

The Management Committee

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting
held in The Council Chamber, The Town Hall, Milborne Port.

Tuesday 28th November 2023 @ 7:00pm

Present:

Parish Councillors: Rob Lockey (Chairman)
Ted Watts Chris Phillips (Vice-Chairman)
Margaret Capon Tim Carty
David Grant Richard Warren

In Attendance:

Cllr. Glenn Coombs
Parish Clerk & Burials Officer: Simon Pritchard
Deputy Parish Clerk & Allotments Officer: Nathalie Hetherington
1 member of the public

Public Question and Comment Time:

None.

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
52	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> Councillors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Tom Campbell – Health reasons.• Cllr Robert Tizzard – Away.
53	<u>Declarations of Interests & Dispensations to Participate:</u> A. To receive any Declarations of Interests from Members: None. B. To resolve on any Dispensations to Participate applications: None.
54	<u>Coppice Cemetery Hedge:</u> Two quotations for the bi-annual coppicing of the hedge and lime trees were received and discussed. Cllr. Warren commented that he had reported before that biodiversity and habitat for birds can be improved by cutting back to a different point in a three-year cycle. The Parsh Clerk wondered if this was more relevant to a hedge, where this was

Milborne Port Parish Council: Management Committee: 28th November 2023
Committee Officer: Simon Pritchard
Website: www.milborneportpc.org.uk

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

The Management Committee

	<p>more a line of trees that are pollarded. The contractor will be consulted as to how biodiversity could be improved with this job.</p> <p>Cllr. Lockey proposed that Lockett Tree Surgery be appointed at a cost of £1,850; seconded by Cllr. Phillips and resolved by 6 votes with one abstention.</p>
55	<p><u>Cemetery Charges for 2024:</u></p> <p>The Clerk had circulated the current Parish Council fees and Church of England fees for comparison.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was agreed to increase the interment and purchase fees by £5• It was agreed to increase the headstone permission fee by £10 and the tablet & wooden cross fees by £6• The search fee was increased by £3• All other fees to remain the same. <p>The changes will put the council mostly inline with the Church of England fees for 2023, it was noted that the Church was likely to increase its fees for 2024 so the Parish Council would again be a little cheaper.</p>
56	<p><u>Review of Council's Tenancies:</u></p> <p>A. Small Room Lease (Town Hall) – Something Else Fishy</p> <p>Cllr. Grant and the Clerk will liaise over some minor amendments to the contract, to include the checking of electrical items.</p> <p>Cllr. Lockey proposed that the lease be renewed and that there be no increase in the rental charge; seconded by Cllr. Phillips and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>B. Chapel at Cemetery – History and Heritage Group:</p> <p>The Clerk explained that there is one year remaining on the 3-year lease so no decision about any changes to the rental charges is required at this stage; however, it was noted that the MPH&H Group is in arrears with their payments.</p> <p>Action: The Deputy Clerk to liaise with the MPH&H Group re. current arrears.</p>
57	<p><u>Gainsborough Play Park – Northern Border:</u></p> <p>Cllr. Lockey reported on his recent further site visit with Cllr. Phillips and the Parish Clerk. The main point being that there is very little hedge along this boundary, it is mostly ivy, brambles, and dead trees.</p>

The Management Committee

	<p>There was a discussion about the general concern over the amount of dog faeces in the play park and other areas. Cllr. Carty is happy to lead on researching options on this issue, including the possible hiring of a private company to issue fines. Cllr. Phillips would also like to be involved in a small working group to examine the ubiquitous dog faeces issue.</p> <p>There was general agreement dog-proof fencing is required on this boundary, which would also serve to safeguard small children. Tree/hedge planting would then follow, with advice from MP Climate and Nature Action Group.</p> <p>The spec for the fencing was agreed as 3 rail, wooden post & rail with stock fencing (The same as the other side of the park).</p> <p>In order to expedite this project, Cllr. Carty proposed that a budget of up to £2,500 be set for the clearing of the barbed wire, straggly hedge, dead trees, and brambles along the whole length of this boundary back to the boundary line and that delegated authority be given to the Parish Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman, to appoint a contractor, seconded by Cllr. Grant and resolved unanimously.</p> <p>The Office will try and bring quotations for the new fence to the January Full Council meeting to allow an appointment to be made and fence erected as soon as possible.</p>
<p>58</p>	<p><u>Town Hall – Fire Risk Report:</u></p> <p>The Parish Clerk had circulated a Fire Risk Assessment report undertaken by FireLine and its recommendations.</p> <p>It was agreed that all recommendations need to be addressed.</p> <p>It was left with the Officers to work on the actions. There was a general feel that the out-of-date smoke alarms should have been given a higher priority rating in the report.</p>
<p>59</p>	<p><u>Springfield Entrance Landscape</u></p> <p>Cllr. Warren reported back on research on planting options in the context of the biodiversity crisis and the need for planting that might not look tidy. It was agreed that a wildlife focussed area is desirable and that the Playing Fields Committee will be consulted on any project in this area. Cllr. Carty suggested that staff at The Balsam Centre could advise.</p> <p>Action: Cllr. Carty to liaise with The Balsam Centre and report back to this Committee.</p>
<p>60</p>	<p><u>New Play Equipment at Springfield – Payment to HAGS</u></p> <p>Payment of £1,500 was held back from this project to (a) cover the cost of the additional groundworks that had to be undertaken due to the high risk that was created after the</p>

The Management Committee

	<p>shelter was removed and (b) for the wobble board that has a big split in it and the council had requested be replaced.</p> <p>HAGS, having initially refused to replace the wobble board or accept responsibility for the creation of the high risk, are now offering to replace the wobble board providing the remaining £1,500 is paid first. They still do not accept that they created a risk when removing the shelter and exposing uneven ground.</p> <p>It was agreed to pay the £1,500 held back on the strict understanding that the faulty wobble board be replaced within 2 months.</p>
61	<p><u>Verbal Updates:</u></p> <p>a) The Chairman or Parish Clerk:</p> <p>The Parish Clerk informed members that the Deputy Clerk is currently trying to find a tradesperson to mend the church railings before they are painted; this could prove difficult as someone with mobile welding equipment will be required.</p> <p>Cllr. Carty informed members that Somerset Council's planned devolution of services/property/land is the only thing on the agenda for the SALC AGM on Saturday 2nd December and this topic, as well as a collective approach to the devolution of these services will also be discussed at the LCN meeting on Thursday 7th December. There was a discussion about how Somerset Council property/land could be devolved in Milborne Port.</p> <p>b) Parish Footpaths/Rights of Way:</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
	Meeting Closed 8:20 pm.