

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, Malcolm White Mark Pollock, Peter Higgins and Mike Hewitson (County Councillor).

In Attendance

Lucy Gibbons (Locum Officer) and 4 Members of the Public.

Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak:

A requested was made for volunteers for the Street Fair on the 8th July.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Richard Beatson

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY 2023 (Already Circulated)

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

None.

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

CLlr Patrick and CLlr Hewitsons' combined report was previously circulated. The tender process for the A30 road works will be completed in two days. There will be a virtual meeting on Tuesday 27th June at 2:30 if anyone wishes to attend. (you must register in advance).

MH was asked to get Highways to remove the number of abandoned signs that are still found around the village.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Planning applications received after publication of this agenda - None

b) Mandeville Arms change of use to residential. This has been approved, subject to the amendments regarding the removal of the letting rooms and flats.

c) 'Land North of Tall Elms' development groundworks damage to verge and footpath. There has been no progress on this. RC hopes that we can improve the situation by re-seeding the area.

7. HIGHWAYS

a) The Highways representative report – None received.

b) A30 road closure - Somerset Highways reference closure of A30 at West Coker. The works were notified as going ahead, starting the last week of July 2023, for six weeks.

c) Halves Lane/Primrose Hill 19th-30th June. This work is underway with diversions in place.

8. FOOTPATHS

a) New pedestrian gates have been installed to replace the stiles on paths Y10/9 and Y10/11, as well as a new oak plank bridge at one location. This makes it possible to walk from the bend on Pig Hill (up the steps) to the High Street without any stiles.

b) The gate at the far side of Windmill Hill on path Y10/12 has been replaced.

c) Definition Rights of Way – Application 589-591 for bridleways (evidence is required 4th July) RC described the location of these. This relates to Common Lane, with the potential to create a bridleway from the top of the High Street to Hardington Marsh. Anyone who has evidence of use is asked to contact Robin Carpenter. We will wait to see what decision is made on this application.

9. PARISH ISSUES

a) Phone box refurbishment – The box has been repaired and is ready for painting. MW is overseeing this. The box next to the pub has a broken glazing frame. A quote for £31 has been received. A resolution was taken to purchase this panel. RH to action.

b) Future church burial plots. No further information has been received.

c) Party-In-the-Park BBQ purchase. It was confirmed that the Party in the Park comes under the responsibilities of the Parish Council. We have received three quotes for BBQ's. The preferred option will cost £595. A resolution was taken to

purchase this. It will probably be stored at the Village Hall. A Middleton will make the purchase and the PC will reimburse him.

d). Replacement website manager - Mark Edwards has agreed to take on this role. The contact will remain as webmaster@hardington.net. He has some ideas on improvements that he would like to make.

RC proposed that we write to Tim Watkins and thank him for his years of service as webmaster. LG to action.

e). LCN meeting – (Johnson Park, Coronation Ave. Thursday 20th July, 7.00pm). RC asked if anyone was available to attend this meeting as he is otherwise committed. JS agreed to go.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) Bike track. There is a concern that if we were to build a bike park (pump track) the lack of access to the site to build it and parking once it was in place, would be a major issue. Currently the track needs work. It was agreed that initially it needs some serious weed killing. We will then be able to see if further work is required. LG to ask Halcyon to do this as it should be in their contract.
- b) Halcyon invoice has increased to £156 (previously £150).
- c) BBQ surround. Thanks were offered to R White, for removing the turf, putting in a membrane and placing gravel around it, so it should not get damaged again.
- d) Any other issues. LG was asked to reiterate to Halcyon that it was not acceptable to strim right up to the play equipment and trees. This is damaging the base of them.

11. FINANCE

- a) Bank Reconciliation at 31st March 2023 (quarterly and year end). Has been signed and agreed.
- b) Final Budget Analysis for 2022/2023 was agreed.
- d) Annual Internal Audit Report has been completed. Confirmation of Exemption from Agar was agreed.
- e) Resolution to approve the Annual Governance Statement, was agreed and documents signed.
- f) Resolution to approve the Accounting Statements was agreed and documents signed.
- g) King Charles Coronation mugs. We need to clarify the exact figures for the mugs given out and sold. This will be finalised at the July meeting.
- h) Online banking. Somerset Council no longer wishes to be paid by cheque. We will need to change the bank we use and set up a new account elsewhere to do this. It was agreed to wait for the Clerk to return fully before undertaking this change.
- i) Resolution required to pay the following invoices:

- SSDC Ranger scheme March 2023 (£160.06 + VAT£32.01)	£192.07
- Heartsafe Locator (HeartSine Adult Pad Pak (£120.45+VAT£22.50)	
R. Carpenter reimbursed for this payment.	£142.95
- Zurich Parish Council Insurance (Parish Council insurance)	£471.61

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The Ranger. RC asked the Ranger to clear the footpath at the end of Moor Lane and from Broadstone Lane to Rectory Lane. The latter has been done
- b) Work proposed at this time included . RC will contact the Ranger to ask what other work she has outstanding.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Village Hall expenditure for June - £700 for cleaning and fireproofing the chairs

£4473 + vat for update to the fire alarm system.

£675.51 for March and April + £123.44 for electricity paid to Corona Energy.

15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councillors: None.

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, 18th July at the Village Hall.