



NORTH VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held at Holton Village Hall on Monday 20th November 2023

Present: David Young (Chair), David Badham-Thornhill, Steve Prior, Jenny Chambers, Graham Boaler, Julian Sincock and Max Oatley. Barry Druce (Clerk) Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor).

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Janet Down and Douglas Hodges.

Electors Question Time /Comments: There being no member of the public present, no questions or comments were raised.

Unitary Councillors' Report: The written report from the Unitary Councillors having been circulated were taken as read and noted. Nicola Clarke stated that the Somerset Council Executive Committee have declared a State of Financial Emergency and explained that this was due to increased costs associated with adult care, etc., and that the Council were doing all it can to avoid having to declare a state of bankruptcy and be subject to action under Section 114 which would produce the situation whereby only statutory services would be provided. They are now reviewing all their commercial properties with a view to selling them off, and a Devolution Exercise is being instigated to try and identify if certain services can be passed onto parishes. General discussion followed on the causes for this financial crisis that so many councils throughout the UK are currently suffering. The problem is mainly caused by changes in government funding which is adding considerable financial pressure onto local councils. Nicola explained that all Somerset Council Departments have been asked to review their services and identify any areas of service that can be cut and a list of services under threat will be distributed at a later date to parishes for them to consider whether it is feasible and/or viable for them to adopt.

Nicola reported that a a planning application for Templecombe had been approved against public opinion, for 140 houses to be constructed in that area despite the lack of housing need. She recommended that in the future if parish councils wished to object against any planning application they should ensure that they follow the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and be very technical. Nicola also urged members that in the event they wished for objections to be placed before the Council Planning Committee, they should inform her and she would ensure that it happens.

23.93 Declaration of Interest/Dispensations: Julian Sincock declared his interest in PA23/02809/TCA, and this was noted.

23.94 Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 16th October 2023, as PROPOSED by Graham Boaler and SECONDED by Jenny Chambers, were approved and signed.

23.95 Matters Arising: (a) The Clerk referred to minute 23.85(a) and reported that the Schedule of Works had been completed with the assistance of members, and had been issued to 8 approved applicants with a return deadline (amended) of the 8th December 2023.

(b) Referring to minute 23.85(b) The Clerk reported that he had still not received a reply to his request for the Local Police Liaison Officer to attend a council meeting, and Steve Prior undertook to contact the local Police and Crime Commissioner's office and make a request through them.

(c) The Clerk referred to minute 23.85(d) and reported that the new website was now live and available and encouraged members to advertise the fact widely.

23.96 Resignation of Simon Ford: The Clerk reported that Simon Ford had now resigned from his position of parish councillor for North Cheriton. This news was received with disappointed understanding, and it was agreed that Simon had been a very active and useful councillor during his term of office, and would be sorely missed. After further discussion it was unanimously AGREED that the Clerk should send a Vote of Thanks to Simon for his past service.

23.97 Planning Applications: The following planning applications had been received since the last meeting:

23.97.1 – 23/02742/COL - Lawful Development Certificate for the existing stationing of a mobile home within garden to provide ancillary accommodation - **Cherrington Oaks Farm Lower Cheriton Lane North Cheriton.**

Members noted this application



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23.97.2 - **23/02743/COL** Lawful Development Certificate for the existing stationing of a mobile home within garden to provide ancillary accommodation - **Cherrington Oaks Farm Lower Cheriton Lane North Cheriton**

Members noted this application

23.97.3 - **23/02809/TCA** - Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery works to No.03 trees within a Conservation Area - **Wistaria Cottage Lower North Cheriton Road North Cheriton.**

Members noted this application

23.97.4 – **23/02795/FUL** - Demolish existing structure that is currently used as storage and vehicle preparation. Replace with new steel frame structure and finish outer face using grey powder-coated profile sheeting to walls and roof, using the same footprint, ridge and eaves height. The new structure will continue to be used as storage for the garage and to assist in vehicle preparation. - **Anchor Hill Service Station Old Road Holton Wincanton.**

Members agreed that they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

23.98 Planning Decisions - The following planning decisions had been received since the last meeting:

23.98.1 - **23/01920/COL** - Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed new steel frame structure to be used as storage for the garage and assist in vehicle preparation. - **Anchor Hill Service Station Old Road Holton Wincanton**

WITHDRAWN

23.99: Planning Other – (a) A member referred to the caravans at The Willows, Lattiford, Holton, and asked if the caravans had been removed following the appeal being dismissed. DBT had undertaken to look into this problem and he reported that there had been no movement from the site to date. Nicola Clarke stated that she would raise the matter as an Enforcement when problems with her accessing the system were resolved. She cautioned that the Somerset Council are experiencing difficulties due to the number of Enforcements Officers that they have available.

23.100: Correspondence: All correspondence of interest received by email had previously been distributed and were taken as read. The Clerk referred to the items that had been circulated with the agenda; the items were noted and it was agreed that with regards to the Somerset Council proposal for the Sale of Assets and Devolution of Services, the item should be referred to the meeting being held in December and the Clerk to reissue the relevant email and outline the requirements.

23.101: Financial Matters

23.101.1 **Review balances as at 31st October 2023** – The schedule was reviewed. The balance as at 31st October 2023 stands at £13,907.29.

23.101.2 **Authorise Cheques** – The following items were authorised for payment:-

- (a) Barry Druce - Clerk's salary and expenses for October 2023 - £294.28
- (b) Holton Village Hall – Contribution towards Hire Fees 2023-2024 - £60.00
- (c) Wayne Pamphilon – Invoice 854 - £300.00
- (d) CatBus – Donation - £100.00
- (e) Transfer of balances to North Vale Parish Council account at Lloyds Bank - £8,000.00

23.101.3 - **Lloyds Bank Business Online Service:** The Clerk reported on the current position with regards to On-line banking access with Lloyds Bank, and established that Janet Down and David Badham-Thornhill were now set up ready to access online banking (though DBT was still awaiting a card and reader). Others were actively in the process of making their application.

23.102: Speed Indicator Device latest update – The Clerk reported on recent emails concerning this matter, and reminded members that now Simon Ford had resigned there was a need to have new volunteers, Matt and Max from North Cheriton, trained up to take over the S.I.D. procedures on behalf of the parish council, despite the fact that Simon has offered to help in the meantime. The Chair undertook to make enquiries with Cressmore on courses that may be available, and the costs involved.



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23.103: Matters of report and items for next meeting.

23.103.1 – Steve Prior reported that a local stile was in need of repair and asked if that is the landowner's responsibility. It was suggested that the Somerset Council could also be responsible for this but the stile reference would need to be identified on the Footpaths map before it could be reported. SP undertook to look into it.

23.103.2 - The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting was scheduled to fall very close to the festive period and asked if they would prefer to bring the meeting forward to the previous week. A full discussion followed and it was eventually AGREED by a majority decision that the next meeting will be held on the **11th DECEMBER 2023**.

23.103.3 - The Chair raised the question on whether all meetings in future should start at 7:00 pm. A full discussion then ensued and it was finally AGREED that future meetings should start at 7:00 pm.

The Meeting closed at 9:00pm
