

HUISH CHAMPFLOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th December 2020 held remotely via Zoom
 Present: - Stephen Kimsey (Chair SK), Stephen Powles (SP), Louise Cook (LC), Dorothy Hayward (Clerk DH), Mark Vyvan-Jones (MVJ), Mary Abel (MA), Frances Nicholson (FN County Councillor)

1	Apologies - Jos Phillips Harral (JPH) connectivity issues, Dave Mansell and Mark Blaker (District Councillors) Full District Council meeting	
2	Declarations of Interests All Parish Councillors but SK, SP, MA and DH are all on the village hall committee as well.	
3	Minutes of meeting held on 10th November 2020 SP Proposed that minutes be agreed, and MA seconded. Minutes agreed	
4	Matters arising BT Phone Box - on the agenda The Bear Mobile Food - DH to translate menus/ ask Dan at the Bear for a text version that can go on the website.	DH
5	Broadband Technological are having real issues in getting access over key sections of land. Some parts will be covered by BT along the Clatworthy road and a connection should be available after January. Tanners also not being covered by either in spite of a BT pole on their property SK to send LC contact details. New House Farm and cottage also awaiting sale of a property and permission from new owners for access. However there are about 15 properties around the village hall that won't have access to either BT or Technological services. This is likely to cause major upset for those residents. SP to speak to Mike White to see if this can be resolved. If this cannot be sorted we need to look at alternative options for those left out.	SK SP
6	Village Hall (See Paper) A paper was circulated a few days before the meeting from the Village Hall Committee, outlining the issues. In summary the hall has reached the end of its life and major refurbishment work needs to be undertaken. Grant funding has been sought and there have been some successful bids and there is some S106 money available but there is a shortfall and no work can take place until all funding is in place, some of these grants will need an extension request. The Village Hall Committee have therefore requested that the Parish Council look at taking out a Public Works Loan for £100K and then grant funding this to the hall. This would involve increasing the precept to pay for the loan. In order to do this there needs to be a survey of the residents and a high percentage agreement. There is a concern that some residents can't afford it/ don't want it but would be forced to pay additional amounts on their council tax. If we were to pursue this route the repayment period should not be longer than any lifespan of the works undertaken. Parish Council view was that we should see what the residents think. However, we need advice from SALC on the process. There are 2 ways for a parish council to borrow under S137 and under the general power of well being and clarification is needed on these. Questions to ask SALC are around the survey process and amounts that could be borrowed and if additional money is raised can the amount be reduced. SK to contact them tomorrow by email. Other options would include a wedding list type approach where people can fund a window or some roof tiles etc. Also need an up-to-date understanding of the money the village hall already has following Covid grant and block booking by Greendays this year. FN advised that other possible sources of finance could be from :- Community Council for Somerset/ Somerset Community Foundation/ Community chest at Somerset West and Taunton Council- but these might be Covid specific. Need to ask District Council re Community Chest If residents fund the village hall do they get pay back through discounted use etc Actions:- Can we do this? SK to discuss with SALC: 1) the principles of this process 2) how should a survey be carried out and who funds this, 3) can the Parish council claw back VAT? Any survey needs to be done before the census- DH to check dates It was unanimously agreed to pursue this in principle. Need to see evidence of other fund-raising activities such as wedding list etc-DH to feed back to the Village Hall Committee	DH SK DH DH
7	Swings Need a group of people to help with the refurbishment. SK to write a letter to families. LC to measure up what is needed tomorrow, shackles, seats, chains and safety matting. Playground equipment suppliers are online Costs of equipment to be shared with the Village Hall Committee.	SK LC

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8	Phone box Appeal for volunteers to maintain the box to go out. DH to draft a notice to go outside the box, SK to put on the website and DH to put on the Facebook page. SK clarified that when building works start on the hall the defibrillator will not be accessible and will not have an electricity supply. The plan is to eventually have 2 one at the hall and one in the phone box.	DH/ SK
9	Old Quarry Meeting with Historic England moved to Feb due to Covid restrictions. MVJ to meet them with Graham Tout. Ronnie at West Shute Farm checking with father and MVJ looking at old maps to try and discover land ownership. Problem getting worse with Quad bikes and motorbikes now using the bridle path as well.	
	AOB Stephen has a Microsoft Teams license to try for the next meeting	
	Date of next meeting on Microsoft Teams Tuesday 12th Jan 2021	