

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

OF A LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD MONDAY 25th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7PM AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllrs D Mattick (DM) Chair, V Taylor (VGT), I Kirby (IK)
VGT left at item 70/21. Thereafter the meeting was not quorate.

Also in Attendance: District Cllr A Townsend (AT), County and District Cllr P Ham (PH), J Gregory (JG) Clerk, C Cudmore (CC) Interim Clerk and 3 Members of the public from the Recreation Field Management Committee (RFMC)

		Action
60/21	Public Forum	
60.1/21	Members of the RFMC raised an email from a concerned taxpayer regarding the Open Space field and Ash Die back and possible risk to walkers in the area. The RFMC will contact the email author with view to arranging a meeting with VGT as the Parish Council representative. The PC noted the RFMC intention and supported this as a first response and would consider further communications if necessary	RFMC
60.2/21	Questions were also asked regarding the state of play of existing planning applications for larger developments and comment on these was given by the PC, referring to two potential forthcoming applications and an appeal lodged against the refusal of 2020/1877/OTS 40 dwellings off Quarry Lane	
61/21	Apologies	
	Apologies accepted from Cllrs V Trundle (VT), P Freeland (PF), E Kirby (EK), M Carter (MC)	
62/21	Declarations of Interest, Dispensations and Requests for Recording	
	DM declared an interest in the Planning item involving Park House. There were no further declarations nor any requests for recording	
63/21	Minutes of the Meeting held 20 September 2021	
	Agreed and signed as a correct record	
64/21	Matters arising from the meeting held on the 20 September 2021	
24.3/19	Churchwalls – ongoing	PF
133.1/20	Dog Bins – Clerk to confirm MDC agreement to extra pick-up West end of Village. Request to MDC sent 4 Oct-no response yet	Clerk
10/21	Policies and Standing Orders – complete but copies to be supplied for website	DM
12.6/21	Recreation Field Fencing – Awaiting invoice	Clerk
38/21	Cemetery – resolution of plot incorrect positioning - ongoing.	DM
51.4/21	Cemetery Clerk recruitment - ongoing	DM
55.3/21	Agreement for Rangers to remove bramble patch in churchyard - ongoing	DM
55.8.2/21	Halecombe Quarry Community Fund first meeting arrangements - ongoing	DM
58/21	SALC Email 11 Sep review – ongoing	IK
58/21	SCC Email re 'Emergency Preparedness Training review - ongoing	IK

65/21 Report from District and County Councillors

- 65.1/21 Cllr Ham covered rising COVID Rates and concerns, the Council's Improvement Plan, bus services to the more rural parts of Mendip, the changes and effects of becoming a Unitary Authority and a Pilot activity for the Frome Local Council Network as well as some specific items to Leigh on Mendip including unsuccessfully agreeing a meeting with the quarry and the signs encouraging lorries not to pass through Waterlip. As part of a "tour" with highways they agreed to tidy up white lining in the village and possible zig-zag lines for the school; highways recommended that the school encouraged drop-offs at the Memorial Hall car park. Discussion highlighted that this had been unsuccessfully encouraged for several years already
- 65.2/21 Cllr Townsend gave a brief and wider implications of a planning application in Coleford for 63 houses which despite being refused twice had now been approved on appeal. A key issue is that a lot of work over an extended period had been done to update the Local Plan but the inspector had not considered to be relevant. A judicial review was being considered.

66/21 Planning (current Applications)

- 66.1/21 2021/2176/HSE Park House, Park Hayes - Loft Conversion with rear pitched roof dormer and 3no. Velux roof lights
To respond: The Parish Council was not quorate for this item due to DM's declaration of interest. Accordingly, the decision is to be made by the Planning officer but the meeting would point out the size of the dormer in relation to scale and form of the existing building and the potential impact on privacy of neighbouring properties. The small number of neighbours notified was also noted. Clerk
- 66.2/21 2021/2100/HSE Raglan, Leigh St – Erection of home office to rear garden and pergola, vestibule car port to the front, new carport, landscaping and associated works
To respond: The Parish Council only concerns were about potential encroachment on existing rural views but they recognised the sympathetic design of the home office. Parish Council agreed unanimously that the decision should lie with the Planning officer. Clerk
- 66.3/21 2021/2273/CLP Rear of Ivy Cottages, Quarry Lane, Change of use of agricultural building to 3 dwellings
To respond: Notwithstanding any legal issue, the Council unanimously agreed with the Planning Officers comments and also stand by their original concerns relating to the Mineral Safeguarding area as the agricultural building is well within the 250-meter exclusion zone for Halecombe Quarry. The Council are more than surprised that Somerset Mineral Authority has not been consulted as there is a need to safeguard this national asset; future extraction provides future jobs Clerk
- 66.4/21 2021/1860/FUL Whitehole Hill, Hurdlestone Lodge, retrospective creation of vehicular access track
Noted that this was ongoing

67/21 Finance

- 67.1/21 The financial statement reconciled with the bank statement to 30 Sep was agreed and signed.
- 67.2/21 It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Oct Idverde payment was authorised for payment, once the invoice was received.

