



NORTH VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held at Holton Village Hall on Monday 18th September 2023

Present: David Young (Chair), David Badham-Thornhill,, Jenny Chambers, Janet Down, Douglas Hodges, Simon Ford, Steve Prior and Julian Sincock.

Barry Druce (Clerk) Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor)

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Graham Boaler.

Electors Question Time /Comments: No members of the public present so no questions or comments were raised.

Unitary Councillors' Report: The written report from the Unitary Councillors having been circulated were taken as read and noted. Nicola Clarke reminded members that the next LCN was being held at Henstridge on the 4th October 2023 and invited members to attend. Nicola reported on the current topics of concern in the area, and stated that the financial situation at Somerset Council was proving difficult and cost cuts were being explored. She stated that there would shortly be a public consultation survey being carried out on the rural point of view towards planning strategy. On being asked by the Chair, Nicola stated that despite being an MP, Sarah Dyke was also still holding post for the time being as a Unitary Councillor, and although Nicola was attending most of the local council meetings at the moment, Sarah intended to attend some meetings during the Autumn house recess period.

23.72 Declaration of Interest/Dispensations: No declarations of interest were submitted.

23.73 Co-Option of new member for North Cheriton – The Clerk reported that he had been approached by a resident of North Cheriton who had put himself forward as a candidate for the vacant councillor position in the village, and introduced Maxwell Oatley. The Clerk reported that the proper process had been followed in advertising the vacancy created by Gillian Freeman's resignation, and as there had not been a call for an election to be held, the Council were now in a position to fill the post by co-option. Max was warmly thanked and welcomed to the meeting by all, and on being PROPOSED by Julian Sincock, SECONDED by Simon Ford, Maxwell Oatley was unanimously co-opted as Parish Councillor for North Cheriton.

23.74 Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 17th July 2023, as PROPOSED by Simon Ford and SECONDED by Janet Down, were approved and signed.

23.75 Matters Arising: (a) The Clerk referred to minute 23.64(a) and asked Nicola Clarke if any progress had been made with the enquiry. Nicola stated that no full report had been received as yet but undertook to chase it up. (b) The Clerk referred to minute 23.64.(c) and reminded members that no action had yet been taken with the ACV application concerning the Old Inn, Holton. Steve Prior reported that the it was now planned for the previous landlord to return and take over the pub again and all indications are that it would be reopened very soon. This news was greeted with approval and it was decided to keep the ACV application on hold for the foreseeable future. (c) The Clerk referred to minute 23.69.4 and reported that he had contacted the contractor to carry out the work but it would appear that that work had not yet been undertaken. The Clerk reported that he had spoken with the contractor earlier and been informed that the grass had been cut that day, with the intention to return the following week to cut it again and tidy the site, at which time the hedge and yew trees would be attended to. The Chair reported that he and Douglas Hodges had been to the cemetery and cleared the ragwort between meetings. General discussion then took place on the need to finalise the Schedule of Works required for the tender process, and Simon Ford stated that this was well in hand and that he would distribute the document for comments very soon. (d) Referring to minute 23.71.1, the Clerk reported that enquiries reveal that there is no need to obtain planning permission to instal a domestic heating oil tank in the garden of a private dwelling, but that there are stringent regulations that must be followed. (e) Referring to minute 23.71.3 the Clerk reminded members that they had deferred making a decision on reducing the number of annual meetings to 10 per year, to this meeting. The original idea was to remove the meeting normally held in January from their calendar, but suggested that if they were inclined to reduce to 10, as the annual precept needed to be confirmed and submitted in January each year, not to mention the unreliable nature of the weather at that time of year, removing the February meeting might be more appropriate. Julian Sincock favoured



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this move and after general discussion it was unanimously DECIDED to reduce the number of meetings each year to 10 by removing the meeting previously held in February from their calendar.

23.76 Planning Applications: The following planning application had been received since the last meeting:

23.76.1 – **23/02037/PAMB** - Prior Approval Notification for the change of use of an existing agricultural barn to No. 1 dwelling house - **Barn At Bella's Ground Part Land Os 4400 Grove Lane North Cheriton** – Acknowledging that this was a courtesy, prior notification, a short discussion on the merits of changes from agricultural use to domestic followed, and the situation was noted.

23.76.2 - **23/02126/PAMB** - Prior Approval Notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to a single dwelling house - **Barn 1 Cherrington Oaks Farm Lower Cheriton Lane North Cheriton**

23.76.3 - **23/02124/PAMB** - Prior Approval Notification for the change of use of an agricultural building to a single dwelling house - **Barn 2 Cherrington Oaks Farm Lower Cheriton Lane North Cheriton** – Referring to both this and PA 23/02126/PAMB, Simon Ford outlined the proposals included in the applications and referred to the comments that had already been submitted by members of the public. Lengthy discussion followed during which Jenny Chambers reminded members of the historic application for the site which had been made in 2015, involving the introduction of use of part of the land for caravans. Douglas Hodges expressed his concern that this was one of a growing number of examples where applicants are appearing to take advantage of the planning system simply to get permission to build houses on agricultural land. It was finally DECIDED that the council should support the views already submitted and the Clerk was instructed to submit the comments prepared by Simon Ford.

23.76.4 - **22/02519/S73A**. Solar Site – **Sutor Farm, Moor Lane, Wincanton** – To remove the 30 year period of permission that was previously approved – This application was noted.

23.77: Planning Decisions – The following Planning Decisions that had been received since the previous meeting were briefly discussed and noted.

