

MINUTES OF MONTACUTE PARISH COUNCIL
MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2017 IN BAPTIST CHAPEL

17/147/a PRESENT:

Members: Mr V Baker (Chairman), Mrs C Saint (Vice Chairman), Mrs J Folkard, Mrs A Gihon, Mrs A Jewell-Harrison, Mr H Marsh, Mr M Sampson, Mrs L Siegle and Mr D Warry

Others: Mrs S Moore (Clerk), Mrs J Roundell Greene (District Councillor) Mr M Keating (County Councillor) and no members of the public

17/147/b APOLOGIES:

None declared

17/148 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

None declared.

17/149 PUBLIC SESSION:

No members of the public present.

17/150 PCSO REPORT:

No report given.

17/151 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS:

17/151/a Cllr Roundell Greene:

Cllr Roundell Greene gave her report.

- **Local Plan Review:** The review of the Local Plan will run from 29th October to 11th January. There will be full consultation on the issues and options report. Members of the public will be able to respond to the document and all responses will be considered as part of the review.
- **Western Corridor Improvements:** Work has started on the new road improvements along Lysander Road and near Palmers and Asda. This will cause disruption for several months.
- **Monitoring Officer:** Cllr Roundell Greene gave the sad news that SSDC's monitoring officer had passed away suddenly and gave details of his funeral. She said that there will be a condolence book at the SSDC offices.
- **SSDC Transformation:** The programme is on track and on budget. Savings of £6m need to be made by 2020. SSDC announced that they have purchased the Marks and Spencer building in Middle Street, Yeovil. This will bring substantial income to the council. SSDC are looking at further investments to help keep services running at SSDC.
- **Planning:** The application to remove the s106 obligations from the land next to Stanchester school was turned down at the Area North meeting. The site is almost finished and members felt very strongly that the developer should continue to fulfil their obligations in terms of affordable housing and sports and leisure facilities.
- **Yeovil Innovation Phase 2:** The solar panels have now been put on the roof
- **Gold Award for Tourism:** South Somerset has been given the Gold Award for Tourism.

17/151/b Cllr Keating:

Cllr Keating's report had been circulated to councillors

- **Western Corridor Improvements:** Official work is starting on the road improvements on the western side of Yeovil. These improvements will increase the capacity of several junctions and upgrade links for pedestrians and cyclists and, support more than 1,500 homes and 20 hectares of employment land nearby. The aim is to keep traffic moving as much as possible.

The public were able to find out more about the plans etc. at pre-construction drop-in events at the beginning of November

- **Nippy Bus:** Four schools have been affected by the cessation of the Nippy bus. All routes are being covered by emergency contracts and County Council will be re-tendering these routes from mid-November.
- **A303 Upgrade:** Highways England have announced their preferred route option for the crucial Sparkford to Ilminster section of the A303. This is the 'Option 1' route on the on-line consultation. This choice is largely due to the adverse landscape and severance of routes associated with the alternative option, and this also reflects public opinion expressed in the recent consultation.
- **Flu Jabs:** People of 65, have long-term health conditions or pregnant are eligible for a free flu jab through their GP, pharmacist and midwife. Children aged 2 and 3 can also receive the flu jab from their GP and school children from reception class through to year 4 will receive it at school.

Cllr Keating said there will be no progress regarding the 20mph limit and suggested that the parish council put money towards signage. The councillors expressed deep concern over this especially after the assurances that had been received early in the year. Cllr Baker had to stop the discussion because it was becoming too heated.

Cllr Keating explained that County Council budgets were tight as the majority of funding was going into social care. Cllr Baker suggested that the 20mph limit was discussed at the next meeting.

