

MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT VICTORIA ROOMS, MILVERTON ON MONDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2023 at 7:00 pm

Present	R Burton (Chair)	A Dakowski	G May
	H Burton	M Dinning	J Townend
	P Chambers	A Mather	

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

	Public Questions Comment was made regarding the painted lines re parking restrictions in place around the junction of Woodbarton and Sand Street. The options re H bar lines and double yellow lines are to be investigated. Comment was made re the May 2023 flooding, noting that at least two residents had had grant applications turned down. This is to be checked. It was noted that the s19 report is now being funded by SC and also that whilst there had been some actions by landowners, it was hoped this would be done under consultation with relevant bodies rather than piecemeal, to ensure what is done to help one area does not adversely impact on another. Reports from County Councillors SC Cllr G Wren advised of an issue with parking in High Street which had been passed to the PCSO; SC is still trying to achieve a balanced budget to avoid having to issue a s114 Notice, should it be concluded that its expenditure will exceed income.
1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs J Hoyle, C Mann and T Phelps and SC Cllr D Mansell
2.	Declarations of Interest None declared
3.	Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 2nd October 2023 The minutes were approved as circulated.
4.	Actions from previous meeting - Further to the question of air quality being raised in October, Chair advised that setting up testing would cost in the order of £750 - £1,000 and would cover several months. No further action on this is planned at present - Clerk reported that in seeking to add Cllr J Towend as a Bankline User, it was confirmed that there can not be more than four users at one time. Cllr A Dakowski had agreed to step down to enable Cllr J Townend to be added
5.	Planning 5.1 Consideration of Planning Applications for comments to SC - 23/23/0034 Construction of 3 No. internal connecting farm access tracks at Higher Bickley, Luckham Bridge Road, Milverton Following discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council support the application - 23/23/0037/T To fell 2 beech trees, one Tulip Tree, one alder, 2 apple trees and one further tree (species unidentified in the notification) within Milverton Conservation Area at 1 Sand Street, Milverton

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	Following discussion, whilst there were reservations about the felling of healthy trees, the effect of large trees in gardens was noted and the Parish Council resolved to support and abide by the decision by Mr D Galley Arboricultural Officer, Somerset Council. - 23/23/0036/T To carry out management works to two birch trees and one cherry within Milverton Conservation Area at Grateful Cottage, Fore Street, Milverton Following discussion, it was resolved that the Parish Council support the application 5.2 Report on Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters Clerk reported that the recent application re Periwinkle Cottage (works) and Broadmead House (trees) had been approved by SC.
6.	Flooding in Milverton and Preston Bowyer Chair reported on a meeting with Gwyn Hughes (SC Highways) in October to discuss actions that could be taken to mitigate flood damage. Data is awaited re gulley clearance as well as the cost were the PC to engage a crew to empty gullies rather than rely on SC; A date is awaited for remedial works in Creedwell Orchard. As noted above, the SC report into the May 2023 flooding is now able to commence, it will take a minimum of 3 months for an interim report to be published. A further meeting is being held with SC on Wed 8 Dec, the issue of works that landowners have done unilaterally will be raised. Cllr G Wren advised he would question SC on grants available for flooding schemes.
7.	Bus Service in Milverton and related issues Cllr J townend reported on that he had attended a webinar with SC, which reinforced the need to publicise the Use it or Lose it message. The numbers being suggested are an additional 600 return journeys per week over the whole route. Posters have been put up and the situation continues to be highlighted in the parish Magazine. Instances are still being reported of buses not stopping at the roundabout and the promotion of the route is not helped by the closure of Wood Street; There is a safety issue with pedestrians walking to the roundabout especially in the evenings; The possibility of a bus service to Wellington via Milverton is still being investigated.
8.	Consideration of Grant Applications A grant application had been received for enhanced CCTV and construction of a shed to improve equipment storage at the Recreation Ground. Mr C Saunders (chair of Trustees) expanded on the CCTV upgrade required, which resulted from instances of anti-social behaviour, with the imaging enhancements being useful to increase enforcement action. Following discussion the Parish Council resolved to make a grant of £1,000 It was resolved to provide a grant of £50 to the Royal British Legion Society, though it was agreed to defer discussion on potential grants to bodies serving the parish to a subsequent meeting.
9.	Unitary Authority 9.1 Update The LCN meeting on 12 October was attended by Cllrs J Hoyle and A Mather. There had been issues with a different agenda being produced to that previously circulated but there was a briefing by Highways. A letter expressing concern on the administration of the meeting is being prepared by Wiveliscombe TC and Milverton PC is to be invited to co-sign it.

