

WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held by Zoom video-conference on Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Mrs P Costello (Chair), Mrs I Beacom, Mrs J Candy, Mrs G Cousins, Mrs J Farley, Mrs J Keene, Mr A Landers, Mrs E Mulliner, Mr A Smith, Mr S Thorogood, Mr P Tinney,

In Attendance: Mr. R Pring (Clerk), Cllr D Huxtable, Mr Steve Mewes

The Chair welcomed everyone and reminded them that the meeting was being video-recorded. She also reported the resignation of Matt Ainge and thanked him for his work while on the Council

20.07.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mrs S Worrall**

20.07.2. **TO WELCOME A NEW COUNCILLOR** - Cllr Isobel Beacom was welcomed to the Council by the Chair and it was agreed that due to the ongoing coronavirus restrictions, the Register of Acceptance could be signed at a later date.

20.07.3. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Huxtable reported on the state of road closures within the area. The road to Wells was currently closed and the Cheddar Road was due to close in a couple of weeks. He was fairly sure that the Wells Road would be open quite soon, possibly by the end of the week. Highway maintenance was ongoing and due to the good weather and fairly light traffic, was progressing well. He reminded members of the £1m that was available for green matters and no-one within in his area had yet applied for a share. Cllr Thorogood asked how we could apply and he was told to send any ideas direct to him. The money would be available from 1st September and he was sure it would be quickly allocated. Cllr Costello reported that the newly laid yellow lines by the Village Hall were fading already. Verge protection bollards had been replaced on Billings Hill but members felt the corner needed to be re-designed and widened to prevent further damage. Cllr Huxtable felt this could be an opportunity for the Council to share funding with County in order to improve the corner. Cllr Costello reported that things were quiet at Sedgemoor with weekly ZOOM meetings and she had recently chaired a Licensing Committee.

20.07.4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Nil.**

20.07.5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JUNE 2020. RESOLVED: THE CHAIRMAN BE AUTHORISED TO SIGN THE MINUTES AS A CORRECT RECORD OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING..**

20.07.6. **MATTERS ARISING:- Nil**

20.07.7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** - Mr Steve Mewes informed Members that the SHAL project at Mudgley had been completed and thanked the Council for the financial assistance. SHAL had two further projects in Pilcorn Street and Rughill. The Green Wedmore group were hoping to create a "Climate Walking Trail" around the parish

20.07.8. **FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

- a) **Audit of accounts** 21st May 2020 – 24th June 2020 Cllrs Keene and Mulliner confirmed that all was in order.
- b) **Accounts for Payment** – as per the following list

<u>Method</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BACS	ZOOM US	Monthly subscription for video conferencing	£14.39
BACS	SALC	Annual subscription	£857.76
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Dog and litter bin emptying	£515.74
BACS	Wedmore CC	Grant towards purchasing new roller	£750.00
BACS	SALC	Training Course	£30.00`

BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£9.99`
`BACS	Oddjob	Replace skirting board and paint hall, toilet and kitchen	£1100.00
BACS	Sedgemoor CAB	Donation towards running costs	£50.00
BACS	W Jackson	Grasscutting, highways etc	£859.00
BACS	Mr R Stevens	Clean Council Rooms	£25.00
BACS	D Summers-Cooke	Clean and lock toilets	£265.00
BACS	Somerset Forge	Refurbish heritage fingerpost at Sand	£2408.40
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at Council Rooms	£36.54
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at Car Park	£66.38
BACS	Water2Business	Water Rates Council Rooms	£46.17
BACS	R Pring	Clerk's expenses	£13.56

20.07.9. **TO CONSIDER CO-OPTING A NEW COUNCILLOR** - Following the resignations of Mrs Metters and Mr Briaris, the Clerk had circulated details of two potential candidates for co-option; David Kirley of Grants Lane and Barbara James-Lloyd of Gardiners Orchard. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt both candidates and to welcome them at the next meeting. There are still two vacancies to fill. One at Blackford and one at Wedmore.- **ACTION - CLERK**