(Cllr Keating left the meeting)

17/152 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minute ref: 17/134/b – It was agreed to amend the sentence to read '...altered as the amenities in Stoke sub Hamdon mentioned are no longer in existence'.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Marsh

Seconded: Cllr Saint

agreed unanimously

17/153 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

17/153/a Review of Actions List

The Clerk reviewed the items on the Action List:

- Installation of dog bin on grass verge in Yeovil Road –Streetscene have refused an additional bin and suggested using the existing bin next to the garage. It was agreed to contact Streetscene to find out whether the bin could be moved to the other side of the road onto the grass verge. **Action Clerk**
- An independent fundraiser has agreed to attend the parish council meeting in January.
- It was agreed to contact the groundsman to carry out the maintenance on the verge outside the Monks House. **Action Clerk**
- It was agreed to forward a copy of the new allotment holders' letter and tenancy agreement to Cllr Baker. **Action Clerk**
- The National Trust have reviewed the condition of the Cedar trees on the recreation ground and do not think that any work needs to be carried out.
- Sheepwash: The National Trust has no records of this being their responsibility.
- Grant for replacement bulbs for verge in Yeovil Road. Wales & West Utilities have agreed to send a donation for £100 towards new bulbs.
Cllr Saint said that the grass verge had been left in a very poor condition and asked for Wales & West Utilities to reinstate the area as before by reseeding the area once the container and barriers have been removed. **Action Clerk**

17/153/b Playground Refurbishment Report

Cllr Siegle handed out the report on the playground refurbishment project. Cllr Siegle said that the overall plan was to look at equipment made with natural materials with sympathetic colours which suited children of all ages and abilities. As play equipment is so expensive funding will be applied for as soon as possible and to ask for help from a professional fundraiser.

Cllr Siegle then went through what type of equipment had been looked at and what existing equipment needed minor repairs. A discussion was held on the equipment suggested and it was agreed to install the toddler pull-up ropes and the agility trail in the first instance. The toddler pull-up ropes will cost £160 plus VAT and the agility trail will cost £1,235 plus VAT.

Proposed: Cllr Saint Seconded: Cllr Folkard agreed unanimously

Cllr Siegle said that she would talk to the National Trust and the Bonfire Club for funding and will obtain additional quotes for the equipment. **Action Cllr Siegle**

(Cllr Saint left the meeting)

17/154 HIGHWAYS:

17/154/a Report on Line Marking

The Clerk reported that she and Cllr Baker had met with the highways officer to discuss possible line marking in Middle Street and South Street.

(Cllr Saint re-joined the meeting)

The highways officer has agreed to submit a works order for double yellow lines to be painted from the garage in Bishopston, around the corner into Middle Street to Wash Lane on the eastbound side and outside the church next to the dropped kerb in Bishopston and around into Middle Street. Also, double yellow lines to be painted from Poacher's Pocket in South Street and around the corner to the junction of Back Lane.

The Clerk said that the highways officer had also agreed to repaint the 'H' bar lines in South Street and on the corner of Townsend. Cllr Saint commented on the parking issues at the bottom of Hollow Lane. No lines had been agreed to painted at the bottom of Hollow Lane but the situation will be monitored.

17/154/b Yeovil Western Corridor Improvements

This item had been discussed under *Minute refs: 17/151/a and 17/151/b*

17/154/c Other Issues

None reported.

17/155 **WORKING PARTIES REPORTS:**

17/155/a Allotments

No report given.

17/155/b National Trust

Cllr Saint said that the hedge in Back Lane had been cut and Cllr Warry reported that the hedge in Hedgecock Lane had been cut and layered.

17/155/c Street Lighting

Cllr Folkard reported that the street lights 5, 6, 7 and 8 were not working in St Michaels View and that these had been reported twice. The lights may possibly be fixed by 12th December.

17/155/d Speedwatch

No report given.

17/155/e Triangle Trust

Cllr Warry reported that the Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday 25th November at the Memorial Hall in Stoke sub Hamdon.

17/155/f Recreation Ground

A discussion was held about the barrier and hut keys which need to be returned by the junior football club.

(Cllr Marsh left the meeting)

The Clerk said that there is a one day routine playground inspection course being held on 9th January 2018 at Milford Community Hall at a cost of £105 plus VAT per person plus a further

£95 should anyone wish to take the exam and, asked whether any councillors would be interested. It was agreed that Cllr Siegle would attend.

