

MILVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2020 at 7:00 pm

Councillors Present:

P Young (Chair)	M Dinning
J Argles	G Lumby
P Chambers	T Phelps
R Cotton	S Potts
A Dakowski	P Young

In attendance:

Mr T Payne, Acting Clerk to the Council
Cllr G Wren, SWT Councillor
One member of the public

		Action By
	Public Questions Chair welcomed Cllrs M Dinning and S Potts as newly appointed Councillors, and Mr T Payne as the Acting Clerk Report from District Councillor: Cllr Wren gave a brief update on the proposal for a Unitary Authority, noting that 'normal' County Council elections are likely to be held in 2021, with the chosen form of Unitary Authority taking over in either 2022 or 2023. The CoronaVirus Volunteers Management Group set up earlier in 2020 would monitor the position in view of the new national lockdown imposed with effect from 5 Nov, which was considered more likely to give rise to calls on the Hardship Fund being made. <i>(Cllr G Wren left the meeting)</i>	
1.	Apologies for Absence Received from Cllrs I Ainsworth Smith and M Burton	
2.	Declarations of Interest - Cllr Chambers: Personal Interest as Trustee and member of The Milverton Trust. - Cllr Lumby, Trustee of the Victoria Rooms, Trustee of the Milverton Concert Society. - Cllr Dakowski, Personal Interest Milverton and District Twinning Association and Trustee and member of The Milverton Trust. - Cllr Dinning: Personal Interest as Trustee of Victoria Rooms	
3.	Minutes of the meetings held on October 2020 The minutes of the Ordinary and Exempt meetings were approved	
4.	4.1 Planning Delegation Chair reported that the Delegation Agreement had been returned to solicitors at Mendip Council which, when sealed, will enable the Council to revert to determining planning applications. 4.2 Planning Committee	

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

	Chair noted that only some of the current Councillors had undertaken the training by SWT in respect of the consideration of planning applications, being Cllrs Lumby, Cottrell, Phelps, Chambers and Cotton. Chair proposed to set up a Planning Committee of the above Councillors which would consider planning applications in the village, which was approved by the meeting. 4.3 Silver Street Satellite Dish Cllr Cottrell advised that following SWT Planning Enforcement communicating with the owner, the tenant of the property had agreed to relocate the dish to the rear of the property. Other Planning matters: - Notice of the application re tree works at Barletts is to be circulated to the Council - Works without planning permission at Preston Bowyer are to be referred to SWT Planning Enforcement	Clerk Chair
5.	Crime Report The monthly report from PCSO L Fyne had been circulated with one instance of anti-social behaviour noted in Milverton	
6.	Finance 6.1 Bank Reconciliation and 6.2 Budget Forecast Acting Clerk advised that figures were not yet available so item forwarded to December meeting 6.2 Schedule of Cheques Cheques to be paid were noted as being: - British Gas – toilet electricity £34.07 - Richard Branfield – grass cutting £212.94	
7.	Projects 7.1 Toilet Block Refurbishment – Monthly report Cllr Cotton outlined recent correspondence with Crofts, following which written confirmation had been requested regarding the terms of a potential contract based on the formal tender price supplied. It was agreed that the Amenity Sub Committee would meet to consider the position, with a proposal then being brought back to the full Council. 7.2 Speed Indicator devices Cllr Chambers reported that a contractor is to come out to assess the potential sites, following which quotes would be provided. 7.3 Data Security Chair reported that the recent departure of Clerk and RFO had highlighted the need to secure the Council’s data and emails it was resolved that the Parish Council move from the free service from Google to the Small Business service, Google Workspace, for which there is a monthly charge of £8.28/12 months and £9.20 thereafter. It was further agreed that Chair and Cllr Phelps liaise to set the new account up. It was also noted that Cllr Phelps is reinstating the Council website and repopulating the document archive.	
8.	Allotments 8.1 Monthly Report	

	Cllr Dakowski reported that receipts were now being received for the start of the new tenancy agreements, due to potential bank charges of paying cheques in, it was intended to introduce a direct payment system next time. It was noted that the Council had subscribed to Parish Online which could be a useful mapping tool when dealing with the allotments.	
9.	Roads and Footpaths 9.1 Footpaths Cllr Dakowski reported on a number of matters: • A report of a dangerous tree had been made though this was on church land rather than a footpath. Matter passed on to PCC • A new gate that had been put on Footpath 07/27 was noted as being difficult for walkers. Matter reported to SCC • A verge between Wood Street and North Close is overgrown. As not a public right of way, matter to be reported to SCC Highways 9.2 Roads No matters to report 9.3 Speedwatch Cllr Dinning advised that Speedwatch activity was temporarily stopped due to COVID restrictions. It was also noted that Cllr Potts was taking steps to establish a Speedwatch scheme in Preston Bowyer.	
10.	Matters of Report 10.1 Update on heavy lorries driving through village Chair reported that the Somerset Gazette had approached the Council for comments regarding the damage caused by HGVs travelling through the village. 10.2 Noticeboards Cllr Lumby reported that whilst the Council noticeboard at the Victoria Rooms is up to date and in a satisfactory condition, the board at Woodbarton is in need of renovation to the locks and glass. An estimate is to be obtained for the necessary repairs. It was noted the Council had recently purchased a new noticeboard , intended to go on toilet block, this noticeboard will replace the Footpath notice board which was removed earlier in the year due to its state of repair 10.3 Village Archive Cllr Dinning reported that there were plans to site an archive building at the Recreation ground which would then be available to the general public. Further investigation was ongoing as regards any grants available. 10.4 Doctors' Surgery Chair reported that the property is apparently under offer to a small business, which would meet the stipulation as to acceptable uses of the building. 10.5 Other Matters of Report • Cllr Cottrell advised of a number of issues that had been reported to her: - Uncut bushes at back of Globe - Pavement damage in Silver street - to be referred - Query as to current position on Creedwell Orchard development	

	● Cllr Lumby advised that the Council has to nominate a Trustee for the Victoria Rooms prior to the AGM in January. It was agreed to approved that Cllr Lumby continue in this role ● Cllr Phelps advised that there was a proposal to block off an area at the rear of the Victoria Rooms, which while still giving access to the nesting place for swallows, could also provide a covered place to store the Council's generator. It was likely a request for a grant from the Council for the works would be made at the next meeting. ● Chair reported an overgrown hedge at the footpath from Courtfield to Tuckersmead. The house with the overgrown hedge once belonged to the SWT but is now private property. The owner is to be requested to cut it. The meeting closed at 8.51pm	
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