20.07.10. **TO CONSIDER SEPERATING THE FACILITIES, FOOTPATHS AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE TO ALLOTMENTS AND FACILITIES AND MERGING FOOTPATHS WITH GREEN ISSUES** - Cllr Costello felt that the existing sub-committee was too large and unwieldy and needed to be split. Cllr Candy had agreed to chair an Allotments and Facilities committee and Cllr Thorogood had been appointed as the Parish Paths Liaison Officer, so it seemed sensible to merge Footpaths with green issues. Cllr Costello felt that there was no need for these committees to meet on a regular basis, only when there was something substantial to discuss. A lengthy disussion ensued over green issues in general. It was proposed by Cllr Candy and seconded by Cllr Keene that the committees be split and this was agreed by the members.- **ACTION ST/JC**

20.07.11. **TO AGREE A CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL'S HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE** - Cllr Costello wished to stand down as Chair of the Highways Committee and Cllr Alistair Smith had agreed to take over the role – **ACTION AS**

20.07.12. **TO CONSIDER MAKING CHANGES TO STREET LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS IN THE PARISH AND TO AGREE A COUNCILLOR TO LEAD THE PROCESS** – Following the meeting last month it was felt that there needed to be public consultation to discover how street lighting could be improved or in some places switched off. This could be a lengthy process but Cllr Beacom said she was happy to take a lead on this and Cllr Landers offered to assist.- **ACTION IB/AL**

20.07.13. **TO CONSIDER A WAY FORWARD WITH CIL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE** - Cllr Smith said he was willing to take over management of the CIL process and manage the funds. Cllrs Keene, Landers, and Farley offered their assistance. Cllr Smith queried making small donations from CIL money in the past and favoured one or two larger projects. It was pointed out that CIL money had to be spent within five years of receipt or else it had to be returned. **ACTION AS/AL/JF**

20.07.14. **TO CONSIDER MAKING A PLANNING APPLICATION TO EXTEND THE CAR PARK AT WORTHINGTON CLOSE AND TO OBTAIN COSTINGS FOR THE WORKS PROCESS** - The Clerk reported that under the previous Chairman, plans had been drawn up by B & B architects to extend the car park at Worthington Close. This would be an expensive project with substantial groundwork etc. It was pointed out that the architects were a successful local business which the Council should support and they had carried out previous work for the Council at cost using junior members of staff. It was agreed that a planning application should go ahead. – **ACTION CLERK**

20.07.15. **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS.** Cllr. Tinney asked who had drawn up the CIL policy ? The Clerk said it was Dennis Briaris and had been accepted by the Council at a previous meeting although it could always be reviewed and amended. Cllr Landers asked about progress with Worthington Woods project. The Chair suggested that Ms Becker-Hughes from Green Wedmore speak to her directly. Cllr Smith raised the matter of illegal parking in the village. The Chair pointed out that the County Council parking wardens regulaly visited the village and several offenders had been ticketed. Cllr Mulliner said she had information on street

lighting she would share with Cllr Beacom. Cllr Thorogood was concerned at the amount of functions that had been cancelled due to the Corona virus. Cllr Costello suggested that she and Cllr Keene would meet with the Vicar to discuss welfare issues in the parish. Several members mentioned footpath issues and damaged/vandalised stiles which should be reported to the County Footpaths Officer, Chris East.

20.07.16. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Item	From Whom	Subject
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20.07.17. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Cemetery.** – Cllr Cousins had visited recently and identified some issues that needed dealing with.
- **Facilities, Allotments & Footpaths.** – Allotment meeting next week.
- **Finance & General Purposes.** – Nil.
- **Housing.** Nil
- **Highways, Car Park & Brook.** – Nil
- **Planning.** – E-mail consultations continuing for the time being
- **Twinning.** Nil

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- **IOW News** – The next issue being printed and AGM being held tomorrow.
- **Play Areas** – All now re-opened
- **SALC** - Training courses that were pre-booked are being cancelled due to technical issues
- **WPFMC** Nil
- **Village Halls.** –Theale Show is still undecided, Wedmore Hall Committee met recently. Opening on 1st August with some restrictions. Similar at Blackford..
- **Green Wedmore** – Several items on open houses now on social media. Hoping to arrange public meeting on Worthington Woods. Doorstep free cycling dates had been agreed for August, September and October

20.07.18 **MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:-**

- a) Chairman – Nil
- b) Clerk – Nil
- c) Members – Proposed cycle path (EM)

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.56 pm.