

**TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at Timberscombe Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors K. Attwater (KA) - Chairwoman, S. Campbell (SC), K. Walker (KW), A. Sutton (AS), I.Ware (IW), L. Webb (LW)- Clerk, County Councillor Frances Nicholson (FN), and 4 members of the public.

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p><b>Questions from the public.</b></p> <p>1. <i>Mr Southon a) asked if the Prideaux’s plans were going to be publicised.</i> As stated in the last minutes, the plans had not yet been finalised with ENP. The plans did not include any changes to the existing footpaths. If necessary, ENP would undertake the public consultation exercise and plans would then be circulated on the website.</p> <p><i>b) stated that under councillor Portfolios, Item 23/82 no one is listed as having the responsibility for environmental issues. Would the Council appoint somebody for this area? He also asked if the village had an environmental impact assessment or a climate action plan.</i> The chair replied that she had overall site of environmental issues and was in talks with ENP about an action plan. The ENP action plan was currently under consultation and, once complete, the village would base their future plan on the ENP one. An environmental assessment had been undertaken and a map of the village was on show in the village hall foyer.</p> <p><i>c) stated that we often have large vehicles passing through the village. He had received feedback from villagers and drivers, none of whom seem to know what the rules are. Of particular concern were vehicles coming down Church Street. Having looked into this the signage and information seem poor and not very visible.</i></p> <p>FN commented that there were clear warning signs at Heathpolt Cross and at the Luxborough turning. The council has no powers to prevent large vehicles passing through the village.</p> <p><i>NB. These signs have been checked since the meeting and are still present and clear of vegetation.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Mrs Chaffey thanked the council for responding to her request asking for the village green to be cut on a regular basis and their efforts in carrying out a parish questionnaire.</i></p>	
<b>23/87</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Scott Walker (SW), County Councillor - S. Pugsley (SP)	
<b>23/88</b>	<b>Declarations of Notifiable Interests.</b> None	
<b>23/89</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes</b> of the last meeting held 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2023. Proposed by AS and seconded by SC. Accepted as a true record and signed by KA.	
<b>23/90</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising.</b></p> <p>(a) Wessex Water update –An additional council meeting would be held by the Parish Council on 24<sup>th</sup> August with Wessex Water to discuss their plans to replace the water mains throughout the village. Following this meeting another meeting would be arranged, which would be open to all parishioners. FN offered to attend meeting. KA to send her details.</p> <p>b) 3 sides of the Bus shelter have been completed. Repairs are needed to the back before treatment can be completed. LW to investigate wood requirements.</p> <p>c) Village Green survey showed a 59% to 40% vote in favour of regular cutting. With 1% not favouring either option. Cutting had begun on the Green. Brewers Green sign to be repaired and returned.</p> <p>d) Jetting in Great House Street planned for July had not yet started. LW to chase.</p> <p><i>Nb. following the meeting FN reported that jetting was scheduled by Highways for the end of August.</i></p>	<p>All</p> <p>KA</p> <p>LW</p> <p>KA</p> <p>LW</p>

