

Full Council

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council meeting
held in The Council Chamber, Milborne Port Town Hall

Tuesday 3rd October 2023 @ 7:00pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Tim Carty (Chairman) Margert Capon
 David Grant Robert Lockey
 Chris Phillips Robert Tizzard
 Richard Warren Ted Watts

In Attendance:

The Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard
Deputy Parish Clerk: Nathalie Hetherington
7 members of the public, 3 of whom left the meeting at 7.14pm

❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:**

Cllr. Nicola Clark sent her apologies advance of the meeting. Cllr. Carty reported that Somerset Council met last month to discuss the budget but that there has been nothing about this published on their website yet; it is known that there are severe budgetary concerns.

❖ **Public Statements and Comments:**

- James Crow, Chair of the Trustees of the Village Hall read out a statement copied here in full:

“Since the Village Hall was built over 40 years ago the Trustees and Management Committee have been able to successfully provide the facilities for the village where they can relax, connect, learn and celebrate.

They have relied on the expertise of volunteers who have joined the Committee, become Trustees and taken on roles in the organisation.

In recent years it has been impossible to find new people to join the Committee and share the load of running the Hall. Those who are doing so are now stretched to the limit.

There is also now a huge increase in electricity costs for the Hall which will have to be passed onto the users in some way.

The Trustees and Management Committee are very keen for the Hall to continue to be available for the Village in the future as a wonderful hub for village activities.

Therefore, the Trustees and Management Committee have decided unanimously to pass the responsibility for the management of the Hall to the Parish Council.

We would ask that we may meet with the Chairman and Parish Clerk to discuss the options available”.

Cllr Carty asked about the possibility of the current trustees becoming members of the Parish Council; this received a positive response. Cllrs. Lockey, Phillips, Watts and Capon are happy to be involved in a working party to look at the options.

- A member of the public expressed concerns about the recent incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village; Lyndhurst in Hampshire has set up its own instant communications system. Cllr. Carty responded that he would be wary of such a system but that CCTV has been trialled at the Village Hall and that there is a clear intention to permanently install CCTV there in the coming future. Private security camera footage can be helpful but cannot be relied upon to provide evidence of crime. The recruitment of youth workers is in progress

Milborne Port Parish Council: Tuesday 3rd October 2023

Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard PSLCC

Website: www.milborneportpc.org.uk

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

Full Council

(see Item 68a) to provide 6 hours a week of youth service (this includes preparation and debrief work).

- Cllr. Capon reported recent comments/requests on social media by the residents in relation to a tap, a better shelter and toilets at Gainsborough. Cllr. Carty explained that the tap that had been installed had been vandalized twice so there had been no further attempt to repair; options for a better shelter could be explored; the cost of building toilets could be prohibitive, especially without s106 monies. Concerns about vandalism of toilet facilities, as at Springfield, were shared.

3 members of the public left the meeting at 7.14pm.

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
61	<p><u>Apologies for Absence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Tom Campbell – Health reasons • Somerset Councillors; Sarah Dyke & Nicola Clerk
62	<p><u>Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensations to Participate:</u></p> <p>A: Declarations of Interests from members Cllr. Tizzard noted in relation to Item 70 that he has made enquiries regarding the purchase of the land set aside for a commercial property at the Redcliffe development.</p> <p>B: Applications submitted to the Proper Officer for a dispensation to participate: None.</p>
63	<p><u>Adoption of Full Council Minutes:</u> Cllr. Carty proposed that the minutes of the Full Council meetings of 5th September 2023 be adopted; seconded by Cllr. Warren and resolved by 5 votes with 3 abstentions.</p>
64	<p><u>Co-option of New Council Member</u></p> <p>A. Interview of Candidate: Glenn Coombs was interviewed by members. He explained his reasons for wanting to become a councillor and something of his background in the printing business and his desire to make a contribution to his community. He would be happy to consider membership of any of the committees once he had gained a better understanding of their work.</p> <p>B. Nomination and Voting: It was proposed by Cllr. Carty that Glenn Coombs be co-opted onto the parish council, seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>C. Declarations of Acceptance of Office: Cllr Coombs signed a declaration of acceptance of office and joined the council table for the rest of the meeting.</p>

