

# Full Council

## MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting  
held in The Council Chamber, Milborne Port Town Hall  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 @ 7:00pm**

### **Present:**

Parish Councillors: Mr Tim Carty (Chairman) Mr Tom Campbell  
Mrs Margert Capon Mr Rob Lockey (Vice-chairman)  
Mr Chris Phillips Mr Robert Tizzard  
Mrs Anna Wagner Mr Richard Warren  
Mr Ted Watts

### **In Attendance:**

Cllr. Sarah Dyke (SCC, SSDC) from 7.07pm  
The Parish Clerk: Mr Simon Pritchard  
Deputy Parish Clerk: Miss Nathalie Hetherington  
1 member of the public

### **❖ Public Questions and Comments:**

- Cllr. Tizzard reported that Wincanton Town Council are working with South Somerset District Council on a town enhancement scheme.
- Cllr. Watts raised a question about the new completed fencing at the cemetery and expressed concerns about the cost of maintenance and use of the land until it is required for burials. Cllr. Carty iterated the democratic processes that had been followed and reminded members of the SSDC grant that had been provided; there had been no suitable or appropriate way of changing the spec or the execution of the agreed works at that stage. Cllr. Tizzard and Cllr. Carty expressed an opinion that in retrospect things might have been done differently.
- Cllr. Campbell raised the problem of flooding on Wheathill Lane. Cllr. Dyke has been liaising with SCC Highways on this; there are tree roots blocking the drains so significant works will be required. There are other flooding issues in the village that Cllr. Dyke is dealing with. Time frames are unknown at this stage; some mitigation might be required in the meantime. Cllr. Tizzard reported on problems with flooding at the railway near the Stowell turning. The Parish Clerk asked if SCC Highways could provide diesel pumps to deal with the flooding, Cllr Dyke will ask.  
It was agreed the Parish Clerk will also report the flooding to SCC Highways, Cllr Dyke has already reported.

### **❖ Reports from Somerset County Council:**

- Budgets are under continuous threat; £100 million deficit. Electricity bill has doubled. Significant pressures. Difficulties in recruitment. Similar problem across the country.
- Precepts will be paid by the end of April 2023 in one instalment. Cllr. Carty asked for timely clarity regarding which services might be cut with an impact on MPPC's budgetary processes.
- Concern was expressed by Members that with the new Somerset Council facing such a large monetary issue it will force services down onto Town / Parish Councils or they will be cut.

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## ❖ Reports from South Somerset District Council:

Covered above.

## ❖ Local Government Reorganisation in Somerset:

- Staffing and recruitment issues in local government were discussed. The Parish Clerk noted that many staff at the District Council fear they are going to be made redundant and so maybe the District Council needed to better communicate that they will be needed, but maybe in a different role.
- Cllr. Carty reported no significant updates. Local transport will be the topic of the next Local Community Network meeting. The Clerk reported that one Local Community Network is piloting a lengthsman scheme funded by Somerset County Council. This allows the local council to set a 'to-do list'

## ❖ Reports from Somerset Constabulary:

No report provided.

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
65	<b><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></b> Mr David Grant, Mrs Lyn Harrison (illness)
66	<b><u>Declarations of Interest &amp; Applications for Dispensations to Participate:</u></b> None.
67	<b><u>Adoption of Full Council Minutes:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b></li></ul> <p>Cllr. Tizzard commented that the minutes were too late in being published and would like to move towards publishing the minutes in a timelier manner.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Carty proposed that the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> October be adopted; seconded by Cllr. Capon and resolved with 3 votes in favour and 6 abstentions (due to absence at that meeting).</b></p>
68	<b><u>Relocation of Milborne Port Library:</u></b> <b><u>A: Update:</u></b> Progress is being made but there have been some communication issues. The WI, Library and Parish Council need to liaise over terms and conditions for use of the room. <b><u>B: Employment of a Cleaner for the Town Hall:</u></b> Some discussion took place regarding this proposal of employing/deploying/contracting a cleaner for 2 hours a week.

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	<p>Cllr. Carty proposed that the 2 hours per week be approved subject to further review once it is clear what the use of the facilities will be by the WI and Library; seconded by Cllr. Lockey</p> <p><b>Cllr. Tizzard proposed an amendment to the motion that; the cost of employing a cleaner will be reflected in cost of to rent the room, seconded by Cllr. Wagner and resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p>The motion was therefore proposed;  <b>That the 2 hours per week be approved subject to further review once it is clear what the use of the facilities will be by the WI and Library and that this cost will be reflected in the cost to rent the room; proposed Cllr Carty seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</b></p> <p>It was noted that all future meetings of the three parties needed to be minuted.</p>
69	<p><b><u>Cost of Christmas Tree for outside of Town Hall</u></b>  <b>Cllr. Carty proposed that a budget of up to £1000 be set; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved by 5 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Cllr. Dyke left the meeting at 8.09pm.</i></p>
70	<p><b><u>Review of Legal Setup of Springfield Recreation Area and Village Hall - Update:</u></b>          Nothing to report as the working group has not yet met.  <b>Action: Cllr. Carty will convene a meeting with Cllrs. Campbell, Tizzard and Wagner.</b></p>
71	<p><b><u>Review of Current Full Council Projects Including all S106 Projects:</u></b>          Cllr. Lockey reported that a date is yet to be set for a site visit/meeting re. Springfield play area development and that there have been many problems with the delivery of the mobile ball stop nets – still being sorted out.</p>
72	<p><b><u>Policy Review: Complaints Procedure:</u></b>  <b>Cllr. Carty proposed that the most recent NALC template for a Complaints Procedure be adopted to supersede the existing document; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</b></p>
73	<p><b><u>PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:</u></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b><u>A. Monthly Payments</u></b>          The payments list for November had been circulated.</p> <p>Cllr. Tizzard referred to his request made at the Management Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October that the Parish Clerk be asked to advise/recommend to members items of</p>

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	<p>planned expenditure that can be deferred in support of the current financial crisis – The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-chairman will be undertaking this review with the Parish Clerk shortly.</p> <p><b>Cllr. Lockey proposed that the payments for November be approved; seconded by Cllr. Phillips and resolved by 8 votes with one abstention.</b></p> <p><b>B. <u>Full Council Accounts and Balances</u></b> The accounts had been circulated, there were no comments or questions.</p>
74	<p><b><u>Verbal Reports:</u></b></p> <p><b>a) Council Chairman’s report</b> Cllr. Carty reported that the Market Towns Investment Group will have its final meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November and encouraged fellow councillors to attend.</p> <p><b>b) Parish Clerk’s report</b> Queen Elizabeth II Memorial bench – the Parish Council is consulting residents via Facebook, the Parish Magazine and website for ideas for location.</p> <p><b>c) Members’ Reports from outside organisations</b> Paul Health has submitted plans for the new pavilion to the Playing Fields Committee; the next step will be to apply for planning permission.</p> <p><b>d) Chairmen’s Reports from the Parish Council Committees</b> The Planning and Environment Committee has responded to the Redcliffe development proposal to alter the affordable homes clause and is awaiting the District Council’s response.</p>
75	<p><b><u>Confidential Session:</u></b> <b>Cllr. Carty proposed that press and public be excluded from item 76 to allow potential nominees to be debated in confidence; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</b></p>
76	<p><b><u>Award of Honorary Titles:</u></b> The Parish Clerk explained that councils have the power award honorary title to people who have rendered eminent services to parishioners and explained the possible processes of decision making and award services. <b>Members expressed a view that this type of scheme is fraught with difficulty and agreed that this is not something the Parish Council wants to pursue.</b></p>

**End of formal meeting – 8:44pm**