

**MINUTES OF LEIGH-ON-MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 19 JULY 2021 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

<b>Present (face to face)</b>	David Mattick, Chairman Paula Freeland Vicky Taylor	DM PF VGT
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<b>In attendance</b>	Alan Townsend, District Councillor (on line)	AT
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**017/21      APOLOGIES** **ACTIONS**

017.1      Anthea Brooks, Clerk (AB), Vicky Trundle (VT), Martin Carter (MC), Philip Ham, District and County Councillor (PH),

**018/21      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR RECORDING.**

There were no declarations of interest and dispensations. The meeting was recorded on Zoom for minute purposes.

**019/21      MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUN 21**

019.1/21      The minutes of the meeting of 21 Jun 21 were agreed and signed

**020/21      MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 21 JUN 21**

0024.3/19	<b>Churchyard Walls</b> – PF will invite a contractor to look at the work which required with a view to obtaining an indicative price - ongoing	<b>PF</b>
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116.1/20	<b>EV Charging:</b> PH indicated SCC were now considering ‘in road’ supply infrastructure to avoid ‘trailing cables across public walkways’ for rural. PH will keep the Council briefed – Agreed as normal business in future.	
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133.1/20	<b>Dog Bins:</b> The Clerk had been in contact with Idverde and completed a form to apply for an extra pick up – await Clerk return to business.	<b>Clerk</b>
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164.6/20	<b>Elections</b> – DM asked Councillors to seek other parishioners who would consider joining the Council. Agreed Complete	<b>Cpte</b>
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APCM 14.1	The reviews required by Section 5 of the Standing Orders has completed pending agreement, held due to illness of parish clerk.	<b>Clerk / DM</b>
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010/21	<b>Review of Policies and Standing Orders:</b> AB has Financial Regulations to complete as per update from DM. All other policies to will have completed review shortly and updated copies will be posted on the website. Await Clerk return to business.	<b>Clerk</b>
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012.2/21	<b>PCSO:</b> No issues other than that MC is unable to elicit a response for attendance at Parish Council meetings. Councillors agreed to now wait until another request to attend was received.	<b>Cpte</b>
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012.5/21	<b>Highways</b> • Streetlights at Park Hayes: Councillors agreed to post a flyer to all Park Hayes and Apple Meadow View residents explaining the situation. Drafted,	<b>Cpte</b>
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	printed, distributed. Agreed complete.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Hayes Grass Report: After discussion it was agreed that a small group would put together a costed project plan to achieve the proposal. Ongoing and in future reported as a Councillor Report.</li> </ul>	<b>Cpte</b>
012.6/21	<b>Recreation Field:</b> Councillors agreed to allocate two budgeted grants plus a 10% contingency, if necessary, once an invoice was received for fencing required to divide up the Open Space area and replace the car park fencing. Payment was agreed as authorised.	<b>Clerk</b>
12.7/21	<b>Memorial Hall:</b> VGT agreed to lead a team to project manage car park improvements.	<b>Cpte</b>
015.21	<b>Correspondence:</b> Mr R Massey has requested a meeting with a PC team to discuss options for a planning application at Barns Close; VGT will arrange. Meeting held 6 Jul 21. Complete	<b>Cpte</b>
<b>021/21</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION OF OPEN FORUM</b>	
021/1	Councillors discussed the inclusion of an 'Open Forum' into the standing agenda and agreed unanimously to incorporate it. In outline, Council meetings will have an initial period where parishioners may raise issues. A draft 'Rules of Engagement' will be produced from Councillors comments on a template document; a draft document available for approval at the September meeting and implementation in Oct.	<b>All</b> <b>DM</b>
<b>022/21</b>	<b>DISTRICT &amp; COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS</b>	
022/1/21	A District Councillor report was provided, and a copy is available from the Clerk. A summary of the issues raised is below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cabinet meet was delayed and the response concerning the offensive 'spoof website' seemed a whitewash; one group are pursuing compensation for harm to Council's reputation. <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><b>PMN</b> SofS Unitary decision was announced as 'One Somerset'.</p> </li> <li>• 2021 Year End Outturn is a £700k deficit due to Covid costs and reduced income; as there has been no commercial investments, this will come from reserves.</li> <li>• Planning: The July Planning Board considering 345 houses on Keyford side of Frome was postponed due to a technical issue. The board members are also to receive a brief about a longer term proposed development for 1700 houses to the southwest of Frome.</li> <li>• The Inspector's Final report on Local Plan Part 2 is still scheduled for end Jul. The Gladman appeal for 63 houses at Coleford is due to start mid-Aug, online.</li> <li>• Recycling: SWP are having problems from Covid and staff shortages; report missed collections on their website.</li> </ul>	
022/1/21	There was no County Council report.	
<b>023/21</b>	<b>PLANNING</b>	
<b>023.1/21</b>	<b>NEW APPLICATIONS:</b> 2016/1611/PAA seeks prior approval for a permitted development. Parish Council Consultee comments are not invited for such items and it was not included on the agenda.	

