The monthly report from PCSO L Fyne was noted, which included a domestic incident in Milverton of which it was noted that the relevant authorities were aware.</p>
18.	<p><b>Matters of Report</b></p> <p><b>18.1.</b> It was agreed to place monthly reports by Committees etc on the PC website</p> <p><b>18.2</b> Cllr T Phelps advised that an email group for councillors was to be set up which would allow greater control in removing and adding addresses when he need arose</p> <p><b>18.3</b> Cllr T Phelps reported an instance of fly typing which was reported via the SC website, noting that the rubbish was collected promptly thereafter.</p> <p><b>18.4</b> Chair reported on a response from Wessex Water regarding the upgrade to the treatment works, with it being acknowledged that it would have any effect on potential flooding. It was also possible that the requirement to deal with the impact of phosphates within planning applications would pass to Wessex Water.</p>
19.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b>  The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 4th September 2023, at the Victoria Rooms.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.22 pm</p>