

MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT VICTORIA ROOMS, MILVERTON ON MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER 2024 at 7:00 pm

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| Present | R Burton (Chair) | J Hoyle | G May | |
| | P Chambers | C Mann | I Partridge | |
| | M Dinning | A Mather | J Townend | |

In attendance: Mr T Payne, Clerk to the Council
SC Cllr G Wren
8 members of the public

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| | <p>Public Questions None</p> <p>Reports from County Councillors Cllr G Wren reported on the boundary review taking place in Somerset, which aims to equalise representation over Councillors' wards. This is likely to lead to 96 wards of approx 4,600 electors, using whole, rather than split, parishes. The initial consultation ends in Jan which will then be followed by proposals being drawn up, with a second shorter consultation probably taking place in Autumn 2025.</p> |
| 1. | <p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs A Dakowski and T Phelps and SC Cllr D Mansell</p> |
| 2. | <p>Declarations of Interest None declared</p> |
| 3. | <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2024 The minutes were approved as circulated</p> |
| 4. | <p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It had been subsequently agreed with the resident to not to proceed with a notice by the bus stop at this time - A request seeking the reinstatement of Delegated Planning Authority has been submitted to SC - A letter to neighbouring parishes is due to be sent - Letters to residents re Cobblestone are to be sent later this week - SW Ambulance Service had confirmed there was no specific issues with a defibrillator being sited at a residential property, so this is to be further investigated before bring a proposal to the PC |
| 5. | <p>Planning</p> <p>5.1 Consideration of Planning Applications for comments to SC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 23/24/0042 Change of use of land and erection of 1 No. residential dwelling with associated works on land to the east of Cormiston House, Preston Bowyer The agent gave brief background on the proposal and after discussion the PC resolved to support the application - 23/24/0038 and 0039/LB Repairs and upgrades to flood damaged garden wall at Lower Lovelynch Farm, Burn Hill, Milverton After discussion the PC resolved to support the application - 23/24/0040 Erection of a single storey extension to the side and rear, porch to front and conversion of loft at Archery Close, Butts Way, Milverton |

Signed..... Date..... Minute Book Page Number.....

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| | <p>It was noted that the only difference between this and a previous application made in 2023 is an additional open canopy at the front of the property. After discussion the PC resolved to support the application</p> <p>5.2 Report on Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters Clerk reported that the recent application at Fardon, Preston Bowyer (works) had been approved by SC.</p> |
| 6. | <p>Co-option of new Councillor Applications to be coopted had been received from three residents. After the voting procedure was concluded, it was reported that Lou Heald was the successful nominee and she was welcomed to the PC. Clerk to provide necessary paperwork to be completed.</p> |
| 7. | <p>Flooding in Milverton and Preston Bowyer Comments received on the draft Section 19 report had been circulated. Clerk to collate and circulate a summary for final review prior to submission to SC.</p> |
| 8. | <p>Bus Service in Milverton and related issues Cllr J Townend reported that it is to be established which route the #25 bus will take now that Wood Street has re-opened, either retaining the current route or revert to using North Street only; It was reported that a resident has asked for an accessible bus stop. The Wivey Bus Group has made a request for part of the £8million central government funding to enable some previously cancelled timings of the #25 to be reinstated as well as setting up the Wiveliscombe/ Wellington service.</p> |
| 9. | <p>Creedwell Orchard Development Clerk reported that a meeting is still to be arranged between Notaro and the PC Working Party to go through the construction management plan. Notaro confirmed to having a meeting with SC Planners on 17 December as regards non material amendments, following which a meeting with the Working Party will be set up, likely to be in January after the next PC meeting.</p> |
| 10. | <p>Preston Farm Solar Farm Clerk reported that a final draft of the Agreement had been received from Innova on 27 November and this would be signed and returned shortly. Innova had advised that construction is scheduled for mid-2025 and a further planning application would be put in as a supply cable route to the National Grid, from the solar farm to a site south of the B3227.</p> |
| 11. | <p>Utilisation of Storage Area in Toilets A representative of the Table Tennis Club reported that whilst there is not an immediate need for additional storage, a replacement and/or a new table may be bought at some stage, in which case additional storage to that available at the Victoria Rooms would be required. A proposal to use the space as a book exchange had been received, suggesting a trial for 12 months. It was noted that the insurers had indicated there were no issues with the change though the risk of damage would become similar to that with the existing toilet. The intention is for the area to be opened and locked in daylight hours on a daily basis. Following discussion, it was resolved to allow the Book Nook proposal to go ahead for a 12 month trial period.</p> |
| 12. | <p>Consultations:</p> <p>a) Remote meetings and proxy voting; After discussion it was resolved to respond supporting the move to remote meetings</p> <p>b) New Councillor Divisions for Somerset Council Following discussion it was agreed that the Council would not respond at this stage but would wait and see what exactly was proposed in terms of the new division boundaries.</p> |

