



NORTH VALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held at Holton Village Hall on Monday 15th January 2024

A meeting of the North Vale Parish Council was held at 7:00 pm on Monday 15th January 2024 at Holton Village Hall.

Present: David Young (Chair), David Badham-Thornhill, Steve Prior, Jenny Chambers, Graham Boaler, Julian Sincock and Janet Down. Barry Druce (Clerk) Nicola Clarke (Unitary Councillor)
2 Members of the public.

Apologies: No Apologies for absence were received..

Electors Question Time /Comments: No matters were raised for discussion.

Unitary Councillors' Report: The written report from the Unitary Councillors having been circulated were taken as read and noted. Referring to the concerns that had been raised by a resident in North Cheriton in respect of another's apparent intrusion and damage to other property, footpaths and the adjoining area, Nicola Clark stated that provided that person restricted his actions to his own property, provided it is lawful, nothing much can be done about it. If, however, they are inflicting damage to other people's property, then civil action is available to aggrieved persons to initiate. Nicola Clark then stated that there could be a problem if work being carried out was reliant on a Planning Application being approved, prior to the approval being granted, there could then arise an issue and she undertook to look into that. Referring then to the problems being encountered on the old main road passing at the top of Holton, Nicola Clark stated that she had requested that the County Highways Department consider the implementation of a 30mph speed limit on that entire stretch of road, and undertook to continue pushing for it to happen. Nicola stated that she had also reported the problem of the damaged road surface at Holton.

Julian Sincock raised a question on whether the Parish Council were under similar restrictions as are the County Council on increases in the level of its precept and was advised that those regulations did not apply to the Parish Council. Discussion then followed on the County Council's proposal to devolve some of its services. Nicola stated that Somerset Council has been looking into all areas to identify where they could raise revenues, and into competitive pricing. They had been examining where savings could be made across all areas, including personnel costs, possible redundancies, disposal of assets, etc., etc. She confirmed that members were entitled to raise any questions they had, directly with the Holders of the Portfolios at Somerset Council, or to herself if preferred. She assured members that Somerset Council were actively lobbying the Government for additional funding, especially with regards to the statutorily required provision of adult services, and encouraged members to log into the online Council meetings.

24.001 Declaration of Interest/Dispensations: No declarations were made.

24.002 Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11th December 2023, as PROPOSED by Jenny Chambers and SECONDED by Steve Prior, were approved and signed, subject to the amendments to Minutes 23.105 and 23.112.4 mentioned in minute 24.003.

24.003 Matters Arising: (a) The Clerk referred to minute 23.105, and advised that as Rita Rodrigues was not actually eligible to become a member until the 27th February 2024, her co-option as a parish councillor would only take effect from that date, and that he would notify Somerset Council accordingly.

(b) Referring to minute 23.112.4m the Clerk reported that the name of the winning maintenance contractor is Greenways Grounds Maintenance, not 'Garden' and the minute is duly amended.

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

24.004.1 - **23/03136/PAMB** - Prior Approval Notification for the change of use of an existing agricultural barn into a dwellinghouse - **Barn At Bella's Ground Land Os 4400 Grove Lane North Cheriton.** - **NOTED**

24.004.2 - **23/03190/LBC** - Internal alterations to include Reinstatement of the original morning room and entrance hall, Forming an opening in the west partition wall of the kitchen, in order to create a family kitchen/dining room and Joinery elements infilling to two existing archways - **Maperton House North Cheriton Road Maperton.** Jenny Chambers explained that the applicant had received pre-planning advice from Historic England and from the Planning officer, and described the work that was proposed; the intentions are to restore the



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area concerned back in keeping with its original design. The application was extremely detailed and comprehensive. It was unanimously agreed that NO OBJECTIONS needed to be submitted for this application.

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

24.005.1 - **23/02505/TCA** - Notification of intent to Fell No. 1 Tree within a Conservation Area.

Horseshoe Cottage Holton Road Holton

NO TPO NECESSARY – APPROVED

24.005.2 - **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**

NO TPO NECESSARY – APPROVED

23.005.3 - **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**

APPLICATION PERMITTED

23.005.4 - **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**

GRANTED

24.006 Planning Other – Referring to the planning application for proposed changes at Higher Clapton Farm, Maperton, which had been refused, Graham Boaler reported that an appeal had been submitted by the applicant and the Parish Council has submitted objections based on their original submission. The outcome is awaited with interest.

24.007 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 a general discussion took place on the Somerset Council's proposal for the Sale of Assets and Devolution of Services. The overall view was that in the absence of a definitive list of the Council's proposed services available for devolvement, and in light of the fact that the precept for 2024-2025 had to be submitted before it was envisaged that the details would be available, there was little point in the Parish Council considering the adoption of or undertaking any additional services.

24.008 Financial Matters

24.008.1 **Review balances as at 31st December 2023** – The schedule was reviewed. The balance as at 31 December 2023 stands at £13,123.56.

24.008.2 **Authorise Payments** – The following item was authorised for payment:-

(a) Barry Druce - Clerk's salary and expenses for December 2023 - £294.28

24.008.3 - **Lloyds Bank Business Online Service:** The Clerk reported on the current position with regards to On-line banking access with Lloyds Bank, and stated that matters were now in place for online payments to commence.

24.008.4 - **Precept for 2024-2025** – The Clerk referred to the comparison report showing the effects of different percentage rises on the precept for 2023-2024. The Chair stated that in view of the current economic climate he would prefer to see the precept for 2024-2025 held at the same level as the for the current year. After a brief discussion it was **PROPOSED** by Graham Boaler, **SECONDED** by Jenny Chambers, and by a vote of 6 FOR, NONE AGAINST and 1 abstention, it was **AGREED** that to meet the budget requirements for 2024-2025 a precept in the sum of **£9,821** should be raised. The Clerk was instructed to notify the local authority accordingly.

24.009 Speed Indicator Device latest update – The Clerk reported that Crestmoor's Training Centre were offering a welcome discount and had provided a choice of dates for S.I.D. training. He stated that Mark



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Hawkesworth from North Cheriton had volunteered to undertake training and other volunteers were currently being identified. Once known, the Clerk undertook to book the places.

24.010: Matters of report and items for next meeting.

24.010.1 – The Chair asked members if the Holton Village Hall still had a Committee in place and were they aware of the undertaking that funds which had been donated by Crestmoor's for hall repairs was being proposed for use elsewhere. Steve Prior confirmed that there is a Committee still in operation and undertook to make enquiries.

24.010.2 - The Clerk reminded members that they had decided not to have a meeting in February and stated that the next meeting would therefore be on Monday the 18th March 2024.

The Meeting closed at 8:05 pm
