

HUISH CHAMPFLOWER PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish: Dorothy Hayward
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Meeting of Huish Champflower Parish Council
held on the 12th March 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Dorothy Hayward (DH) (Clerk), Mary Abel (MA), Stephen Kimsey (SK) (Chair), Stephen Powles (SPo), Cllr Steven Pugsley (SPu) Sarah Payne (SPa) and Marc Vyvyan-Jones (MVJ).

1	Apologies: - Cllr Francis Nicholson (FN), Louise Cook (LC), Chris Chanter (CC)	
2	Declarations of Interest- None	
3	<p>Highways Updates 2 closures to the road at Langley Marsh. The second closure did not allow for emergency vehicles to come through for 24 hours a day over a 3-day period. Objections have been made and no road signs have gone up.</p> <p>A new Highways contractor is starting in April called Kier, we have to wait and see what the impact of this will be.</p> <p>Grit, due to the mild weather there has not been a great demand for grit, so reserves are good in the bins. In Wiveliscombe the Co-op delivery and the bus managed to cause gridlock and traffic jams of 25 minutes, could this be coordinated? Would cameras monitoring the parking in the square be a better option than traffic wardens?</p> <p>The bus service cut means youngsters coming back from college have a very long wait to get home.</p>	
4	<p>Updates from Somerset Council Councillors. - Report from SK re LCN summed things up well.</p> <p>Highways - reported the rapidly deteriorating condition of Scotts Hill - the flooding (blocked drain), large pothole (with a new one developing opposite) and the road edge collapsing a bit further along the road toward Clatworthy. Online forms completed.</p> <p>Police - discussed the suspected night-time drug dealing directly to the PCSO. Also mentioned the possibility of the Police coming to the village. They are doing a Pop up Police Station visits around the area - when they visit they can security mark bikes and other items, as well as provide info on initiatives such as Farm Watch - and also other general policing issues. This is unlikely to happen until May (at earliest). This is something about which we will need to liaise with the Village Hall.</p> <p>Recycling Centres - all still up in the air - no decisions. It was widely agreed that the current proposals to close Williton and Dulverton are unfair to our area - given size, increasing number of houses (Williton/Watchet/Minehead), distance to alternatives - and also the likelihood of increased fly-tipping. The consensus was it would be fairer to make cuts to opening hours across all Somerset recycling sites. The County Council are in discussion with the operators (Biffa) and further consultation will happen over the next few months. Various ideas were floated - including a complete re-hash of the recycling system - following the approach that many EU countries have. The County Council will be asking why people use recycling centres</p> <p>Civil Contingency/Emergency Planning - some interesting information - in the first instance we need to encourage the Village Hall to register as a Place of Safety - aside from the sticker and a few leaflets - this will open some grant funding opportunities for the Hall - for instance improving disabled access. The Community Place of Safety Scheme aims to provide a safe place (refuge if you like) as well as a Hub for emergency services and others. A good idea and something we should encourage the Hall to participate in.</p>	<p>SK</p> <p>SK</p>

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5	Minutes of the meeting on the 16th January 2024. It was agreed that these were an accurate record of the meeting. It was proposed that they were accepted by MA and seconded by SK, the minutes were accepted and signed off by the chair.	
6	Matters Arising Barbed wire on the Cleeve belongs to Potato Villa, they are aware and work is starting on the house, it is hoped that this will be sorted soon . The Vodafone mast does not appear to have been switched on yet. You can check the signal by going to this link https://www.vodafone.co.uk/network/status-checker?icmp=uk~1_consumer~topnav~quicklinks~4_network_status_checker&linkpos=topnav~1~4	
7	Finances 1. There is £5840.86 in the Treasurers Account and £1077.52 in the Business Bank Account. 2. There is approximately £2K to be spent by the end of the financial year on Clerks wages, tax, donations to local charities, the Church and small repairs to a noticeboard. DH to review pay scales and let SK know. Charity donations (British Heart Foundation who donated the defibrillator, Wivey Link, The Air Ambulance and Exmoor Search and rescue should have a small inflationary increase of 5%). Contribution of £220 to the church for grass cutting. DH to raise payments 3. No decisions yet from Somerset Council on the costs of delegated functions	DH DH
8	Planning Matters - Mr Bryant of Higher Brown Farm - the sale has fallen through, SPu has spoken to the chair of the planning committee, who agreed that there was no reason to keep it in force. The comments from the parish council were very persuasive in this matter. SPu is optimistic that the Discontinuance Order will be removed allowing Mr Bryant to be able to sell the farm. Rowes Farm would like to build 2 granny annexes, no objections from the parish council	
9	Date of next meeting: - 14th May 2024	
10	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Councillor Pugsley asked for an update on Kingsmead School ● Website request to change this to a .gov.uk format is unnecessary, only a request at the moment. ● Contingency planning: LCN has a Safe Spaces initiative. The Village Hall could become a safe space in an emergency. This could open up grant funding. It would also be useful to have a list of people with generators etc. Is the possibility of a generator at the village hall worth raising. ● The film Wonka is being shown on the 6th April, tickets available on the door. ● In the spring talk to Louise about having a celebration of the swings. 	SK DH DH