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| | <p>c) Local Plan Engagement Clerk confirmed that a response to the questionnaire had been submitted based on considerations by the Parish Plan Working Party. The recent proposal by Central Government to give mandatory housing targets to County Councils was noted, with any consequences for the parish to be considered when any specific plans are put forward.</p> |
| 13. | <p>IT Review This item was deferred to a future meeting</p> |
| 14. | <p>Committee Reports</p> <p>14.1 Amenity Committee Clerk had previously circulated a report. Chair reported that Wessex Water had gone back to SC Highways, declining permission to connect into the manhole for the spring water, due to too many services in the area. Cllr G Wren is to go back to Wessex Water to clarify the position; The quotes on the proposed works in Parsonage Lane are to be reviewed by the Amenity Committee, with a recommendation coming back to full Council.</p> <p>14.2 Emergency Planning Committee No Committee matters to report.</p> <p>14.3 Allotment Committee Cllr A Dakowski had previously circulated a report. Clerk reported on plots being taken on by new and current plotholders, leaving only one or two plots currently vacant. There were no further matters arising.</p> <p>14.4 Parish Plan Working Party Cllr J Townend reported that the Milverton Community Plan report is being made available electronically, with paper copies being printed, to be left at various locations for review. A survey of the play area at the Recreation Ground by a third party company is to be undertaken in December.</p> <p>14.5 Traffic Issues Working Party Clerk reported on response that day from Gary Warren of SC Traffic Management, confirmed a traffic survey at no cost to the PC. The timing of the HGV signage/survey is to be confirmed. This will distinguish between HGVs and cars. A village initiative to survey traffic is to commence in December, with the results being shared with the PC It was agreed to look at options for additional street lighting at various locations in Milverton</p> |
| 15. | <p>Local Community Networks Updates Chair reported that the volunteer training is likely to be in 2025; Kier had responded that a gully schedule had been received from SC but they were awaiting permission to access it It was noted that the next Transport WP meeting is on 6 Jan</p> |
| 16. | <p>Roads and Footpaths</p> <p>16.1 Footpaths Monthly Report Cllr A Dakowski had reported that SC had advised orders had gone to contractors for various (unspecified) footpath works</p> <p>16.2 Roads Monthly Report Cllr G May had circulated a report, which included that Wood Street had now re-opened. The timing of recycling rounds is to be raised with SC to see if the route through the village could be timed outside of the busy early morning period to lessen congestion.</p> |
| 17. | <p>Consideration of Grant Applications Following discussion on small grants to bodies serving residents, it was resolved to make the following donations (under Section 137 LGA 1972):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wivey Kitchen £100.00, Citizen's Advice Bureau £100.00 and Taunton Samaritans £100.00 |

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| 18. | <p>Finance</p> <p>18.1 Schedule of Payments and Bank transfers</p> <p>The following regular payments were noted as having been paid:</p> <p>T Payne Nov Clerks fee £1,169.03</p> <p>Claire's Cleaning re Toilet £320.00</p> <p>Payments made in the last month to be noted</p> <p>B Orton - strimming work at Allotments £50.00</p> <p>Forthcoming Payments for approval</p> <p>T Payne Reimbursement of Allotment expenses £77.94</p> <p>Richard Branfield - grass cutting £872.10</p> <p>Tom Wells Plumbing repair in toilets £152.00</p> <p>SID batteries - 7 @ £50 (exact sum to be confirmed)</p> <p>The payments were approved</p> <p>DDs scheduled for December</p> <p>Google Website etc £24.00</p> <p>Yu - toilet electricity estimated £12.50 (exact amount tbc)</p> <p>Wessex Water ½ year charge for toilets £195.64 (to be paid in January 2025)</p> <p>Further to approval being given for an extension to the warranty on SIDs, it was ascertained that the contract would be for a three-year term of £199 per unit per annum. It was resolved to agree to the three year term.</p> <p>It noted that as well as the grant payments made this month, those approved at the November meeting are authorised under the power of S137 LGA 1972</p> |
| 19. | <p>Crime Report</p> <p>Crime Reports had been received, detailing a theft from a commercial building, car damage in Creedwell and a section of lead from the church roof being taken. There was criticism of the police response that the latter did not merit investigation.</p> <p>In of the level of support being given to victims of crime, it was agreed to write the person in charge of Wellington Police station</p> <p>L Heald is to pass comments on to PCSO B Whelan.</p> <p><i>(It was agreed to extend the meeting beyond the 9.00pm deadline as set per the Standing Orders)</i></p> |
| 20. | <p>Matters of Report</p> <p>20.1 MP</p> <p>A response is to be sought from the MP to the letter on the impact of SC's financial position</p> <p>20.2 Creedwell Gully</p> <p>Drainage works where investigative works took place are to be followed up with SC Cllr G Wren</p> <p>20.3 Lest we Forget Soldier Silhouettes</p> <p>Further details and a proposal are to be provided at a subsequent meeting for consideration. Ideas on involving the school in Remembrance activities are to be passed to the Head.</p> |
| 21. | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 6th January 2025, at the Victoria Rooms.</p> |
| 22. | <p>The meeting then entered closed session to consider the following agenda item</p> <p>Salary Review</p> |

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| | The Personnel Committee had reviewed the current scale rate that the Clerk was on in respect to the salary calculation. After discussion, it was resolved to accept the Committee's recommendation that this be changed to a new rate with effect from 1 December 2024 and that there be a further change to take effect from 1 December 2025. |
| | The meeting closed at 9.12pm |