TIMBERSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th January 2024 at Timberscombe Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors K. Attwater (KA) - Chairwoman, K Walker (KW), A Sutton (AS), S Walker (SW), S. Campbell (SC), Flo Lloyd (FL), L. Webb (LW)- Clerk. Cllr Steven Pugsley (SP) and Cllr Frances Nicholson (FN) arrived at 9pm

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	Questions from the public. None	
24/01	Apologies for Absence. None	
24/02	Declarations of Notifiable Interests. None	
24/03	Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 th November 2023.	
	Proposed by FL and seconded by SC. Accepted as a true record and signed by KA.	
24/04	Matters Arising.	
	(a) KA expressed concern about the water in Great House Street. At the LCN	
	meeting, attended by KA and LW, the Highways department seemed to be	
	moving away from the idea of completing the work during the Wessex Water	
	closure. Highways dept have yet to read the drain survey report completed in	
	Sept 2023.	
	Letter to be sent to Highways. SP and FN to be asked to intervene to ensure the	LW/SP/FN
	report was read.	
	(b) The missing Holes Square sign was now on the Somerset Council list to be	LW
	replaced but given the likelihood of this department's work being cut the Council	
	agreed to get quotes for providing a sign. AS to speak to householder to see if a	AS
	sign could be painted onto the house to prevent future thefts.	
	(c) No action from Mr Fowler on bus stop replacement. LW to chase.	LW
	(d) Salt bins now full. KA to ask householder at Cowbridge if they would be willing to	КА
	scatter salt on the slope near Cowbridge Mill.	
	(e) A response from the agents has finally been received regarding the purchase of	
	the JAPF land. ENP have stated that the land is listed as an "important visual	
	amenity" and could not be built on. The value of the land as agricultural land is	
	approximately £3500. A land auctioneer has been contacted and, following his	LW
	advice, it was agreed to offer £4000 for the land plus costs. LW has asked for	
	quotes for both the diocese costs and the JAPF costs so we can assess an overall	
	amount required.	
	(f) LW had repeatedly tried to contact Environmental Health re the Dog Exclusion	
	Order. With no contact established SP and FN to be asked to pursue this.	SP
	(g) Mr Smyth has agreed to take on the jobs around the village and has already	
	replaced the light bulb in the phone box.	
24/05	Report by Somerset Councillors . Covered at the end of the meeting after arrival of SP and	
	FN at 9pm.	
	County Councillor SP and FN reported that:	
	(a) The level of cuts in services is still unknown and the decision date is likely to be	
	pushed back further.	
	(b) The Exford road-closure is progressing well.	
	(c) Jo White is now Head of Planning at ENP	
	(d) The Exmoor LCN is investigating the possibility of sharing a Highway Steward with	
	other LCNs.	
	(e) The councillors agreed to follow up the Council's concerns re the Dog Order and	
	Water in Great House Street.	
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24/06	Highways SC expressed concern over the overnight road closure outside The Dell which	
	should have started at 7pm. Instead, the work started at 6pm and drivers who had	
	planned to avoid the works were, instead, subject to a long diversion.	
	The signs for the next stage of the works were in the wrong area. LW to write to Wessex	LW
	Water.	
24/07	Bridle Paths and Footpaths – No new issues.	
24/08	Finance Report.	
	a) Bank Reconciliation. The Parish Council currently has Reserve Acct £16,461,	
	Current Acct £612, SOLDO Acct £71.41 giving a total of £ 17,144.41 in the	
	accounts.	
	b) The Council resolved to pay Mr Smyth's bills as they were presented.	LW
	c) Precept. It was unanimously resolved to raise the precept by the rate of inflation,	
	which is currently at 4.7%. Proposed by SC and seconded by FL. This would mean	
	an increase of just £2.87 per year on a band D property and would give the Parish	
	Council a total increase in income of £461. It may be necessary to make a much	
	larger increase once the full extent of the public services cuts was known next	LW
	year. LW to submit precept form.	
24/09	Planning Applications and Decisions. Middle Burrow, Burrow. The Council unanimously	
	agreed to support this application.	LW
24/10	Village Maintenance / Jobs for the Highways Steward. No new jobs.	
24/11	Village Environment Items. The Environment Agency have cleared the stream of	
	vegetation but there is still discussion about the tree roots and silt trap. KA to organise	KA
	another meeting with Elliot Jackson and AS. KA has had some discussion re the water	
	catchment and is awaiting further feedback.	
24/12	Correspondence.	
	a) A letter from Wessex Water was read out. All work is currently going to plan.	
	The site foreman had confirmed that a tidy up of the grassy areas would take	
	place in the next few weeks, once the work in that section had been completed.	
24/13	Report from other Representatives. None	
24/14	Chairman's Notices. Update re Magna heating. A letter from Christine Boland was read	LW/KA
	out. A letter to be sent in reply detailing the Parish Council's many concerns including:	
	 Air source heat pumps should be serviced once a year. This has not been 	
	happening.	
	• Since all the heaters were installed at around the same time,	
	pre-emptive checks are now needed to all other units on the site.	
	• Tenants need to be reassured that all additional costs would be met before their	
	bills needed to be paid.	
	Concern also about the alarm system which appeared to fail in the recent power	
	cut.	
	Rebates needed for tenants who have not had the service they have paid for.	<u> </u>
24/15	Items for next agenda. None	

Meeting finished at 9.15 pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 26th February 2024.