

## WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL held by ZOOM video conferencing, on  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 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 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 G Cardale, Mr J Newton

20.12.1. **TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies from Cllr D. Cox,

20.12.2. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** - Cllr Huxtable reported that there were staff shortages within the county due to the vaccination roll-out. He also said that Billings Hill could cost £15k for road improvements. Cllr Smith asked if it was financially viable to proceed. Cllr Huxtable said that it would be reviewed but could take up to 3 years to resolve. Cllr Mulliner asked when the Council would hear about the SCC Climate grant application. Cllr Huxtable said that we should hear before the end of the year. Cllr Costello gave details of the various meetings and committees she had attended recently at Sedgemoor.

20.12.3. **TO RECORD ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – The Clerk said that he was issuing a dispensation to each member present so that the budget and precept could be discussed later in the meeting. The application normally had to be signed by each member but due to current circumstances this was not possible.

20.12.4. **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020.** – **RESOLVED:that the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes as a correct record of the previous meeting.**

20.12.5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – Nil

20.12.6. **MATTERS ARISING** –Nil.

20.12.7. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

a) **Audit of accounts 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020** - Cllr Keen and Cllr Mulliner reported that all was in order.

b) **Accounts for Payment** – as per the following list

<b><u>Payment</u></b>	<b><u>Payee</u></b>	<b><u>Details</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
CARD	ZOOM	Video conference monthly subscription	£14.39
BACS	Chambers Services	Construct disabled parking bay and access at Council Rooms	£4980.00
BACS	Methodist Church	Burial Grant	£100.00
BACS	Theale Church	Burial Grant	£100.00
BACS	Blackford Church	Burial Grant	£100.00
BACS	Wedmore V Hall	Grant towards ventilation system	£2500.00
BACS	Mrs P Costello	Christmas entertaining	£150.80
BACS	Odd Job	Paint floors in public toilets	£500.00
DD	Sedgemoor DC	Clerk's salary	£2053.68
BACS	EDF Energy	Electricity at toilets	£10.24
BACS	Som. Play Fields	Annual subscription	£25.00
BACS	SALC	Training course	£25.00

BACS	Rapide Systems	Stationery	£38.04
BACS	Comm. Heartbeat	Annual maintenance cost defibrillator at Paper Shop	£198.00
DD	Mainstream	Phone calls	£199.00
DD	Mainstream	Broadband	£56.70
BACS	Mrs R Stevens	Clean Council Rooms	£25.00
BACS	D Summers-Cook	Lock and clean toilets	£220.00
BACS	R Pring	Clerk's expenses	£30.55
BACS	Will Jackson	Highways, cemetery clearing etc	£460.60

#### 19.12.8 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT FOR HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS AT BLACKFORD

- Mr George Cardale, a resident of Blackford said that he was extremely concerned about the speed of traffic in Blackford, particularly in the area around Poolbridge Road. A recent survey showed that 85% of all traffic was travelling at more than 30mph. There had been 2 serious accidents recently including a fatality. Mr Newton said that the police were carrying out regular speed checks. Both residents had been in contact with Cllr Huxtable and the Highways Department who had suggested a two phase approach to the issues. Phase 1 to include improved signage and road markings and phase 2 to replicate the traffic calming measures as in Wedmore and Mark. The residents wanted a "village gateway" created with a 20mph speed limit. Cllr Huxtable said that the issues were being actively considered and hoped to procure more speed indicator devices within that area. Members discussed using CIL money for some of the work and possibly creating a new crossing at Sexeys School. Cllr Huxtable thought this was unlikely to receive County support but he was willing to support the Parish Council in whatever ways he could. He felt the Parish Council could fund the gateway suggestion. .

#### 19.12.9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON

**WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2020** – The Clerk had previously circulated a draft budget which had been approved by the Finance Committee. He said the reserves were in good shape and saw no need to raise the Parish precept this year. Proposed by Cllr Worrall and seconded by Cllr Smith that the budget be agreed. This was approved by the members.

#### 19.12.10 TO CONSIDER HOW BEST TO ADVERTISE PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO THE PUBLIC IN

**CURRENT TIMES** – Cllr Worrall said that she had received comments from the Isle of Wedmore Society who were concerned that residents who did not have internet access were not being made aware of planning applications. Planning Committee meetings were normally posted on the village noticeboards but physical meetings were not allowed at present. She had considered using the IOW News but this would be 2 months out of date when published. Cllr Candy suggested all major applications could be posted on noticeboards with the rest circulated to members by e-mail and on the website as at present. Cllr Worrall felt that after Christmas meetings should be held by ZOOM video conferencing.

19.12.11 **SPEED AWARENESS UPDATE** – Cllr Smith updated members on the approved locations for placing a speed indicator device (SID). He was currently looking at possible locations in Theale and Blackford and on other roads in Wedmore. He felt there was a need to purchase a device that displayed digital speed information and was investigating what was available.

19.12.12 **FOOTPATH REPAIR TEAM** – Cllr Thorogood outlined the objectives of the team which currently had about 16 volunteers. It was their objective by 2023/24 to have created "walking highways" with no stiles and kissing gates. Cllr Smith supported the idea but Cllr Keen felt there needed to be more discussion about stiles and kissing gates which were issues of concern to some landowners. Cllr Costello felt there was no need for the Council to provide equipment. The volunteers could bring their own.

19.12.13 – **TO CONSIDER PAYING FOR TREE POLLARDING AT THE LERBURNE** – The Clerk had received two quotes to carry out this work in The Lerburne which was concerning residents and there seemed little likelihood of County carrying out the work in the foreseeable future. The cost was about £1500 and members agreed that this work should proceed.

19.12.14 **ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS** – Cllr Landers said that a resident wanted to set up a "Good neighbour" scheme. Cllr Costello suggested the resident attends the next meeting. Cllr Thorogood said the Theale Link had been resurrected. Cllr Cousins

expressed concerns about the visibility exiting West End onto Blackford Road due to an overhanging shrub.

#### 19.12.15 CORRESPONDENCE

Item	From Whom	Subject
	ALL CIRCULATED	

#### 19.12.16 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Cemetery – All looks fine with moss now under control
- Facilities Allotments & Footpaths – Maybe a rent increase next year. Wedmore in Bloom no longer using peat based compost
- Finance & General Purposes – Met recently
- Housing – Nil
- Highways, Car Park & Brook – Nil
- Planning – Nil
- Footpaths and Green Issues - Nil

##### REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON COMMITTEES

- IOW News – Nil..
- Play Areas – Nil
- SALC – Nil
- Wedmore Playing Fields Management – Nil
- Village Halls – Wedmore ventilation system now completed. Serious hygiene issues with kitchen at Theale
- Twinning – Nil

#### 19.12.17 MATTERS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING –

- (a). Chairman – Nil
- (b) Clerk – Nil
- (c) Members – Nil

There being no further business, the Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and the meeting was declared closed at 8.55pm