67.3/21	The Clerk gave a brief on online banking options but would circulate a proposed way ahead paper for email discussion and approval at the next meeting	Clerk
67.4/21	JG stated there was missing information in relation to HMRC whereby payment had been made but the detail of the submission was missing to match against. DM and CC would revisit accounts for the appropriate periods.	CC/Clerk
67.5/21	The initial budget draft for 22/23 was circulated and Councillors and Clerk asked to check their action points for the next meeting; DM will provide a pdf copy.	All DM
66/21	Cemetery Clerk Situation. Someone from the village was being sought with a closing date of 5 Nov. The new PC Clerk has advised that she would take on the position if no one else provided the service. It was suggested that the role could be split into Burial Clerk and Cemetery if needed. The previous Cemetery Clerk was being questioned by CC on the process and providing a list of contacts.	
67/21	Coronavirus Noted from the County Councillor report and not going away. Mendip Country practice was praised for their service and efficiency in providing booster and flu jabs	
68/21	Health and Safety There were no known issues other than the Open Space Ash die-back issue raised at Open Forum	
69/21	Councillor reports	
69.1/21	<u>PCSO (MC)</u> - Continued difficulty liaising but nothing to report	
69.2/21	<u>Footpaths (DM)</u> - Nothing to report	
69.3/21	<u>Rangers (DM)</u> - The rangers had prepared salt bins for topping up by Highways, had cleared some foliage and overgrown vegetation around the village signs and main street. They were preparing to sweep gutters after the next street clean and to deal with the Churchyard hedge. DM is in discussions with MDC resolving liability for the hedge work	
69.4/21	<u>Highways (MC)</u> - A street clean is planned for mid-November. DM indicated that a broken finger post at "Duo" was in his shed with a bend in it – Somerset Forge would need to be contacted for a quotation	Clerk
69.5/21	PH indicated that the signpost at Mells Park Corner had also been damaged recently as a result of a car accident, although it was in Mells parish. There was a suggestion that priority was rearranged at this junction so lorries have right of way. There was concern that this might increase their speed as currently the junction slows them down and perhaps worsen collision impacts. It was noted that memorable accidents at this junction had all been car on car.	
69.6/21	<u>Recreation Field (VGT)</u> - The tools shed had been painted recently and fencing of the Open Space was to commence Thu 28 Oct.	
69.7/21	<u>School (MC)</u> - Nothing to report	
69.8/21	<u>Memorial Hall (VGT)</u> - The AGM was scheduled for Mon 1 Nov and Jazz Night on 11 Dec.	

69.9/21	<u>Quarry (DM)</u> - Would be chasing for a meeting date (action 55.8.2/21)	
69.10/21	<u>Allotment Association (VGT)</u> - Members of the AA are busy moving the compost area in preparation for the new building, pending funding from the Halecombe Community Fund	
69.11/21	<u>Facebook and Website (DM)</u> - CC suggested that someone be responsible for posting Parish Council items on Facebook and it was agreed that PF would be invited to take this on	PF
69.12/1	<u>SALC (Clerk)</u> – Nothing to report	
70/21	Points from the Parish Bulletin / Parish Forum	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported that the Local Plan Part II was yet to go to full Council for adoption but had already been approved by Cabinet. • MDC has adopted a Carbon Management Plan • The five District Councils are proposing to set up a “<i>Local Government Reorganization Joint Committee to oversee implementation plan and development of the new unitary council’s constitution and budget, along with providing collaborative decision making in areas which could impact on the position of the new unitary council.</i>” 	
71/21	Meetings Attended / to be attended	
71.1/21	<u>Parish Forum</u> are back and upcoming dates are 9 Nov, 14 Dec, 11 Jan with all on line. The Clerk to advise if she could/could not attend	Clerk
71.2/21	<u>FTC Local Council Network</u> DM attended meetings 12 and 25 Oct, next meeting planned 29 Nov. DM offered a brief.	DM
72/21	Correspondence	
72.1/21	Email from D Bissex regarding land to the south of Apple Meadow View. The Clerk offered to draft a reply	Clerk
72.2/21	Richard Blunden has agreed to be the Parish Council Independent Auditor for this financial year	
72.3/21	Invitation for CPRE Rewilding event. No councillors in attendance interested	
72.4/21	Complaint received regarding maintenance of cemetery. Discussed at length and the Clerk offered to draft a reply for Councillors to review.	Clerk
73/21	Date and Time of Next Meeting Monday 22 nd November at 7pm	
	Meeting Closed at 9.15pm members were thanked for their attendance and contributions	