

Full Council

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting
held in Milborne Port Village Hall:

Tuesday 6th July 2021 @ 7:00pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Mr Tom Campbell, Mr Philip Lock, Mr Rob Lockey (Meeting Chairman), Ms Lucy MacArthur, Mr Robert Tizzard, Mr Ted Watts.

In attendance:

South Somerset District Councillor: Sarah Dyke
Parish Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer: Simon Pritchard
Deputy Parish Clerk: Nathalie Hetherington
Members of the Public: One

Public comment time:

No questions or comments.

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
1	<p><u>Election of Meeting Chairman:</u> It was unanimously resolved to appoint Cllr. Lockey as the meeting Chairman.</p> <p>Cllr. Dyke gave her report on behalf of South Somerset District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The results of the SSDC poll on the preferred type of future unitary structure resulted in a preference for a 'Stronger Somerset' (65%/35%); 111000 people participated; Cllr. Dyke is hopeful that this option will be the chosen one. Cllr. Lock sought clarification on how this option is the preferential one in Cllr. Dyke's opinion, especially in relation to Highways issues.- Flash flooding in Chard; Cllr. Dyke urged the council to ensure that Milborne Port is up-to-date with its flood mitigation plans.- Laptops 4 Learners – the scheme continues with the Clerk's support in Milborne Port having offered the Town Hall as a collection point.- Recycle More initiative – difficult time for Somerset Waste Partnership for which they apologise, problems with the recruitment of HGV drivers has impacted. Requests for a blue recycling bag can be made via the Somerset Waste Partnership website if not yet provided.- The Chairman asked about the flooding on West Hill, Cllr Dike advised that although it was a Highways issue she was following it up as she had been contacted by members of the community.
2	<p><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></p>

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Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard

Website: www.milborneportpc.org.uk

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Signed:.....Date:.....

	<p>Cllr. Tim Carty – Family commitments Cllr. William Wallace, Somerset County Council</p> <p>Cllr. Watts requested confirmation that the Full Council meeting this evening was quorate; the Clerk confirmed, after checking the Standing Orders, that as the Council currently has eight members the quorum was three. There were six-members present at the meeting.</p>
3	<p><u>Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensations to Participate:</u> None.</p>
4	<p><u>Adoption of Full Council Minutes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tuesday 2nd May 2021 – Annual Meeting ▪ Thursday 6th May 2021 – Extraordinary Meeting ▪ Tuesday 1st June 2021 <p>The Chairman proposed that the minutes of 2nd May, 6th May and 1st June were adopted, seconded by Cllr MacArthur. Resolved: four in favour, two abstentions.</p>
5	<p><u>Parish Council Accounts:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Monthly Payments:</u> Members received the payments list for July 2021 with no questions/comments.</p> <p>B. <u>Full Council Accounts & Bank Reconciliation:</u> The Chairman confirmed that he had checked and signed the latest bank reconciliation.</p>
6	<p><u>Parish Council Recruitment Strategy:</u> The Council currently has 8 councillors of a possible 13, thus the need for a recruitment strategy that will result in a co-option process at the Full Council meeting on Tuesday 7th September.</p> <p>Cllr. Lockey explained that Cllr. Stewart had resigned recently from the council due to health reasons. Cllr. Watts expressed a concern about the lack of interest from residents in becoming councillors and all agreed that the recruitment strategy needs to present the work of the council and of councillors in an appealing and attractive way and to promote the council as one that achieves much for its local community and makes a difference; it was acknowledged that the work of the council had been a particular challenge during the pandemic.</p> <p>The Clerk had circulated a document with a list of possible actions/ideas and these were discussed.</p>

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It was agreed to focus on the following options: recruitment poster (with liaison between Cllrs. Watts, Lock, Lockey and the Deputy Clerk), further publicity in the Parish Magazine & social media, word-of-mouth with councillors approaching/talking to possible candidates about the opportunity to become a councillor, an open morning/day in August where potential candidates can come and speak to the clerks and to councillors.

The Clerk spoke in favour of producing a promotional video which could be effective in reaching out to younger people. It was agreed to consider this and a leafleting initiative if other actions are not successful.

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Urgent Verbal Reports:

a) Parish Clerk's Report

Members were invited to take home the mini bottles of hand sanitizer provided for today's meeting as they will not be reused.

b) Members' reports from outside organisations

Cllr. Lock reported that a new bench has been installed at the Crackmore bus-stop and & that the dangerous branch of the adjacent tree has been cut off; this was an initiative by the WI, Milborne Port in Bloom and the Parish Council.

c) Reports from Parish Council Committees

- Planning & Environment: Cllr. Tizzard reported that Cllr. MacArthur has resigned from the Planning and Environment Committee; many thanks to her for her contribution and for offering to continue to help with working groups. The committee has been dealing with a large number of planning applications, especially for extensions; it has also had representations from Burrington Estates re. application to develop Court Lane and from Chesters Harcourt in regards to the Wheathill Lane site north of the cemetery. The phosphates issue is still impacting on the speed at which planning applications can be processed and there are mixed messages from various organisations about this.
- Cllr. Lock raised issue of lack of weed killing at the cemetery and suggested a new contractor should be considered.
- Cllr. Lockey reported on the site meeting at Gainsborough playpark today with himself, the Playdale contractor, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk about the installation of the new play equipment; a very useful meeting, although the likely completion date is later than hoped for due to other previously scheduled commitments. Work is due to start on Monday 12th July. Some possible extra expense for some levelling that was not quoted for. An official opening to be organized, which will also be a good opportunity to promote council membership.
- Cllr. Lock asked for an update with the fixing of the Town Hall roof; work should be starting at the end of the month.

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	<p>- It was reported there has been no further information on when the Crackmore crossing work will begin.</p>
8	<p><u>Confidential Session:</u> Cllr. Lockey proposed that the Council go into confidential session, seconded by Cllr. Lock and resolved unanimously. Cllr. Dyke and the member of the public left the meeting.</p>
9	<p><u>Staffing Matters:</u></p> <p>Cllr. Watts stated that as he did not attend the HR meeting when staffing recruitment report was debated, the recommendation was null and void.</p> <p><u>A. Staff Recruitment:</u> Cllr. Lockey summarized the content of the HR Committee report that had already been circulated. Debate took place, the full details of which are in the confidential notes of the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk left the meeting in order for the next item to be discussed.</p> <p><u>B. Staff Salary:</u> Cllr. Lockey summarized the content of the HR Committee report already circulated, members debated and resolved upon the grading of the Clerk & RFO role, the full details of which are in the confidential notes of the meeting.</p>

End of formal meeting – 8:45pm

Cllr. Campbell requested that thanks to Martin Lancaster for organizing the use of the Village Hall for this meeting be minuted.