



NORTH VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held at Holton Village Hall on Monday 11th December 2023

Present: David Young (Chair), David Badham-Thornhill, Steve Prior, Jenny Chambers, Julian Sincock and Janet Down. Barry Druce (Clerk) 2 Members of the public.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Max Oatley. and Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor).

Electors Question Time /Comments: Philippa Anderson (Holton resident) stated that through money-raising efforts by Holton residents, they had so far raised £1,900 towards the cost of purchasing a Speed Indicator Device to be used in the village. She referred to the problems being encountered with speeding traffic in and around the village, and the effectiveness that S.I.D.'s provided, and requested advice on the process involved with securing and operating these devices. The Chair advised that the regulations required persons who were to operate these devices had to be properly trained and there had to be full compliance with the regulations and policies in force, and locations for the devices had to be authorised by Somerset Council. Steve Prior stated that there really needed to be regular police presence in the village, with speed cameras, as this is the only really effective prevention remedy. Further general discussion followed, and it was eventually decided that the residents should make enquiries to establish the way ahead and report back to the Parish Council through their councillors. The Clerk undertook to provide the residents with appropriate contact information for Somerset Council.

Unitary Councillors' Report: The written report from the Unitary Councillors having been circulated was taken as read and noted.

23.104 Declaration of Interest/Dispensations: No declarations were made.

23.105 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 herself forward as a candidate for the vacant councillor position in the village, and introduced Rita Rodrigues. The Clerk reported that the proper process had been followed in advertising the vacancy created by Simon Ford'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. Rita was warmly thanked and welcomed to the meeting by all, and on being PROPOSED by Julian Sincock, SECONDED by David Badham-Thornhill, Rita Rodrigues was unanimously co-opted as Parish Councillor for North Cheriton.

23.106 Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 20th November 2023, as PROPOSED by Jenny Chambers and SECONDED by Steve Prior, were approved and signed.

23.107 Matters Arising: There were no matters raised for discussion.

23.108 Planning Applications: No planning applications had been received since the last meeting.

23.109 Planning Decisions - The following planning decisions had been received since the last meeting:

23.109.1 - **23/02423/HOU** - Proposed detached garage and home office building ancillary to dwelling.
(The Old Rectory) - **The Old Rectory Holton Street Holton GRANTED**

23.109.2 - **23/02312/HOU** - Demolition of existing dormer and erection of a two storey extension - **The Gardens Cottage Hardings Lane North Cheriton GRANTED**

23.110 Planning Other – None.

23.111: Correspondence: 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; the items were noted and it was agreed that with regards to the Somerset Council proposal for the Sale of Assets and Devolution of Services, the item should be referred to the next meeting pending Somerset Council issuing the definitive list of services that will be involved.

23.112: Financial Matters

23.112.1 **Review balances as at 30th November 2023** – The schedule was reviewed. The balance as at 30th November 2023 stands at £13,416.06.



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23.112.2 **Authorise Cheques** – The following item was authorised for payment:-

(a) Barry Druce - Clerk's salary and expenses for November 2023 - £311.23

23.112.3 - **Lloyds Bank Business Online Service:** The Clerk reported on the current position with regards to On-line banking access with Lloyds Bank, and established that Jenny Chambers, Janet Down and David Badham-Thornhill were now set up ready to access online banking (though DBT was still awaiting a card and reader). Others were still in the process of making their application.

23.112.4 - **Contract for Maintenance of North Cheriton Cemetery 2024-2027** – The Clerk referred to the tenders that had been submitted by FOUR prospective contractors and to the summary sheet that had been previously distributed. Members discussed the information that had been provided and clarified what each quotation consisted of. General discussion took place on the merits for each contractor and after due consideration it was eventually PROPOSED by Julian Sincock, SECONDED by Rita Rodrigues, and unanimously AGREED that the Contract for Maintenance Works of North Cheriton Cemetery for the period from the 1st April 2024 to the 31st March 2027 should be awarded to **GREENWAYS GARDEN MAINTENANCE**. The Clerk was instructed to notify all contractors accordingly.

23.113: Speed Indicator Device latest update – The Clerk reported that Simon Ford was continuing to assist the Parish Council with the S.I.D. Julian Sincock stated that the device was currently installed and working in North Cheriton. He stated that there is an urgent need to train volunteers in the use of the device, and the Chair undertook to contact Cressmore's and make enquiries in respect of available courses.

The Chair referred to the fatal accident that had occurred on the old A303 in Maperton the year before and reported that the court case against the driver involved had now gone through, and the offender had been imprisoned for 6 years (2 to 3 times over the drink limit). The general view on that stretch of road is that despite the road safety improvements that had been introduced, there is a pressing need for the speed limit to be reduced to 30mph. The Clerk was instructed to contact Somerset Council accordingly.

23.114: Matters of report and items for next meeting.

23.114.1 – David Badham-Thornhill reported that there is a deep crack (approx 12 feet long) in the west side of the road surface at the south end of Gibbet Road, Holton, just north of the crossroad. The Clerk undertook to notify the Unitary Councillor.

The Meeting closed at 8:25 pm
