

Timberscombe Parish Council Meeting Minutes.

Monday 28th September 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Parish Cllrs: P. Pilkington - PP (Chair), C. Collins - CC, S. Campbell - SC, S. Takle - ST, J. Stitt - JS. District Cllr: S. Pugsley - SP. County Cllr: F. Nicholson - FN, Clerk C. Hornsby and 3 members of the public.

- 20/106 **Questions from the public:** None
- 20/107 **Apologies of Absence:** Parish Cllr S. Searle
- 20/108 **Declarations of Notifiable Interests:** None
- 20/109 **Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting** held on 27/07/2020 Proposed by CC, 2nd by SC, all agreed they were a true and correct record and the chairman signed them.
- 20/110 **Matters arising from the minutes** of 27/07/2020
- 20/111 **Report by the District Councillor and County Councillor** – County Council (CC) authority changes – SP reported that there are now three options and the Secretary of State will decide which will go ahead. FN reported that there is uncertainty as to when this will happen so the 2021 CC elections may or may not take place.
- 20/112 **Highways** – There was a discussion on the best options for traffic calming measures in the village to ensure the safety of the school children crossing the road and waiting for the buses.
- 20/113 **Bridle paths** -ST reported that the Exmoor National Park (ENPA) had been clearing trees and shrubs that were causing problems on bridle paths
- 20/114 **Finance report including** (i) bank reconciliation – Res a/c: £2,079.54; Cur a/c: £14,298.68 (ii) Invoices: Dan Passmore Grass cutting – August £210 & September £210; Lesley Webb Website Services - £84.56; Lesley Webb Website Domain name £15.00; (iii) SALC training: Clerk informed the PC that she had attended a SALC Zoom training session on ensuring documents are readable by all who visit the website. The cost was £30 which will be shared by all three parish councils that the clerk works for, invoice to follow. (iv) Donation to JAPF: Clerk reported that the PC was in a position to donate £1000 every year for three years to the JAPF to help pay for yearly costs. PP proposed and JS 2nd that this payment is made and will be reviewed annually, all cllrs agreed. (v) Clerk reported that Idverde, who clear the litter and dog bins in the parish, has increased their yearly collection price by £7.80. Clerk was authorised to sign the new Service Level Agreements and await an invoice.
- 20/115 **Planning Applications and Decision:** None at time of Agenda publication. SP raised the point that Harwood Riding Stables appeal had been dismissed. ST reported that she is no longer a member of the ENPA as she had been official removed from the Park. All cllrs were sorry about this as it was an unfortunate situation. ST had been significantly immobile due to a broken leg for three months and then when CV19 struck her husband was away and her mother was at high risk and so she had no childcare. A lot of the online meetings are legal and require voting and it was agreed with the then Park solicitor that it would not be professional to have a child walking in during these times and so ST would abstain from online meetings. After a change

of solicitor due to maternity it was then decided that ST had not been fulfilling her role as a Park Member and the sixth month rule was enforced. It has been an ongoing discussion in all areas concerned however the final decision was made and ST is sadly no longer a member of the Park. She feels very sad about this as she loved her role and always worked hard for them.

- 20/116 **Lengthsman** Update on village work carried out in September. Clerk reported that at the last visit the PLM had not been able to strim next on the road by the village hall due to all the cars being parked there. He planned to continue the work along the path and also strim around the speed signs. Next scheduled days: 10th Dec, 4th Jan
- 20/117 **Village Maintenance** – SC reported that the drains in the village need to be looked at and cleared regularly and that someone was asking about why the hedge cutting had not been done. SC stated she informed the member of the public that at a previous meeting it was agreed to delay the hedge cutting till February to allow birds to benefit from the food supply. ST to find some quotes on hedge cutting and bring to October meeting.
- 20/118 **Climate Change:** The Timberscombe Parish Council Climate and Environment Emergency Declaration policy was proposed by PP and 2nd by CC and all agreed (A copy is at the end of the minutes). A press release will be arranged. Bill Butcher from Forum 21 spoke to the councillors about how they can become involved with a funding opportunity which has been organised by West Somerset Together. He spoke about a proposal for a West Somerset Parish Cluster application to the fund. This would involve Timberscombe, Wootton Courtenay, Dunster, Carhampton, Old Cleeve and Watchet with each parish leading a delivery project and sharing experiences across the cluster. The project would run for two years, the work being supported by a Forum 21 project officer. After much discussion, CC proposed that the parish council join this cluster group which was seconded by ST. All agreed and a working group has been created which includes all the parish councillors present at the meeting so they can have separate meetings about this and will then report back to the full council meeting for any actions to be agreed and minuted.
- 20/119 **Village Survey working group** – JS reported that the aim of the survey is to create a group to look into issues around the parish and to look at finding solutions. The group will consist of parish council members and residents of the village. A poster will be created informing the residents of what the PC is planning and it will ask if any residents wish to be involved in the group. The plan is to have a group of 4-6 people with at least two members of the PC. The group will look into parking in the village, traffic control and road safety and any other issues that may come to light. If anyone is interested please contact Cllr James Stitt at jstitt.tpc@gmail.com for more information.
- 20/120 **Correspondence:** The village hall is now taking bookings and village resident Mrs L Webb reported that at the present time it is being used by the School for PE and an Exmoor Textiles Class. All current CV19 regulations are being adhered to. She reported that there is a reduced take up to use the hall which is understandable at the present time.
- 20/121 **Report from representatives of other groups:** (i) Exmoor Panel – SP reported that the recent physical meeting worked very well with all present wearing masks and

ensuring safety at all times. It dealt with Highways Winter Maintenance and was a very productive meeting. SP reported that the PC should have received a map of the area showing where the Salt Bags will be placed but the clerk informed the Cllrs that she is chasing this up with Highways as she has not received one yet. (ii) Consultative & Parish Forum - this is proposed to be a Zoom meeting but has yet to be confirmed.

20/122 **COVID 19 update in the parish** – SC reported that people in the village are fine but a case was recently made public in West Somerset College and the year 9s were sent home for two weeks isolation. This has affected some residents of the village.

20/123 **Councillor Vacancy** – It was brought to the attention of the cllrs that Cllrs J. Parsons had not attended any meetings nor had been in contact with the clerk for six months. Adhering with Governing rules, PP proposed the motion that the Parish Council is satisfied that the council had not been accepting apologies for absence from the member and JS seconded the motion and all agreed. The Cllr had previously been notified by the clerk about the situation and stated that due to a series of very difficult events and health issues she had not been able to attend meetings. She wished the parish council well for the future. Chairman PP wanted it minuted that Cllr Parsons had been a valid member would like to publicly thank her for her many years of service and all cllrs agreed. Clerk will now notify the monitoring officer at SW&T DC to set the procedure in motion to find a new member.

20/124 **Chairman’s notices:** There had been an issue of children riding bikes around the village and a few meetings had taken place with Falcon Rural Housing, it was agreed that certain areas of Falcon Rural Housing homes in Timberscombe can be used and there will be cycle awareness training for the children. A further point was raised regarding agenda point 20/112 – and the clerk was asked to enquire as to the full cost of installing a zebra crossing and whether it was something the parish council could fund.

20/125 **Items for next meeting agenda** - nothing extra at the present time

20/126 **Date of next Meeting** – Monday 26th October 2020 7.30pm via Zoom

Signed by Chair.....Date.....