

WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held by Zoom video-conference on Wednesday 19th August 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Mrs G Cousins (Vice-Chair), Mrs I Beacom, Mrs J Candy, Mrs J Farley, Mrs B James-Lloyd, Mrs J Keen, Mr D Kirley, Mr A Landers, Mrs E Mulliner, Mr A Smith, Mr S Thorogood, Mr P Tinney, Mrs S Worrall

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded

20.08.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Mrs P Costello

20.08.2. **TO WELCOME NEW COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Barbara James-Lloyd and Cllr David Kirley were 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.

20.08.3. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Huxtable updated members on the fund available for green associated matters. Cllr Keen had previously circulated some ideas and costings were required to be sent to Cllr Huxtable as soon as possible. Cllr Cousins asked if the proposal to share funding for improvements on Billings Hill was still an option ? Cllr Huxtable said that it was and he would come back with some proposed costings. This could be on the agenda for next month. Cllr Smith reported that he had received a complaint of speeding vehicles and large tractors etc. in the Sand area. Cllr Huxtable noted that this was a rural area and that sort of traffic was to be expected. Cllr Worrall reported that the disabled parking bay in The Borough needed re-painting with a time limit added. Cllr Keen added that white lines at Rugg Hill also needed re-painting.

20.08.4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Nil.

20.08.5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th JULY 2020. RESOLVED: THE CHAIRMAN BE AUTHORISED TO SIGN THE MINUTES AS A CORRECT RECORD OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING WITH ONE AMENDMENT THAT THE REFERENCE TO SPENDING CIL MONEY BE CHANGED FROM THREE YEARS TO FIVE YEARS.**

20.08.6. **MATTERS ARISING:-** Nil

20.08.7. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Nil

20.08.8. **TO CONSIDER A DRAFT TAXI LICENSING POLICY FROM SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL** - The policy document had previously been circulated and members agreed to make no comment

20.08.9. **FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

- a) **Audit of accounts** 24th June 2020 to 22ND July 2020 .Cllrs Keen 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	Water2Business	Water rates allotments	£496.63
DD	Mainstream	Phone calls	£0.83
BACS	Water2Business	Water rates at toilets	£143.30
BACS	Sedgemoor DC	Bin emptying, car park and play areas	£487.66
DD	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£1708.12
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£10.37
BACS	Water2Business	Water rates Cemetery	23.04
BACS	Cheddar Signs	Update Honours Board at Council Rooms	£72.00
CARD	Cleverbridge	Annual subscription for anti-virus software	£37.49

DD	Mainstream	Line rental	£63.10
CARD	Plexus Media	Website hosting fee	£29.95
BACS	Rapide Supplies	Stationery & toilet cleaner	£25.49
DD	ZOOM	Monthly subscription	£14.39
BACS	SALC	Training sessions	£60.00
BACS	R Pring	Clerk's expenses	£48.26
BACS	D Summers-Cooke	Clean lock toilets and consumables	£292.00
BACS	Mrs R Stevens	Clean Council Rooms	£25.00
BACS	Will Jackson	Grasscutting, highways etc	£1389.00

Cllr Thorogood asked about the high cost of refurbishing a finger post at Sand Cross. The Clerk explained that this was a heritage post and two new arms had needed to be made for it. A donation towards the cost had been paid by Somerset Heritage Trust. Cllr Cousins commented on the high cost of water being used at the allotments. Cllr Candy said that the high cost was due to most of the plots being let, a very dry spring and the fact that hose pipes were the norm. She was going to address the use of sprinklers which has been observed.. She expects with climate change this will happen more often and so an option under consideration was a bore hole. Water harvesting is also an option but a very large area of storage would be required..

20.08.10. **PROPOSED NEW CYCLEWAY WEDMORE TO BLACKFORD** - Cllr. Mulliner asked if the Council would support a feasibility study to create a safe route for children getting to school at Blackford. Safer cycling routes were mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan and as part of the Green Charter. Government funding might be available. There had been issues in the past with landowners not willing to give part of their land for cycle routes and this needed to be addressed. Cllr Cousins asked if Sustrans could get involved. Cllr Mulliner said that traffic consultants estimated the proposed project cost would be about £200k Proposed by Cllr Worrall and seconded by Cllr Smith that the scheme should be progressed. This was agreed by the members.

20.08.11. **CIL GROUP UPDATE AND FUTURE SUGGESTED PROJECTS** - Cllr Smith had received clarification about how CIL money should be spent. The areas covered included transport, health and wellbeing and sustainability. Future projects to consider include Pilcorn Street pavement, Cheddar Road traffic calming, Billings Hill improvements, footpath assessments, safe cycle routes, car park extension, car charging points, Combe Lane improvement and village entry signs. Any other suggestions should be e-mailed direct to Cllr Smith.

20.08.12. **LEGACY** - Cllr Cousins reported that a resident who died last year and previously lived in Combe Batch Rise had left the Council a £5k legacy. She suggested part of the money be spent upgrading the footpath from Combe Batch to Combe Batch Rise which she knew was a wish by the family of the deceased resident. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to the family

20.08.13. **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS.** Cllr. Cousins reported that last weekend two campervans containing "travellers" had arrived at the car park and stayed overnight. She thought that one day the Council might draw up a plan to inform Councillors what to do should groups of travellers try to take over the car park. Cllr Thorogood mentioned planning issues on Yeo Moor Drove. Cllr Worrall agreed to look into this. Cllr Cousins said that most Councillors had received a letter from Dennis Briaris and Suzanne Metters. The allegations made were being addressed by the Chairman and members would be updated before the next meeting.

20.08.14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- **Cemetery.** – Bench at main gate needs refurbishment and Himalayan Balsam had returned
- **Facilities, Allotments & Footpaths.** – All plots now let and Acorn were assisting with repairs to the main track at the side of the allotments and also with pot holes. The parish was being split into 4 areas for footpath issues and item in IOW News soon. Please let Cllr Thorogood know of any footpath issues.
- **Finance & General Purposes.** – Nil.
- **Housing.** Nil
- **Highways, Car Park & Brook.** – Committee should meet soon to discuss yellow line issues in The Borough, suggested 20 mph speed limit
- **Planning.** – E-mail consultations continuing for the time being. Chair had convinced SDC to extend consultation period for Combe Batch proposed development and was trying to do same re Strongvox.
- **Twinning.** Nil

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- **IOW News** – Nil
- **Play Areas** – Theale needed hedge cutting
- **SALC** - Nil
- **WPFMC** - Nil
- **Village Halls.** – Blackford opening soon with restrictions. Wedmore open with restrictions. Theale needed fabric repairs and were engaging solicitor to perhaps extend the lease.
- **Green Wedmore** – Doorstep recycling a success. Another in September. Litter picking ongoing. George Hotel being visited re car charger.

20.08.16 MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:-

- a) Chairman – Billings Hill proposal, CIL policy and Grants policy review.
- b) Clerk – Still a vacancy for Wedmore and Blackford Wards. One candidate at the moment. Awaiting more.
- c) Members – Street lighting update **(IB)**

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.14 pm.