Full Council

<p>65</p>	<p><u>PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Monthly Payments:</u> Payment numbers 154 to 178 for October 2023 had been circulated totaling £24,588.29 and are attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Cllr. Carty proposed that the payments for October 2023 be approved; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B. <u>Full Council Accounts and Bank Reconciliation:</u> The full council accounts and bank reconciliation had been circulated and were received.</p> <p>C. <u>Appointment of Bank Signatories</u> It was agreed that Cllr. Phillips will become a bank signatory.</p>
<p>66</p>	<p><u>Full Council Projects for 2024/2025:</u> Some ideas were mooted for consideration over the coming months (some would require grant funding): toilets as Gainsborough; chain and post fence at the Clump to be refurbished, replaced or removed; Village survey/greater engagement with residents; Neighbourhood Plan; skate park refurbishment; Welcome Pack; kitting out of Community Hub. It was noted that some of the suggestions were Management Committee areas of responsibility and that the HR Committee is looking at the resourcing of projects.</p>
<p>67</p>	<p><u>Activities Planner: Current Full Council Projects incl. s106 Projects:</u> This had been sent to councillors in advance but required some more updating. No comments from councillors.</p>
<p>68</p>	<p><u>Verbal Reports:</u></p> <p>a) Council Chairman's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr. Carty due to attend the Somerset Council, Local Councils Network meeting 4/10/23 in Henstridge• Will see the other partners of the 4-council partnership and discuss the progress towards the recruitment of a Level 3 and a Level 1 youth worker youth worker to deliver a package of 6 hours per week for 44 weeks in Milborne Port. The parish council has agreed to contribute £5,000 for this financial year, after this the requirement will be £10,000 a year to match the amount paid in by the other partner councils. The content of the programme will be agreed by the steering group so the parish council will have the opportunity to feed into this so that the delivery is bespoke to the needs of the village. The 4-council partnership - consisting of Wincanton Town Council, Bruton Town Council, Milborne Port Parish Council & Castle Cary Town Council (lead council for this project) - would like a 3-year commitment to this initiative. Cllr. Lockey commented that it will be important for the programme to be publicized in order to encourage maximum participation.

Full Council

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some bus services operated by First Bus are threatened with abolition or reduction as they are not economic. Somerset Council have agreed to subsidise until March 2024. Higher passenger levels would make service viable. Cllr. Carty has said the parish council will try and support the campaign to increase numbers and to publicise activities, in conjunction with other village organisations. • The Playing Fields Committee and Parish Council liaison group met earlier today to discuss, amongst other things, the pavilion extension; CCTV; the tennis courts and drainage of the car park. It was agreed that the Playing Fields Committee will continue to be the body for identifying the requirements, with the Parish Office expediting the agreed actions. • There has been a suggestion that the cemetery extension be used as a children’s practice pitch until needed for burials; the plans for it to be lawned fit in with this notion. S106 money may be able to be used to make it useable for this purpose. <p>b) Parish Clerk’s report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis Courts re-fit (Springfield) – Somerset Council and the LTA’s spec did not include the making good of the edges; the Clerk has gone back to Somerset Council in relation to further funding and when agreed the work can go ahead. • Youth Shelter (Springfield) – has been installed. <p>c) Members’ Reports from outside organisations: None.</p>
69	<p><u>Confidential Session:</u> Cllr. Carty proposed that press and public be excluded to enable the parish council to receive confidential legal advice; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</p> <p><i>The 3 remaining members of the public left the meeting.</i></p>
70	<p><u>Delivery of the Community Hub by Redcliffe Homes – Legal Advice:</u> Trowers & Hamlins LLP have been engaged by the parish council to offer legal opinion on the processes leading up to the Section 106 legal agreement between Somerset Council and Redcliffe Homes, that contains the requirement for Redcliffe Homes to provide the Parish with a Community Hub. A letter of legal opinion was received from Trowers & Hamlins LLP.</p> <p>The opinion confirmed that the parish council had fulfilled its requirements on the S106 agreement by providing a business plan for the Community Hub. It was noted that the parish council have been engaging with Redcliffe Homes as to the design of the hub and that it is featured in the literature promoting the homes on the development.</p>

Full Council

	<p>During a call with Councillors Carty and Tizzard earlier this year Mr O'Connor of Redcliffe had explicitly noted that the primary rationale for reconsidering the delivery of the Hub was to limit costs.</p> <p>The information has been sent to David Kenyon at Somerset Council and an in-person meeting requested. It is Somerset Council's role to enforce the S106 agreement.</p> <p>The information has also been sent to Tom O'Conner of Redcliffe Homes, with no response.</p> <p>It is apparent that this is a high priority for the parishes two elected Somerset Councillors, Sarah Dyke & Nicola Clerk. Noted that Sarah Dyke has been involved with the project for many years and is now also the local MP.</p> <p>The council thanked Councillors Carty, Grant & Tizzard for the time they have given to this matter.</p>
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End of formal meeting at 8:53pm.