

ST PAUL MALMESBURY WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th January 2022 at Crudwell Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Budgen, Hatherell, Briggs, Clogg, Hopkins, Ingham, Jones, Maslin, Merriman, Payne, Stephens and Smith (WC).

Public: Four present.

129 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

None.

131 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME IN RESPECT OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

None.

132 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THE 15th DECEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting on the 15th December 2021 were adopted as a true record and signed accordingly.

133 TO RECEIVE REPORT #01.1 ON PLANNING UPDATES AND REVIEW NEW APPLICATIONS

Cllr Budgen presented Report #01.1, noting that the application for 24 Milbourne Park had been approved and that one late planning application received after publication of the agenda would be discussed at the February meeting. The Council considered the following planning applications. Full comments submitted by the Council can be viewed online at Wiltshire Council under the relevant application reference.

Site	Reference	Comments
1 Radnor Park, Corston, SN16 0HE	PL/2021/11706	No objection
Charlton Park Farm, Charlton Park Estate, Near Quobwell Farm, SN16 0HT	PL/2021/11681	No objection
10 Milbourne Lane, Milbourne, SN16 9JH	PL/2022/00480	Highway objection

Cllr Budgen reported that Newland Homes had requested the Council submit a list of 3 suggestions for a street name for the new development at Burton Hill Site 2 and asked Councillors to give the matter some thought and email the Clerk accordingly. The former landowner has suggested Walnut Grove.

Action: All

134 FINANCIAL REPORT

The RFO presented the accounts for the year to date. Receipts and payments are within budget and overall there is a surplus for the year to date. The bank statement dated 31st December 2021 showing balances of £33,625.30 and £60,733.39 was noted and matched the reconciliation. The Vice Chair signed the original bank statements as correct and evidence of verification. The RFO presented the payments schedule and Cllr Budgen signed the list of payments for authorisation as per supporting evidence; Cllr Clogg first authoriser, Cllr Stephens second authoriser. The 2021-22 Quarter 3 Transparency Code was presented; Clerk to upload to the website. Two CIL payments have been received in January: £31,488.42 the 2nd of 3 payments for the Aldi site and £21,211.87 the 2nd of 3 payments for land at Burton Hill Site 1. Wiltshire Highways have been asked for a second time for the invoice for the Foxley Road lighting project.

Action: Cllrs Clogg, Stephens & Clerk

135 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Cllr Budgen reported that the Council's submission based upon the informal position reached with the Malmesbury Mayor, but not accepted by MTC's Full Council, are with Wiltshire Council awaiting consideration and decision.

136 TO CONSIDER THE RESPONSE FROM WILTSHIRE HIGHWAYS REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF THE 30 MPH LIMIT ON THE A429 ADJACENT TO STOREY MEWS

Cllr Budgen had circulated prior to the meeting a disappointing response from Wiltshire Highways (WH) together with a Department for Transport Circular 01/2013.

Three parishioners were invited to speak ahead of the Council's discussion. They expressed a number of serious safety concerns; the salient points were -

1. Safety exiting Storey Mews. As the development has no road frontage, all the comments raised about safety were ignored, and not even acknowledged, by WH. But there are safety issues exiting Storey Mews, especially turning right. The 30 mph limit finishes before Storey Mews; it is dangerous now with 11 houses, 29 new houses could mean 60 additional cars. There can already be a queue of cars waiting to exit at certain times of the day, this will worsen with the additional houses and impatience could affect drivers' decisions about when it is safe to exit.
2. Pedestrian safety. Pedestrians have right of way under the new revised Highway Code. Concerns were expressed that the two refuge areas on or around the 30 and 40 mph limits, designed presumably to assist pedestrians to cross the A429, were considered hazardous due to the speed of traffic passing them and the side-wash produced. This was particularly frightening for schoolchildren when walking home. Concerns were also raised about the positioning of the zebra crossing just south of the Priory roundabout. It was asked that this facility should be kept in good condition at all times to ensure drivers are aware of its existence.
3. Traffic management at Burton Hill. It was reported that there has been a significant additional flow of traffic along the A429 at Burton Hill with another 57 houses to be delivered from Sites 1 & 2 in the next two years. In the short term there will be additional construction traffic as a result of these developments.
4. Visibility issues. The only comment from WH on application PL/2021/04960 about the Storey Mews/A429 junction was that visibility splay to the south of the site is compromised by a hedge outside the site boundary railings which required cutting back. WH recommended that enforcement action should be taken to rectify this, however it is suspected that this hedge sits on WC land.
5. Driver safety. Drivers regularly have to make fine judgements when exiting the site. Traffic coming from the north often accelerates hard after the Priory roundabout and is difficult to assess how quickly it is moving particularly as the road curves just north of Storey Mews. Residents braking to turn in to Storey Mews are often ignored by following vehicles keen to overtake thereby adding to the complexities of exiting the junction.