Proposed: Cllr Gihon Seconded: Cllr Jewell-Harrison agreed unanimously

The Clerk gave an update on the new sporting facilities project. It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with the appointed town planner to arrange for the drawings to be done so they could be submitted to the National Trust and have them ready for the next meeting.

17/155/g Footpaths

No report given.

17/156 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Cllr Baker reported that the Bonfire event was a great success.

17/157 **CLERK'S REPORT:**

The Clerk said that SSDC was offering to recycle Christmas Trees and it was agreed that the compound would go on allotment no. 1 and an article would go in the magazine.

17/158 **FINANCE:**

17/158/a Matters for Report

i. Monthly Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk gave the quarterly bank reconciliation as at 30th October 2017:

Current Account	£	250.00
Business Reserve Account	£	50,101.50
Sports Project Reserve Account	£	16,183.84
Total	£	66,535.34
Outstanding Cheques	£	1,212.66
Total as Cash Book	£	65,322.68

ii. Report on Budget 2018/19

A Finance Working Party meeting was held on 9th November to discuss the budget for 2018/19. The draft budget and minutes had been forwarded to councillors. It was recommended to reduce the budget as much as possible. There are two major projects for the coming year and it is recommended to keep the provision of £5,000 the same as the previous year for the sporting facilities and allocate £2,000 towards new playground equipment.

The Clerk stipulated that no decisions could be made as yet because the Tax Base rate and support grant information will not be received until mid-December. It was agreed that the Finance Working Party would meet again once the information had been received from SSDC.

iii. External Auditor Appointments for 2017/18 Financial Year

The Clerk reported that the London based firm, PKF Littlejohn LLP has been appointed as the external auditor for the next five years. Their fees subject to limited assurance review will be around £200 ex VAT. The annual return will now be known as the 'Annual Governance and Accountability Return' and all the forms will be sent out electronically at the end of the financial year unless the parish council has any objection.

17/158/b Cheques for Signature

Sarah Moore	Expenses for October	£	99.99	<i>Chq 1466</i>
K M Dike Nurseries	Grass Cutting – Aug, Sept & Nov	£	1,159.50	<i>Chq 1467</i>
Montacute Baptist Chapel	Hire of Chapel 3 x Meetings	£	75.00	<i>Chq 1468</i>
Grant Thornton	2016/17 Annual Audit	£	240.00	<i>Chq 1469</i>
	Total	£	1,574.49	

Proposed: Cllr Folkard Seconded: Cllr Siegle agreed unanimously

17/158/c **Matters for Resolution**

None declared.

17/159 **PLANNING:**

17/159/a **Planning Information:**

The Clerk reported that South Somerset District Council is reviewing the Local Plan that was adopted in March 2015; this review will cover the period 2014 to 2034. As a first stage in the process, SSDC are consulting on the issues and options that have emerged this far; and produced a document to stimulate debate on the best way to provide a new policy framework for planning and development in the District up until 2034. The consultation period will be from 26th October 2017 until 12 noon on 11th January 2018.

The document starts to consider the options for where new growth may go in the future; and identifies potential new sites for housing, employment and other forms of development in the various towns and villages across the District.

The Clerk said that although Montacute was not directly affected by this consultation councillors may wish to view the documentation as a matter of interest.

17/159/b **Parish Planning Working Party Feedback on Applications:**

No report given.

17/159/c **Planning Decisions and Reports**

Decisions:

No report given

Reports:

No report given

17/160 **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter has been received regarding the poor state of the pavements around Montacute. The resident who is dependent on a wheelchair has written twice to Highways; once about vehicle parking adjacent to a dropped kerb and, the other about holes between the tarmac and the kerb stone which impedes the wheels of the wheelchair, Highways have reacted towards the resurfacing of the pavement only outside the resident's property.

17/161 **MEMBERS REPORTS:**

Cllr Saint reported that everything was ready for the Christmas event

Cllr Marsh complained that the recycling lorries do not pull over sufficiently to let vehicles pass.

17/162 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:**

None

17/163 **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.15pm. There is no meeting in December and the next meeting will be held on 15th January 2018 in the Baptist Chapel at 7pm.