	<p>e) The School Lane drain has been jetted but SC reported that the resulting mud was washed down the road towards the Post Office, creating a very bad muddy mess. LW to report to Highways.</p> <p>f) The Great House Street drain just below Holes Square has yet to be cleared by the Highway Steward. LW to monitor.</p> <p>g) KW has reported the large amount of vegetation in the Timberscombe Stream to the Environment Agency and was awaiting a date for a site visit.</p> <p>h) Missing Holes Square sign reported by AS. Not yet replaced.</p> <p>i) New equipment has now been installed in the play area. Thanks to everybody who helped to take away the old rotten equipment and level the surface with new topsoil.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p> <p>KW</p> <p>LW</p>
<b>23/91</b>	<p><b>Report by Somerset Councillors.</b>  County Councillor F. Nicholson (FN) reported that the ENP elections had been completed and consultations were underway on parking and committee size reductions. The Highways pilot continues to work well. Somerset Council are very short of money and are looking for ways of making savings. The clerk expressed concern over the very poorly worded email from Somerset Council, regarding the proposed 20mph speed limit in villages. It was unlikely that any local villages would be able to access this scheme as the cost of implementing it was in excess of local parish council budgets. FN confirmed that the 20 is plenty signs could not be used on Highways land but could be displayed on private property, if the owner gave their consent.</p>	
<b>23/92</b>	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p>(a) The owners of Duddings have kindly agreed to the Parish Council siting a SID (Speed Indicator Device) device on their land, as there were no other sites approved by the Highways department at that end of the village. KA and LW to meet with them to discuss the exact placement, once the type of SID has been approved by Highways.</p> <p>(b) The council voted to purchase a SID with the speed and message such as "Slow Down", at a cost of approximately £3600 from Messagemaker. SW and IW have agreed to take part in the required training. LW to confirm design with Highways and then purchase, if approved. LW to apply for Police grant, which it was hoped would cover the required training.</p>	<p>LW / KA</p> <p>LW</p>
<b>23/93</b>	<p><b>Bridle Paths and Footpaths</b> – AS reported that the tree down in School Lane can be walked under and ENP would, therefore, not take any action at this time. Other rights of way were in need of cutting back.</p>	
<b>23/94</b>	<p><b>Finance Report.</b></p> <p>a) Bank Reconciliation. The Parish Council currently has a total of £19,215.70 in the reserve account and £659.60 in the current account.</p> <p>b) Invoices - Since the last meeting bills totalling £190 have been paid for grass cutting. There were no other invoices due.</p> <p>c) Budget. LW presented a predicted budget for the year, which included the purchase of a SID. The purchase of the SID would eat into the council's reserves but would still leave them with the recommended reserves for a council of this size.</p>	
<b>23/95</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications and Decisions.</b> None</p>	
<b>23/96</b>	<p><b>Village Maintenance/ Jobs for the Highways Steward</b> – There are a number of odd jobs which need doing in the village. It was resolved to advertise, within the village, for an odd job person to complete jobs such as painting the telephone box, weeding along pavements and bus stop repairs. Cutting back of vegetation and clearance of signs had already been reported to the Steward.</p>	<p>LW</p>

<b>23/97</b>	<b>Village Environment Items</b> SC asked for the latest on the Ash Dieback which was affecting trees along the roadside. AS to investigate and report back.	AS
<b>23/98</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> (a) LW has requested that Somerset Council register the play area and football pitch as Dog Exclusion Areas. LW to request, again, that the school replaces the gate on the football field.	LW
<b>23/99</b>	<b>Report from other Representatives.</b> KW report back on the recent bus forum. The price of £2 per bus would continue until November, when it would increase to £2.50. However, numbers using the busses had only increased by 16% since this was introduced and a “use it or lose it” campaign was being organised. KW would take part in campaign. Our village bus is, unfortunately, not included in the scheme.	KW
<b>23/100</b>	<b>Timberscombe Wood Sale.</b> KA and parishioner, Ms Collins, have met with ENP to discuss concerns over the sale of Timberscombe wood, with regard to usage of and access to the site in the future. ENP are currently converting the current permissive routes into permanent rights of way, to ensure public access is maintained across the site, once it is under new ownership. All field owners will be able to access their property as they do at present. The hill fort will become a protected National Monument to ensure it is not lost to the nation. Concerns were expressed over reports of the existence of asbestos buried on the site, which ENP seemed to be unaware of. ENP to investigate this further.	
<b>23/101</b>	<b>Village Pantry.</b> The Old Dairy already runs a food pantry for those in need, using donated food. The council, therefore, decided that they would not progress this further.	
<b>23/102</b>	<b>Chair’s Notices.</b> A site visit to Wooton Ridge, to see the work undertaken by the Forestry Commission, was being organised. It would be led by John Ebsary and would be advertised as soon as details were finalised. KA will not be available to Chair the PC meeting in September and will ask Flo Loyd Deputy Chair to stand in for her.	KA
<b>23/103</b>	<b>Items for next agenda.</b> Brewers Green	

Meeting finished at 9.23 pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm.

JAPF AGM meeting September 11<sup>th</sup> (Time TBA).

Wessex Water meeting (Council members only) 24<sup>th</sup> August 7pm