It was agreed Cllr Budgen should contact Enforcement regarding the hedge compromising the visibility splay. It was further agreed that Cllrs Budgen and Smith would arrange an online meeting with senior WH officers to discuss this whole matter; there would appear a good degree of flexibility/discretion in the guidelines of the DfT Circular. The need for police enforcement of the speed restrictions was also discussed, along with the option of installing visual speed warning signs.

137 TO CONSIDER THE TENDER SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE COUNCIL'S GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

The Council agreed the Clerk should obtain tenders for a 2-year grass-cutting contract. **Action: Clerk**

138 TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED INCREASE OF £10 TO THE POLICING PRECEPT FOR 2022/23

The Council reluctantly agreed to support an increase of the Policing Precept provided it was linked to measures regarding increased traffic speed enforcement measures.

139 UPDATE ON PRIORITY COUNCIL PROJECTS:

i. Cowbridge permissive path surfacing

Cllr Clogg reported that following a Zoom meeting with a representative of the preferred contractor, a third revised fixed cost quote had been received and the price will be held for six months. The quote is a slightly lower overall cost and Cllr Clogg reported the contractor's view that their methodology works in the same way as the originally planned stone dust top surface. Although no guarantee is given regarding the life of the surface once completed, an estimate of 2 years was provided before any maintenance should be required. Indicative prices for maintaining the path were also discussed. The landowner is willing to increase the license-termination period to twelve months, on either side, however a 24-month period is being sought. It was agreed a site meeting would be needed to agree an area for the proposed contractor's compound. It was agreed Cllr Clogg should ask the preferred contractor to hold a provisional slot in their timetable.

Action: Cllr Clogg

ii. Extension of the Milbourne Pedestrian Safety Refuge

Cllr Briggs showed the plans for an extension to the existing pedestrian safety refuge that WH had supplied recently. The plans were considered acceptable subject to the addition of a slight rearward movement of the white line at the junction by the right-hand bend. A revised plan is awaited along with a final project costing, which will then be brought to Council for scrutiny and consideration.

140 TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Hatherell reported the following:

Highways

This month the Parish Steward has cleared the leaves from Truckle Bridge to Foxley road and the sweeper has collected them. He has cleared one grip at the end of the lane leading from the phone box to the bypass in Milbourne and the landowner is digging out the ditches. He has cleared the ditch by the Foxley Road derestriction sign and will also advise if he can improve the Milbourne sign. The Milbourne leaf sweep by the phone box and the leaves by the Corston layby are due to be done.

Cllr Briggs showed photographs of dogwood planted by a resident on a WC-owned verge that has resulted in pedestrians having to step off the verge into the road. Cllr Briggs was asked to approach the residents informally in the first instance.

Playing Fields

The monthly check of both playgrounds had taken place and all equipment was found to be in good order. Cllr Stephens has fitted a replacement bin at the bottom of the Corston playing field and the new bin at the top end of the field will be in place shortly. The landowner at the top of the field is rebuilding his boundary walls and has received permission to remove the Council's adjacent wire fence which is in a very poor condition.

Patients' Participation Group

The next meeting is due to take place on the 7th February.

Personnel

Cllr Clogg proposed that the Clerk should undertake the Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) a modular online course, as mentioned in the contract of employment. The cost is £120 and is within the Clerk's training budget for this financial year; all agreed.

The meeting closed at 20:25

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at Crudwell Village Hall on Wednesday 23rd February at 1900.

..... Chair Dated