

## TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Timberscombe Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors K. Attwater (KA) - Chairwoman, K Walker (KW), S. Campbell (SC), Flo Lloyd (FL), L. Webb (LW)- Clerk and 1 member of the public. Cllr Frances Nicholson (FN)

Item	Minutes	Action
	<p><b>Questions from the public.</b></p> <p>Mr Savage requested an update on the water on the road in Great House Street. The clerk responded that the drains in the road had been jetted in September by Highways and a survey of the drains revealed “abnormalities” in the system. The Parish Council were awaiting the full report. If the roadway needed to be dug up then Highways would coordinate this work with the known Wessex Water closure in 2024, to minimise disruption to residents. As a short- term measure Highways have provided a porous salt bag which should be moved into the running water when freezing was expected and removed in milder conditions, so that salt seeping into the water would prevent freezing down to -4 degrees.</p>	
<b>23/137</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence.</b> I Ware (IW), S. Walker (SW), County Councillor Pugsley (SP).	
<b>23/138</b>	<b>Declarations of Notifiable Interests.</b> None	
<b>23/139</b>	<b>Approval of the Minutes</b> of the last meeting held on 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023. Proposed by KW and seconded by SC. Accepted as a true record and signed by KA.	
<b>23/140</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising.</b></p> <p>(a) Missing sign on Holes Square has been resubmitted to Somerset Highways and will be inspected shortly.</p> <p>(b) The Speed Indicator Device Memorandum of Understanding has been sent to Somerset County. The next stage is to apply to the Police for a grant, but the grant is closed until April 2024. Highways were also unable to provide the required post for the SID until April 2024. It was resolved to wait until April 2024 and apply for the grant.</p> <p>(c) Barry Fowler has looked at the bus shelter and has quoted £350 for recladding in a thicker wood. The replacement of wood like for like has been quoted by Mr Smythe as £150, plus wood costs. The council resolved to ask Mr Fowler to do a complete replacement. It was resolved to pay SW for the work already undertaken.</p> <p>(d) Dumpy bags of salt have been delivered by Somerset Council, however, the salt bins remain empty. FN commented that the bins would shortly be filled.</p> <p>(e) Still no response from the diocese regarding the cost of JAPF lease extension or purchase of land. LW has contacted the agent numerous times and they have promised to chase the diocese. FN offered to speak to the diocese regarding the purchase of the land.</p> <p>(f) The scaffolding outside the Post Office was reported to Highways, who then inspected it. The scaffolding has not been removed or improved but the work has almost been finished and it is hoped that the scaffolding would shortly be removed.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>
<b>23/141</b>	<p><b>Report by Somerset Councillors.</b></p> <p>County Councillor FN reported that:</p> <p>(a) The salt bin map would be available at the next LCN meeting for parishes to add bins to the map.</p> <p>(b) Somerset Council were very short of money due to the doubling of the cost of adult and child social care. Major cuts were being made to avoid bankruptcy. A balanced budget must be produced by April, otherwise administrators would be called in. It was hoped that the LCN could procure some services and would be given some money to do this by County. No decisions had yet been made and parishes were being asked to set their precepts by January without knowledge of what would be required from them.</p>	

	<p>(c) ENP have reduced their committee to 12, in order to save money. The current Chief Planning Officer will shortly be leaving his post and the department would be reorganised.</p> <p>(d) The clerk requested that clerks' meetings were recorded and sent to clerks who were unable to attend the Wednesday meetings. FN hoped that this would soon happen.</p> <p>(e) The Parish had received no response to numerous emails re the Public Space Protection Order for dogs. LW to send emails to FN who would chase this up.</p> <p>(f) KA has been emailing Neil Ogilvie of the EA regarding the Timberscombe Stream vegetation but has received no response. KA to send emails to FN for her to chase.</p> <p>(g) Consultation underway regarding removing the church attendance requirement from school selection criteria.</p> <p>(h) SC raised the problem of a person parking alongside the trough and blocking the roadway. FN advised that if the road was blocked the Police should be called. LW would ask the PCSO to speak to the offender.</p> <p>(i) SC commented that visitors to Dunster by Candlelight had to drive to Weddon Cross to get onto the bus because tickets were needed for the bus and these were only sold at Weddon Cross. FN advised SC to contact the clerk at Dunster.</p> <p>(j) Exford road 4-month closure - meeting at Cutcombe 7.30pm on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. FN left the meeting.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>KA</p> <p>LW</p>
<b>23/142</b>	<b>Highways</b> No further items	
<b>23/143</b>	<b>Bridle Paths and Footpaths</b> – No new issues. The Timberscombe Wood sale was still on hold.	
<b>23/144</b>	<p><b>Finance Report.</b></p> <p>a) Bank Reconciliation. The Parish Council currently has Reserve Acct £16,344.17, Current Acct £632.04, SOLDO Acct £71.41 giving a total of £ 17,047.62 in the accounts.</p> <p>b) The Council resolved to pay the following bill: Timberscombe Village Hall £52.00</p> <p>c) The clerk outlined the current budget situation. All categories seemed to be running to budget. The £3500 allocated to buy a SID would not now be spent in this financial year as stated in 23/140.</p> <p>d) The national pay increase for clerks would mean an increase of £1 per hour for the clerk as from April 2023. This would not be backdated by the clerk but would show on the next pay claim.</p> <p>e) Precept. It was resolved by a majority to raise the precept by the rate of inflation, which is currently at 4.7%. Proposed by SC and seconded by KW. This would not be submitted in until January and if the current County demands changed then a further meeting would take place in early Jan 2024.</p>	<p>LW</p> <p>LW</p>
<b>23/145</b>	<b>Planning Applications and Decisions.</b> None	
<b>23/146</b>	<p><b>Village Maintenance / Jobs for the Highways Steward.</b> There have been no responses to the request for an Odd Job person. Mr Smythe has agreed to take on the tasks, LW would coordinate the work. The Council agreed on the following priority jobs:</p> <p>a) Replacement bulb in the Telephone/Defib Box.</p> <p>b) Willow Bank sign repairs.</p> <p>c) Weeds around the trough and Ford Cottages.</p> <p>d) Play Area around the far gate to be cleared.</p> <p>e) Removal of old parish noticeboard.</p> <p>f) Church Street weeds</p>	LW

	g) It was also resolve to approach MAGNA about the weeds growing in the wall outside Orchard Bungalows.	LW
<b>23/147</b>	<b>Village Environment Items.</b> We are still awaiting the ENP plans.	
<b>23/148</b>	<b>Correspondence.</b> a) It was resolved to sign the Wessex Water agreement giving them access to the area of The Green owned by the Council. b) Letter of thanks had been received from Mrs Curtis for the Poppy Appeal donation. c) The letter re devolution of works to the parish had been circulated previously. It was agreed that we were not in a position to offer to take on any of the services suggested.	LW
<b>23/149</b>	<b>Report from other Representatives.</b> None	
<b>23/150</b>	<b>Chairman's Notices.</b> None	
<b>23/151</b>	<b>Items for next agenda.</b> None	

Meeting finished at 9 pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024.