

Full Council

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday 5th March 2024 @ 7:00pm

Present:

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

In Attendance:

The Parish Clerk: Simon Pritchard
The Deputy Parish Clerk: Nathalie Hetherington
4 members of the public

❖ **Reports from Somerset Council:**

- The monthly report had been circulated. Councillors Sarah Dyke & Nicola Clerk were not in attendance.

❖ **Public Statements and Comments:**

- One member of the public spoke in relation to the current war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. It was requested that the Parish Council write to the Prime Minister urging that the edicts of the UN charter are followed regarding the Gaza Strip & Occupied Territories. Cllr Watts spoke in support of this member of the public and urged individuals to contact their elected representatives but did not consider it appropriate for the Parish Council to act in a political way. Other councillors expressed mixed views in relation to the Parish Council writing to the Prime Minister. The general view was that this issue does not fall within the remit of the Parish Council.
- One member of the public spoke about parking problems in Newtown where parking spaces are so limited. There is an area of land in the centre of Newtown that could provide parking spaces. Cllr. Carty explained that as this area is privately owned land, it does not fall within the remit of Parish Council to influence the use of this land; he advised the resident to convene a meeting of others living in Newtown who have similar concerns to discuss options. Cllr. Tizzard mentioned land owned by Somerset Council north of Newtown that there is a longtime ambition for the Parish Council to obtain, but Somerset Council is not prioritising the transfer of this land at this point. Cllr. Watts commented that historically, Newtown residents have been offered the opportunity to buy parking land in the centre of the development, but this had not been taken up at the time.

Agenda Number:	Agenda Item:
119	<u>Apologies for Absence:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr. Tom Campbell – health reasons• Cllr. John Price – family commitments• Cllr. Nicola Clark (Somerset Councillor)

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120	<p><u>Declarations of Interest & Applications for Dispensations to Participate:</u></p> <p>A: Declarations of Interests from Members: Cllr. Lockey noted his role as Chairman of Milborne Port Football Club in relation to Item 123.</p> <p>B: Applications submitted to the Proper Officer for a dispensation to participate: None.</p>
121	<p><u>Adoption of Full Council Minutes:</u> The minutes had been circulated to members. Cllr. Grant highlighted the misuse of the word 'admissible' in item 112 this should be 'submissible'.</p> <p>Cllr. Carty proposed that the minutes of the Full Council meeting of 6th February 2024 be adopted subject to the change of the word 'admissible' to 'submissible' in Item 112; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</p>
124	<p>This item was brought forward:</p> <p><u>Parish Council – Green Charter:</u> Cllr. Warren explained the context of the notion of a Green Charter (policy) similar to the one adopted by Wedmore Parish Council. It was noted that the council had passed a motion in 2019 declaring a climate emergency. There was some debate around whether 'charter' is the correct terminology and suggested that the word 'policy' will be used. A statement was read out on behalf of Sarah Warren of Milborne Port Climate and Nature Action Group in support of Items 124 and 125.</p> <p>Cllr Carty proposed that a working group be formed to draft a policy for the full council to consider for adoption, with Cllr. Warren taking the lead, working with Cllr. Capon and interested residents, seconded by Cllr. Warren and resolved unanimously.</p>
125	<p>This item was brought forward:</p> <p><u>Climate & Ecology Bill – Letter for Candidates for the 2024 General Election</u> Cllr. Warren explained the context of this bill and that has broad support from all parties. Key elements are related to: more accurate accounting /assessment of emissions with a clear strategy for reduction; legislation in relation to the protection of the natural world. Cllr. Warren explained his proposal that the Parish Council send an open letter to all the candidates standing locally in the next General Election asking them to pledge support for the Bill; many councils have done this already, e.g. Dorchester and Bridport. There was some debate on the extent to which it is within the remit of the Parish Council to become involved in what might be perceived as political. All, however, are strongly supportive of actions to protect the climate and nature by individuals.</p> <p>Cllr. Warren proposed that the Parish Council send an open letter to all the candidates standing locally in the next General Election; the proposal was not seconded therefore no vote took place.</p>

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123	<p>This item was taken out of turn:</p> <p><u>Cemetery Extension – Use as a Temporary Playing Pitch:</u> Cllr. Carty explained the context of the suggestion that the cemetery extension be converted into a temporary playing pitch for the Football Club. The notion had come from the football club and has been supported by the Playing Fields Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Carty proposed that the cemetery extension be converted into a temporary playing pitch for the Football Club; seconded by Cllr. Grant and resolved by 8 votes with 1 abstention.</p>
122	<p><u>Delivery of the Community Hub by Redcliffe Homes:</u> Cllr. Carty provided an update. Last week, a letter from Cllr. Carty was e-mailed and sent registered post to the CEO of Redcliffe, Mr Tom O’Connor, acknowledgement of receipt received from Mr O’Connor; the letter urges Redcliffe to honour the commitment & S106 agreement made during the planning process to build the community hub. John Oldham (past Chairman) has been very supportive so particular thanks to him and to those involved in the submission of this letter. The response of Mr O’Connor is now awaited.</p>
126	<p><u>PARISH COUNCIL POLICIES:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Data protection Policy:</u></p> <p>B. <u>Information Privacy Notice:</u></p> <p>There had been no changes required since these policies were last adopted in 2018 as the legislation hasn’t changed since then, so they have simply been polished. The Parish Clerk highlighted possible changes ahead as the government is looking at tightening legislation in this area.</p> <p>Cllr. Carty proposed that the two policies be re-adopted; seconded by Cllr. Lockey and resolved unanimously.</p>
127	<p><u>PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS:</u></p> <p>A. <u>Monthly Payments:</u> Payment numbers 290 to 317 for March 2024 had been circulated totaling £60,030.88 and are attached to the minutes as well as being on the Council’s website.</p> <p>Cllr. Carty proposed that the payments for March 2024 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 for January had been circulated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reserve Account £226,703.86• Current Account £5,000.00

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	<p>These were received. There was some discussion about the arrival of s106 monies in relation to the tennis courts refurbishment costs. The Parish Clerk will check what the situation is to date and send out the information to members.</p>
128	<p><u>Activities Planner: Priorities</u> No adjustments made.</p>
129	<p><u>Verbal Reports:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Council Chairman's report:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cllr. Lockey will be forming a steering group as part of the work required for the Community Project. Looking for volunteers from community groups.▪ A meeting regarding the possible sale of a small piece of land on Springfield Road needed to be postponed and will probably now take place next week.b) Parish Clerk's report:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 23rd April 2024 in the Camelot Room. Tea/coffee/biscuits only will be provided.c) Members' Reports from outside organisations:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Village Hall change of Trustees to the Parish Council and employment of Village Hall Manager – some details yet to be sorted out regarding the transition from the current Trustees to the corporate body of the Parish Council, its an ongoing process that will take a while to take shape.

End of formal meeting at 20:31 pm.

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