

**Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions – Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status & any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.**

**Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk**

### **Present**

Robin Carpenter (Chairperson), Joanna Szmaj (Vice Chairperson), Peter Higgins. Richard Beatson, Robert Halls, Malcolm White and Mark Pollock.

### **In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman (Clerk) and 12 Members of the Public.

Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak:

A parishioner stated that they intended to contact the environment agency regarding the damaged verge on Broadstone Lane as a result of the current housing development groundworks.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2023 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **4. MATTERS OF REPORT**

None.

### **5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

Cllr Patrick and Cllr Hewitsons' combined report was previously circulated.

### **6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) There were no planning applications received after publication of the agenda.
- b) Regarding the damage to the verge as a result of the groundworks for the Broadstone Lane housing development, the clerk has contacted both SSDC planning (who are unable to take any action) and Somerset County Highways (currently no response). The Clerk took an action to chase this up with SC Highways.  
The Chairman has received parishioner comments that the safety fencing erected around the Tall Elms development site is further into the road than it needs to be, and is causing a road hazard. This was discussed, but some councillors felt it was not a major issue and it was agreed that no further action should be taken.

### **7. HIGHWAYS**

- a) Having received correspondence from concerned parishioners, the planned closure of the A30 through West Coker (Summer 2023) was discussed. It was agreed the Clerk should write to SC Highways stating that the Parish Council feel the work is not urgent and should be postponed until Chinnock Hollow is reopened to prevent the traffic chaos experienced in Hardington last year when the A30 was closed at Haselbury Plucknett.
- b) The temporary road closure from Pig Hill to Primrose Hill for drainage works has been postponed until 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The work is expected to last for 14 days.

### **8. FOOTPATHS**

- a) The Chairman has met with the SC Rights of Way representative who has agreed to install footpath gates on Y10/12. The 2 stiles beyond this fall in the Closworth parish, but it is hoped these will also be replaced.
- b) The Chairman has met with the SC Right of Way representative who has agreed to install footpath gates on Y10/11 (near Eastfield).
- c) SC Rights of Way have said they cannot justify spending on gravel to improve the surface of Y10/50 (Moor Lane end) at this time.

### **9. PARISH ISSUES**

- Cllr White reported that the phone box refurbishment work is now underway and should be completed in the near future. The Moor Lane phone box was also discussed and the Chairman feels that given its current state it may be preferential to sell the box instead of attempting to refurbish it. It was agreed to discuss this further at next month's meeting.
- b) A parishioner has commented that they believe there is still potential for a higher number of burial plots in the churchyard (current estimation is 8). Cllr Beatson agreed to follow this up.

- c) The parishioner in the property adjoining the village pump has contacted the PC regarding the deteriorating boundary wall. It is unclear from the Land Registry plans where ownership lies. The parishioner has obtained a quote of £400 to repair 3.5 metres of dry-stone walling. The PC agreed to contribute 50% of the cost of repairs (£200).
- d) The SSDC Locality team have offered to carry out bin reviews for all local parishes. It was agreed the Clerk should fill in the survey to request this review.
- e) The current website manager, Tim Watkins has said he can no longer continue with the village website maintenance due to other work commitments. A replacement therefore needs to be found.
- f) Anne Lunt has asked if the PC can provide volunteers to hand out the coronation mugs to children at the Party-in-the-park. It was agreed those available should let Anne know.  
It was agreed the clerk would contact Halycon to ask that they collect the grass cut for the lower half of the field in the week prior to the coronation party. In addition, it was agreed to ask them if they are able to take away the cut grass. The Clerk reported that a grant of £400 towards the party has been received from Asda.

#### **10. COMMUNITY FIELD**

- a) The Chairman thanked Rob White for doing a great job of replacing the cross bar for the Monkey rings. He also tightened the bolts on the swings that had come loose.
- b) The bike track review is ongoing.

#### **11. FINANCE**

- a) The budget analysis for the year end 31/03/23 was discussed.
- b) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:
  - N Chapman Salary, Paid Annual Leave, Home working allowance, Expenses, Mileage £1393.06
  - Anne Lunt – Reimbursement for Party-in-the-Park expenses £199.50

#### **12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

- a) The Ranger has completed the following tasks:
  - Cleared detritus from around the Village Hall and Church.
  - Strimmed around village signs etc.
- b) The following tasks are currently on the Ranger's list:
  - Clear footpath Y10/20
  - Repair footpath signs
- c) A parishioner has contacted the PC stating they are unhappy that the Ranger (while cutting around the Moor phone box), has cut back their hedge so far that their garden is no longer dog proof. It was agreed to ask the Ranger to erect a couple of posts and a mesh fence to rectify this.

#### **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

#### **14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The VHC have obtained quotes to update the fire alarm system to meet current safety regulations. Karen Dodge gave details of the 3 quotes obtained. The net cost of the quotes ranged from £4500-£5500 and she felt it was difficult to do a direct comparison as the specifications were different. A query was made as to whether these quotes simply meet the minimum requirements, or if the specification is significantly above this standard. The PC agreed that the cost of the system could be funded by the PC held Village Hall reserves.

#### **15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**Chairman:** None.  
**Councillors:** None.  
**Clerk:** None.

#### **16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.