

MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT VICTORIA ROOMS, MILVERTON ON MONDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2024 at 7:00 pm

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

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

	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Comment was made on additional matters for inclusion in the response to the draft Section 19 Flood report (<i>to be be provided to the Clerk for inclusion in the PC's response</i>)</p> <p>It was asked whether a velocity meter could be installed in the culvert to provide data on the water flow. Thanks were expressed by the PC to residents of Sand Street and Woodbarton for their work in getting information to SC in respect of the flooding in May 2023</p> <p>Mrs Nicola Stoddart, new Head Teacher of Milverton School, introduced herself and expressed the wish to work with the PC and other village groups, so that the school is at the heart of the community, and is open to suggestions on how to improve engagement and develop relationships.</p> <p>Reports from County Councillors</p> <p>Cllr G Wren gave details of SC consulting on approx 400 compulsory redundancies, though specific numbers for particular departments are currently unknown. Whilst Planning currently has a full complement of planning officers, many officers and solicitors are on temporary contracts or agency staff. Current budget shows an overspend of £5.8million on 2024/25, though this figure included a contingency of £6million. Pressure on budgets is primarily due to the increasing costs of Special Educational Needs, part of which are currently allowed to be off the balance sheet.</p>
1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from SC Cllr D Mansell</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None declared</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2024</p> <p>The minutes were approved as circulated, subject to noting that Cllr C Mann wished his voting against the planning application for Milveton Fields to be recorded</p>
4.	<p>Actions from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- No items not covered elsewhere in agenda
5.	<p>Planning</p> <p>5.1 Consideration of Planning Applications for comments to SC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 23/24/0033/CQ <i>Application for prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building into 3 No. dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated building operations at Higher Bickley, Luckham Bridge Road, Bickley</i> After discussion the PC resolved to support the application so long as it is confirmed that the Class Q conditions are met.- 23/22/0013 <i>Erection of 24 No. dwellings with associated works including access, parking and landscaping on land to the south of Butts Way, Milverton</i>

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

	<p>It was agreed that as the site had been identified as being suitable for development in a Local Plan, it was difficult for the PC to object in principle, though the concerns noted at the October meeting should be highlighted when giving notice of the PC's objection to the application.</p> <p>5.2 Report on Planning Decisions and other Planning Matters Clerk reported that the recent application at Little Fort (works) had been approved by SC.</p>
6.	<p>Co-option of new Councillor After discussion it was agreed to defer consideration of co-option to the December meeting</p>
7.	<p>Flooding in Milverton and Preston Bowyer The draft Section 19 Flood Report has been circulated to affected persons. It was agreed to circulate comments received in advance of the December meeting, to allow the response to SC to then be confirmed. The CCTV inspection of the culvert is still scheduled for 9 December.</p>
8.	<p>Bus Service in Milverton and related issues Cllr J Townend reported on a good response to the petition being organised by the Wivey Bus Group on the reinstatement of the Wiveliscombe/ Wellington service. An estimated cost of this service is to be sought; The route of the bus through the village will be confirmed when the Wood Street repair has been completed; A notice is to be put up requesting passengers waiting in Fore Street do not encroach on private property.</p>
9.	<p>Creedwell Orchard Development Clerk reported that a meeting is still to be arranged to go through the construction management plan. Notaro have advised that they are waiting on a meeting with SC Planners as regards non material amendments</p>
10.	<p>Preston Farm Solar Farm Clerk reported that a response to the PC's letter on the manner of negotiations had been received from Halse Parish Council. Chair noted that the response did not refer to the particular questions raised in Milverton PC's letter and so was considered to be inadequate and unsatisfactory. After discussion, it was agreed to accept the annual sum being offered by Innova as opposed to taking an initial lump in full and final settlement, with the risk of the payments failing for any reason being deemed low enough for this to be acceptable.</p>
11.	<p>Parish Council Communication Cllr J Hoyle reported that both Cllrs I Partridge and A Dakowski are aiming to attend the Communication course run by Breakthrough Communications.</p>
12.	<p>Consultations:</p> <p>a) Remote meetings and proxy voting; Councillors to review the proposals and pass comments to Clerk prior to further discussion at the December meeting</p> <p>b) New Councillor Divisions for Somerset Council Boundary Commission proposal is to reduce the number of SC Councillors from 110 to 96, with the result taking effect from 2027. Responses are due by 19 January 2025. It was agreed that Councillors review the proposals for discussion at a future meeting.</p> <p>c) Local Plan Engagement It was agreed that the Parish Plan Working Party would consider the questionnaire and put together a response on behalf of the PC. It was noted that since the SC Planning Department was reported as fully manned, a request for delegated powers to be given back to Parish Councils should be made.</p>