23.77.1 - **22/02190/OUT** - Outline application with some matters reserved for demolition of existing kennel and cattery buildings and the erection of 4 no. dwelling houses with access thereto - **Merrymeet Kennels, Lattiford, Holton** **APPROVED**

23.77.2 – **23/01650/PAMB** - Prior approval for the change of use of existing agricultural barn into a dwelling house - **Land East Of Blackacre Hill North Cheriton** **REFUSED**

23.78: Planning Other – (a) With regards to PA 23/01238/PAMB, the Clerk referred members to the circulated comments that had been prepared by the members for Maperton, which were requested should be forwarded to David Kenyon following the comprehensive reply that he had previously provided. Douglas Hodges asked Nicola Clarke there was now a general acceptance of agricultural property being converted to domestic, and she responded that this type of planning application was being received from all parts of the county. After further discussion it was AGREED that the comments proposed by the Maperton councillors should be forwarded to Mr Kenyon.

(b) **The Willows, Lattiford, Holton, Wincanton – Appeal Dismissed** – This decision by the Planning Inspectorate was greeted with approval, and it was assumed that the caravans on that site would now have to be removed. Nicola Clarke asked members to keep a watch on the site and if nothing has changed, to contact the Council for Enforcement action to be commenced.

23.79: Correspondence: (a) All correspondence of interest received by email had previously been distributed and were taken as read. The Clerk referred to the items that had been circulated with the agenda, and the items were noted (Somerset Council – Grit Bins).

(b) **Society of Local Council Clerks** – The Clerk reminded members that the previous clerk had been a member of this Society and the parish council had funded the membership fee. The clerk then stated that this had now come for renewal but that he had no interest in becoming a member or in requiring the council to pay the fee. A short discussion followed and it was finally decided not to renew the membership.

23.80: Financial Matters

23.80.1 Review balances as at 31st August 2023 – The schedule was reviewed. The balance as at 31st August 2023 stands at £15,125.76.

23.80.2 Authorise Cheques – The following items were authorised for payment:-



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- (a) Wayne Pamphilon – Inv July 2023 - £75.00
 - (b) Barry Druce - Clerk's salary and expenses for July 2023 - £309.93
 - (c) Barry Druce - Clerk's salary and expenses for August 2023 - £284.83
 - (d) Philip Bourne – Phone Box repairs - £23.28
 - (e) Matt Boney – SID repairs - £65.04

23.80.3 - Lloyds Bank Business Online Service: The Clerk reported on the current position with regards to On-line banking access with Lloyds Bank, and reminded members on the steps they needed to take.

23.80.4 – Simon Ford referred to the action that was taken in the past to renovate the finger-posts within the parishes. He stated that 6 were completed but the other 6 had not been, and the lettering on the post now needed attention. He outlined the process and the time scale involved, and called for volunteers to carry out the work. Steve Prior volunteered to be part of the team and it was decided that each village should make efforts to identify and encourage persons from within to help.

23.81: Speed Indicator Device latest update – Simon Ford gave an update on the state of play with the existing S.I.D., and stated that the current device was now working thanks to the efforts of Matt Boney (local resident and volunteer) and back in position on Cheriton Hill, though he was not able to download data due to problems with the chip. Simon stated that Matt had spent a considerable amount of time working on the device to get it to its current state, and the help that they had received from the supplier was very much non-existent. He commented that he had come to the end of his tether with both the machine and the supplier, and recommended that that supplier should not be used again for any future purchase. Julian Sincock stated that the device must now be out of warranty and it appeared to be a waste of time spending any more money on it. He continued, some residents in North Cheriton had indicated that they might be inclined to contribute to the cost of a new device if necessary. This was duly noted. In answer to a question, the Clerk reported that Somerset Council had advised that their policy towards SiD's still applies and that machines should be active at the same occasion for periods of only 2 weeks. He stated that this of course meant that any new machine would need to be sufficiently robust to be moved regularly and careful selection needed to be applied. Steve Prior stated that Somerset Council's policy notwithstanding, his research had revealed that a SiD could be possibly be permanently located at a position with a known accident rating, and this was referred for discussion to the October meeting. The Clerk reminded members that the parish council reserve fund held balances to be used in the purchase of new or replacement devices, and that they also awaited the verdict on the grant claim that was being processed by the Avon and Somerset Police Authority. If successful, this when added to the money held in reserve would potentially give sufficient funds to purchase two new devices and give the council three devices which could be used throughout the Group area. Simon Ford undertook to research alternatives and make recommendations.

23.82: Matters of report and items for next meeting.

23.82.1 – Steve Prior reported that he had been contacted by a resident in Holton who was concerned about the increase in traffic ignoring the speed signs and speeding down the hill in the village. He stated that the general view amongst residents was that they did not want traffic calming measure introduced, and commented that speed cameras would be the answer, either fixed or police mobile cameras. It was agreed that something need to be done about this and the Clerk undertook to invite the local Police Liaison Officer to attend the next meeting to discuss remedies.

23.82.2 - The Clerk was instructed to write to Nicola Clarke and ascertain when it was intended for the Somerset Council to complete the road markings at the junction with Anchor Hill Garage.

23.82.3 - The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's website provider, Hugo Fox, were changing their charging policy and that from October they would not be offering the current service at no cost but would be charging £9.99 per month. Assuming that this would unacceptable to the council, the Clerk had enlisted the service of a volunteer expert to create and develop a new site for the council which would involve no charges. The work is in hand and it is hope that the completed site would be delivered very soon.

23.82.4 - In answer to a question from Jenny Chambers, the Clerk advised that the Footpaths Officer at Somerset Council appeared to be person who is responsible for organising the maintenance of stiles.

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm
