

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions – Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status & any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Lucy Gibbons, Locum Officer

Present

Robin Carpenter (Chairperson), Joanna Szmaj, Robert Halls, Mark Pollock, Peter Higgins, and Mike Hewitson (Somerset Councillor).

In Attendance

Lucy Gibbons (Locum Officer) and 2 Members of the Public.

Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak: No matters were brought for discussion.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr O Patrick.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th June 2023 (Already Circulated)

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

RC attended the meeting regarding the A30 closure through West Coker. Passes will be issued to residents of W Coker. Access will be granted through the manned gates to the Doctors surgery or businesses in West Coker. Hardington will not be the official diversion, but will no doubt be heavily used.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

Cllr Patrick and Cllr Hewitsons' combined report was previously circulated. There will be a large amount of signage asking users, (especially HGV's) of the A30 to use the official diversion.

The Waste collection strike has been called off currently.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

7. HIGHWAYS

a) The Highways representative report – A number of potholes have been reported. Some have been repaired and we are awaiting a response on the last two. It was reported that potholes have to be more serious to be prioritised as the Council have so many to repair currently. The quality of repairs was raised with MH. He asked for photos of any poorly repaired potholes, so issues can be raised with the contractors.

RC raised the issue of the closure of the Chinnock Hollow with MH. Somerset Council are pursuing Government funds. The PC resolved to write to our MP M Fysh to ask that he pursues this issue urgently.

8. FOOTPATHS

The stiles between Pig Hill and the High Street have been replaced with gates, as has the one on Windmill Hill. We have no update on the request to designate Common Lane as a Bridleway. RC had received helpful comments from one parishioner and one ex-parishioner, which have been passed to Sarah Anne Bucks, who made the application on behalf of the Bridleways Association.

9. PARISH ISSUES

a) Phone box refurbishment – The box has been repaired and the glass panel has been replaced in the box at St James Terrace. The Mandeville box still awaits finishing including painting.

b) The 80th Anniversary of D-Day (6th June 2024) – A proposal will be put forward at the August meeting regarding beacons.

c) Website update – The site has been updated. Councillors who have not got their photos on the site were asked to forward a photo to the webmaster if they so wish.

A big thank you was offered to the organisers of the Street Fair. They raised around £4000 according to information received, despite the inclement weather.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

a) Bike track - We wrote to Halcyon last month to request that they carry out some intensive weed killing on the area of the

bike track at the top of our Community Field, where the area is becoming overtaken by weeds. We requested that the area was treated to a width of around 1.5m. This has not yet been done. LG to chase this up. The maintenance contract will be checked to make sure we are getting what was agreed.

b) Any other issues – There is an Ash tree with die back in the field next to the park. A branch that recently fell into the park has been removed. RC/PH will visit to see who owns it.
The zip wire needs tightening. RC/PH to action.

11. FINANCE

a) A Resolution was passed to pay the following amounts-

A Middleton – Reimb. for BBQ purchase (£495.99 + VAT£99.20)	£595.19
N Chapman – Apr-Jun Payroll	£915.40
Lucy Thomson -Dry stone wall next to village well	£200.00
Somerset Council - Ranger Scheme- May (£176.05 + VAT£35.21)	£211.26
SES - Village hall fire alarm installation (4623.00 + VAT£924.60)	£5547.60

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

a) Work completed in July – Works included Primrose hill strimmed, drains cleared. Lyatts junction, cleared, St James Terrace phone box and notice board brambles cleared and verge strimmed. Pig Hill strimmed and drains cleared. North Lane and Church wall, the green and village hall banks strimmed and detritus cleared. Phone box opposite the Mandeville cleared. Penn hill village sign cut back and gully cleared.

b) Work proposed for August – The Flower show committee have requested a general clean up around the Village Hall, prior to the Flower show. The Moor Lane footpath still needs strimming. The handrail outside the Hall still needs painting. RC to contact the Ranger with these requests.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The LCN meeting has been moved to Monday 7th August at 7:00pm. RC will attend.

We received a breakdown of the cost of the Coronation mugs purchased by the Parish Council.

144 mugs purchased for £1,185.40 = £8.232 per mug.

Parish Council agreed to pay for 70 mugs (For Children of the village) = £576.24

Parish Council has been paid by BACS for the remaining 74 mugs £609.16

The profit from the remaining mugs will be given to a charity when they have all been sold.

The Flower Show committee has asked for a contribution towards the increased costs that they will incur staging the show. The shortfall they anticipate is £112. The Parish Council took a resolution to contribute this amount.

14. **VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE** - The new alarm system is up and running. This needs testing on a weekly basis. The annual lighting test is due. Village cinema events are booked for 21/09, 19/10, 16/11 and 14/12. There has been a big reduction in the electricity costs this month.

15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councillors: An increase in incidence of dog fouling was raised. The Nature Reserve is a particular issue. RC will put a further message in the Messenger.

Clerk: None.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.30pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th August at the Village Hall. (MP apologised that he will not be able to attend).