17.	<p>Consideration of Grant Applications (<i>Item brought forward on agenda</i>)</p> <p>Two grant applications had been received from the Recreation Ground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for £3,000 towards the ground maintenance. After discussion it was resolved to make the grant as requested - Request for non grounds maintenance. After discussion it was agreed that the application be reconsidered at a future meeting and that documentation backing up the figures in the application be provided <p>An application had been received from the Wiveliacombe Area Partnership, for £3,000 in respect of Wivey Link. After discussion it was resolved to make the grant as requested</p>
13.	<p>IT Review</p> <p>This item was deferred to a future meeting</p>
14.	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>14.1 Amenity Committee</p> <p>Chair had previously circulated a report. Action to repair to the toilet is ongoing</p> <p>A quote of £600 for maintenance work on the trees in the Viewing Area had been received and it was resolved that this should go ahead, with the long-term position of the area being reviewed in the future.</p> <p>14.2 Emergency Planning Committee</p> <p>No Committee matters to report.</p> <p>14.3 Allotment Committee</p> <p>Cllr A Dakowski had previously circulated a report. There were no further matters arising.</p> <p>14.4 Parish Plan Working Party</p> <p>It was noted that the Milverton Community Plan report has just been received and this will be made public in due course.</p> <p>14.5 Traffic Issues Working Party</p> <p>Further to a review of parking arrangements and a recent meeting with Mr G Warren of SC Traffic Management, the Working Party had made a number of recommendations with the aim of lessening congestion.</p> <p>After discussion, it was resolved to request double yellow lines around the Creedwell junction, in line with the prohibition on parking according to the Highway Code and undertake the necessary consultations with residents.</p> <p>It was also resolved to accept the offer by SC Highways to undertake a survey to monitor HGV numbers through the village which should cover a period before and after the 'Unsuitable for HGV' signage is installed. Additional measures, being the imposition of a weight limit (estimated cost £30k) and creation of a one-way system (estimated cost at least £100k) to be reviewed in the light of the survey/signage results.</p> <p>Publicity on the HGV proposals to be investigated as well as advisory letters being sent to local businesses and neighbouring parish councils.</p>
15.	<p>Local Community Networks Updates</p> <p>Based on the details provided, it was agreed to instruct Kier to undertake three days of gully clearance, at the rate of £1,440 per day. This will be targeted in the roads where they are known to be blocked and presenting flooding issues, viz Burn Hill, Butts Way, Sand Street, Fore Street, Silver Street and St Michaels Hill. Clerk to liaise with Kier, having regard to the gullies (as yet unknown) already programmed to be cleared by SC</p> <p>It was noted that drainage works in Creedwell Close had not been completed. It is understood that Cllr G Wren is trying to get SC to return.</p> <p>Following the SC proposal for volunteers to undertake minor highway maintenance projects, Cllrs Phelps, Dinning, Chambers, Townend and Burton, plus Mr T Field put themselves forward to undertake the training programme.</p> <p><i>(It was agreed to extend the meeting beyond the 9.00pm deadline as set per the Standing Orders)</i></p>

16.	<p>Roads and Footpaths</p> <p>16.1 Footpaths Monthly Report</p> <p>No further matters to report not covered elsewhere</p> <p>16.2 Roads Monthly Report</p> <p>No further matters to report not covered elsewhere</p> <p>16.3 Maintenance of Milverton Cobblestones</p> <p>Based on there being known issues on various stretches of the cobbles, it was agreed that the PC write to all houses whose frontage is affected, asking for details from Deeds to identify ownerships of the cobbles. A schedule of works could then be drawn up, with an associated costing, so that each owner can agree to the works and meet the pro rata costs. If owners do not agree, that area will be excluded from any repair works. The PC will investigate the feasibility of being responsible for cobbles on unregistered land.</p>
17.	<p>Consideration of Grant Applications</p> <p>(See above)</p>
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>Tim Payne Clerk - Oct fee - £1,389.00</p> <p>Claire's Cleaning - Oct toilet cleaning - £320.00</p> <p>Somerset Council - Dog bins £121.99</p> <p>Payments already made prior to meeting</p> <p>Keith Paul - Coping stone repair in Jubilee Garden £120.00</p> <p>Anita Dakowski - Reimbursement of Allotment expenses £50.34</p> <p>The following payments were approved for payment:</p> <p>Richard Branfield - maintenance £990.60</p> <p>Donation to Royal British Legion - £50.00</p> <p>DDs scheduled for September</p> <p>Google Website etc £24.00</p> <p>Yu - toilet electricity £12.16</p> <p>It had been confirmed that there was no reduction available for the warranty in having two SIDs. The cost of extending the warranty on the SIDs was £199 per SID per annum. It was resolved to subscribe to the warranty.</p>
19.	<p>Crime Report</p> <p>An October Crime Report had been received shortly after the October meeting. The lack of detail was noted and an invitation is to be extended for the PCSO to attend a future PC meeting.</p>
20.	<p>Matters of Report</p> <p>20.1 Remembrance Day Wreath</p> <p>Cllr T Phelps to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Service</p> <p>20.2 Airband</p> <p>It had been noted that Connecting Devon & Somerset/Airband had advised that, due to financial constraints, there would not be any new high speed broadband infrastructure within the parish. Alternative options for providing connectivity are being discussed.</p> <p>20.3 Defibrillator Sites</p>

	<p>A householder had offered the house a defibrillator in Houndsmoor. This is to be checked out with the South West Ambulance Service</p> <p>20.4 Jubilee Gardens</p> <p>It was noted that two pipes set up to take the flow of water from the Spring have been broken (presumably by being run over by a vehicle). Cllr G Wren is to liaise with SC to get these replaced. Highways are to be chased up on the potential to permanently connect into the manhole</p> <p>20.5 Creedwell Footpath</p> <p>Overhanging vegetation on the path between Creedwell Orchard and Burgage Lane is to be investigated</p> <p>20.6 Vegetation in Jubilee Gardens</p> <p>The Pyracantha which is obstructing a footpath is to be pruned before Christmas by Richard Branfield</p> <p>20.7 North Street Light</p> <p>It was reported this has now been replaced, reconnected and is now working</p> <p>20.8 Community Infrastructure Levy Monies</p> <p>It was noted that CIL monies in respect of the Bickley Barns (£3, 566.34) had been received</p> <p>20.9 Clerk's Salary</p> <p>It was noted that the Scale Rates for 2024/25 as negotiated between Central Government and Local Government Unions had been agreed. The new rate will be backdated to April 2024 and reflected in the Clerk's October Salary.</p>
21.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 2nd December 2024, at the Victoria Rooms.</p>
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.17pm</p>