023.1.1/21 2021/1611/PAA Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 3No. dwelling houses (Class C3) and for associated operational development. Land At Rear Of Ivy Cottage Quarry Lane BA3 5QG.

023.1.2/21 Councillors discussed this item as it changes the use of an existing barn located inside the 250-metre stone exclusion zone for Halecombe quarry. Councillors were surprised not to find any discussion in application documents concerning implications of three new dwellings in the Minerals Safeguarding Area. DM agreed to comment to the Planning Officer.

**DM**

**023.2/21 CURRENT APPLICATIONS**

023.2.1/21 2021/1217/FUL Erection of farm building to include storage of wood chip for on farm use. Grove Shute Farm. PC had agreed to leave the decision to the Planning Officer Pending decision, no objections.

023.2.2/21 2021/0983/FUL Erection of 1 No. 3 bed dwelling to be attached to existing dwelling at 6 Park Hayes. PC had agreed to leave the decision to the Planning Officer Pending decision, one objection, a number of supporting comments, no consultee objection.

023.2.3/21 2021/0646/FUL Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated landscaping and road access at 2 Spring Cottages Blackers Lane BA3 5QU. PC had agreed to leave the decision to the Planning Officer. Pending decision, approval recommended, Planning Board decision as against policy (a new dwelling in other village). **PMN** Approved 20 Jul 21

**024/21 FINANCE**

024.1/21 Financial Statement: Councillors accepted the 19 Jul 21 Statement.

024.2./21 Cheques for Signature: Payment of the following invoices were agreed, and cheques signed.

- £101.12 Idverde, Grass Cutting
- £28.40, M Carter, Printing Flyer for PH / Apple Meadow View Lighting
- £149.41, SALC, Annual Subscription
- £226.96, Clerks Salary
- £6.00, V Taylor, Land Register Search

**025/21 CEMETERY MATTERS:** There are no urgent issues to consider. Other issues await availability of resource (see 008.1/21)

**026/21 CORONAVIRUS:** No known issues although more parishioners are self-isolating due to track and trace contact.

**027/21 REVIEW OF POLICIES AND STANDING ORDERS:** AB has Financial Regulations to complete as per update from DM. All reviewed policies to be updated and copies posted on the website.

**Clerk**

**DM**

**028/21 HEALTH AND SAFETY:** No issues to report.

**029/21 COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**

029.1/21 **PCSO (MC)** – No issues. Councillors now waiting until another request to

attend is received.