10.	Committee Reports 10.1 Amenity Committee <u>Toilet Block Refurbishment</u> Final snagging works are still to be completed by Karesa and they are being chased to complete these, following which the retention sum will be paid. Some internal works are to be completed by the PC. Quotes are awaited from Richard Branfield for the pruning and removal of the tree in the bed outside the Creedwell toilets. <u>Parsonage Lane revamp</u> Quotes for the works are being clarified/reviewed <u>Jubilee Gardens</u> No further progress by Somerset Council. <u>Dog waste bin provision.</u> Costs of moving dog waste bins and quotes for emptying are to be sought <u>Colesmore Viewing Area</u> Quotes are being sought for the suggested tree work. 10.2 Emergency Planning Committee It was noted that the Clerk has offered to assist with the Plan's formatting 10.3 Allotment Committee A working party has cleared several vacant plots, which are to be covered with weed suppressant to make them less challenging for new ploholders. Vacant plots have been advertised in the Magazine; Notice to either improve the condition of one plot or relinquish it has been sent and two further plots-holders have been given notice to quit as a result of no works being carried out; The Bird scarecrow which was donated to the allotments, which has proved to be quite effective, now has a more permanent position. Wear and tear means it will need to be replaced shortly; The proposed purchase of a strimmer is put on hold as an alternative means of grass cutting is being investigated. 10.4 Parish Plan Working Party No matters to report
11.	Roads and Footpaths 11.1 Footpaths (AD) 11.1 Monthly Report Cllr M Dinning reported there was a new contact at SC who had intimated that monies may be available for a kissing gate on Footpath WG7/16; It was noted another map had been requested re the DMMO on footpath 07/10 11.2.1 Roads (CM) – Monthly Report Cllr G May reported that clarification is being sought from Kate Brown, SC Traffic Engineer, on the speed reducing measures in Preston Bowyer. SID data is also to be collated to back up the need for additional works; The installation of bollards in Fore Street is being reviewed. 11.2.2 Investigations into feasibility of Village One-Way System (CM) Cllr C Mann had circulated a report detailing the issues with the current position and the potential advantages of a one way system being installed, The question of buses (<i>and farm traffic</i>) being able to turn into St Michaels Hill is unresolved. An option may be making

	North Street two-way for buses but one-way for cars. Data on traffic levels is to be collated via the SIDs whilst access via Wood Street is closed.
12.	Airband High Speed broadband Clerk reported Airband has indicated a further meeting with the PC will be arranged though no date has yet been agreed.
13.	Finance 13.1 Schedule of Payments Payments to be paid online were noted as being approved: T Payne - October Clerk fee £1,041.44 Claire's Cleaning re toilets - £310 SALC - course fees £62.50 Richard Branfield - grass cutting £261.60 Somerset Council - SID posts £584.94 (Payable from SID Earmarked fund) A Dakowski - Allotment/Stationery expenses £81.16 The Open Spaces grant from SC was received and based on the accepted split, payments have been made to the Rec (£2,900) and Milverton PCC (£600). The balance of £375 is retained by the PC in respect of footpaths DD payments for November Google £18.40 EDF £11.00 13.2 2024/25 Precept - Budgetary Considerations Clerk reported that projected costs were £30,810 for 2024/25. Taking account of a 'refund' from the SID Earmarked fund due to lower pole costs (£400) and there being leeway in the level of the General Fund balance c/fwd (£1,400), the precept could stay at the same level as this year and still provide £2,500 towards services like drain clearing that SC may not be able to do. These figures included an increase to £5,000 for grants, which could be used to replace the Open Spaces grant that was unlikely to be paid by SC. Mr C Saunders outlined potential fund-raising activities being planned for 2024 to generate enough income to meet the costs of the Recreation Ground/Pavilion open to the public. Further discussion to take place prior to a decision on the precept being made.
14	Co-option of Councillors No nomination for co-option was put forward. It was agreed that a further notice seeking interested persons be included in the February magazine, with a view to co-option taking place in March 2024.
15.	Crime Report The report prepared by PCSO Brianna Whelan and previously circulated was noted. An invitation is to be given for her to attend a future meeting.
16.	Matters of Report 16.1. Other matter 16.1.1 SIDs Clerk reported that SID analysis has also been requested to cover the period whilst Wood Street is closed

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	16.2 Course feedback Cllr A Dakowski reported on her attendance on a course on recruiting and retaining Councillors, which included the recommendation that a Council be proactive and promote the areas work a PC is involved with.
17.	Date of next meeting The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 4th December 2023, at the Victoria Rooms.
	The meeting closed at 9.10 pm