- 029.2/21 **FOOTPATHS (DM)** –Giant Hogweed has been reported east of stile 36785 off Quarry Lane; letter sent to farmer 8 Jul 21.
- 029.3/21 **RANGERS (DS)** – Ranger’s workday 16 Jul: Clearing brambles and foliage on Leigh Street west of Bell and on footpath to Barns Close also checking 30 mph signs. Many thanks to Vicki Higgins who cleared the footpath through Barns Close. Reported items - Footpath sign at entrance to Barns Close in need of replacement (DS will report). Consider resiting 30mph sign opposite Great House Farm is obscured by vegetation (AT will report). It was agreed to pay C Ingrem for paint for road signs when invoice received.
- 029.4/21 **HIGHWAYS (MC) - Streetlights at Park Hayes:** Since posting flyers to Park Hayes and Apple Meadow view residents Council have received a letter, a phone call and various emails covering a significant proportion of residents all supporting the PC decision not to proceed with the project. Over the same period no further direct communication had been received indicating further support for the project despite the flyer. There have been two threads on Facebook. Councillors agreed to ratify the decision not to pursue streetlights on the grounds of affordability and views expressed.
- 029.5/21 **RECREATION FIELD (VGT)** - After recent near misses, the RFMC / CC have decided that the children’s play area will be out of use during cricket matches. RFMC are considering applying for an MDC Climate and Ecological fund grant. The Council agreed to pay the fencing invoice, when presented.
- 029.67/21 **MEMORIAL HALL (VGT)** – VGT has agreed to Chair the Hall Committee, other changes are in hand. New guidance released for hirers. Planning a Jazz Night on Sat 11 Dec.
- 029.7/21 **SCHOOL (MC)** – Nothing new to report
- 029.8/21 **QUARRY (DM) – Noise:** A parishioner copied the PC a complaint made about night-time noise. DS investigated on behalf of the Council. It was established the noise was from operations related to the Tarmac plant that has been working some nights recently.
- **Halecombe Quarry Community Fund:** The Fund has launched and three funding requests were offered to the Council for review and forwarding to the administrator. The Council wishes to be represented by DM and D Sparkes. As all representatives must be Parish Councillors it was agreed to appoint David Sparkes as an Emeritus Parish Councillor. It was also agreed that the Council gave permission to the two requests that involved ancillary building or structures that meet the Class A Permitted Development in GDPO 2015 Part 12 that can be approved by Parish Councils.
- **The Allotment Association** seeking funding for a secure storage unit for safely keeping tools and equipment on site. The Council supported this funding request, gave permission iaw the lease and GDPO 2015 Part 12 and consider it to be a long-awaited enhancement to the allotments, providing the 23 allotment holders with shelter and secure stowage for their tools on site.
  - **The Recreation Field Management Committee** seeking funding for a wooden gazebo and benches to provide sheltered seating on site. The

Council supports this funding request, gave permission iaw the lease and GDPO 2015 Part 12 and consider it to be a long-awaited addition supporting users of all ages who ensure the Recreation Field remains a much-enjoyed facility at the heart of the Community that is used by residents of Leigh on Mendip and other local villages.

- **Friends of Leigh School** seeking funding to provide musical instruments for use by current and future pupils at the school to support hands on learning through music. The school attracts children from various villages with ages ranging from 2 to 11. The Council supported this funding request as it adds a capability that cannot be funded through school resources, that will be a useful asset over an extended period and will support children from all villages benefitting from the Halecombe Community Fund.

029.9/21 **ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (VGT)** – Nothing to report

029.10/21 **FB AND WEBSITE (DM)** – The Hogweed and the Park Hayes Lights issues were subject to FB threads. A lot of relevant information is held on the Village website due to the support of the Webmaster, Chris Cudmore.

029.11/21 **SALC (Clerk)** – Nothing to report other than emails already circulated.

**030/21 POINTS FROM THE PARISH BULLETIN:** Nothing to report.

**031.21 MEETINGS ATTENDED/TO BE ATTENDED:** Attended: R Massey meeting. To attend: Whatley Quarry Meeting 21 Jul, Frome Town Local Network meeting early Sep, Halecombe Quarry Community Fund Management Meeting, currently planned 21 Sep.

**032.21 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Parishioner seeking advice concerning high hedges. Council agreed that neighbourly discussion was the first approach and the formal process after that did not include Parish Council activity. DM to respond **DM**
- 'Loose Ends' paper response from MDC discussed, no further action.
- Hogweed letters and Parish Council response
- Queens Platinum Jubilee. Seek agreement for a standalone team to be formed to organise the village input. **DM**
- Council agreed not to engage with 'Bus Back Better' due to lack of resource in Council and support from parishioners.
- Mendip Communities Funds. MC to check school are aware of these. **MC**
- MDC Carbon Emissions Pledge. Discussed and agreed, for individuals.
- Others - 18xNALC, 6xMDC, 11xSCC, 1 x Police, 2xSWP

**033/21 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 20 Sep 21, 7pm