



Advanced notice of an intention to go to the Planning Board is most desirable. PH/AT will try to keep us informed - ongoing **PH/AT**

140.3/20 **Cemetery - Reserving Plots** –The Clerk will enquire about typical costs and the need for an identified location to address a recent application. **Clerk**

140.3/20 **Grass Cutting – Churchyard and Cemetery and New Cemetery** – DM has informed Idverde that their quotation is accepted. **Comp**

144.3/20 **Highways (MC) – Street Lighting and parking issues** – agenda.

144.6/20 **School (MC)** – agenda

147.4/20 **Trees from Rotary Club** – MC has liaised with the Rec Field who are happy to have the trees planted. **Comp**

**153/20 DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

153.1/20 **District Council (PH/AT)**

**Planning** - The Planning Board on 17 February approved an application for six dwellings at Writhlington outside development limits and did not accept any impact emerging from Local Plan Part 2.

**Finance** - Mendip’s year end budget deficit is now forecast to be £1.4m which will be funded from reserves. The approved budget leads to a £5 per year or 3.1% rise for a Band D property. Little progress has been made on the capital investment programme. All MDC employees will receive at least the national living wage. A new Arts for All fund of £40k has been agreed. MDC is to submit a proposal to Government to trial a Universal Basic Income. May 2021 County Council elections will be postponed for a year to allow the Unitary proposals to be concluded.

**Highways**

**Street Lighting** –contact details at Highways with the Chairman.

**Uneven pavements** – issues reported to C Higgins at Highways

**Stoke Bottom** – flooding at Fairy Cave junction now cleared.

**Cabinet – 01.03.21** – MDC reviewed a proposal that aims to provide safe pathways between major centres in the District and complete the Somerset Circular Route. It was noted that the barriers on Gypsy Lane, Frome have been removed opening the door to a revival of the previous fly tipping activities.

153.2/20 **County Councillor (PH)**

**COVID Update:** The Somerset R number is between 0.6 and 0.9.

**Budget:** SCC recently approved a 20/21 budget including an additional £10.2m investment into adult social care services, £9m into children’s services, £6.5m on climate emergency projects and £130m in major infrastructure schemes such as roads and schools. A new £10.8m emergency fund has been established for activities to combat coronavirus and its impact.

**Great Western Freeport: SCC** has played a key role in a bid to develop a new Great Western Freeport an area designed to create conditions for inwards investment, business growth and job creation. The Freeport would include Bristol Port, Gravity Campus (junction 21 Enterprise area) and Avonmouth.

**Step up to social work** – SCC is opening the recruitment round for aspiring social workers across the region to join the Step Up to Social Work programme. 12 places are being offered in Somerset.

**Investing in Communities** – two new Enterprise Centres have joined the Somerset network with the completion and handover of units in Wells and Wiveliscombe.

**Additional funding for CAB** – during the coronavirus pandemic CAB have stepped up the services offered. Up to £400k extra funding from SCC is available to sustain the county wide service.

**One Somerset / Stronger Somerset** – the Government has begun a public consultation into changing the way local councils work in Somerset including SCC’s One Somerset ambition and the alternative Stronger Somerset from DC’s; both plans are going through the Scrutiny Board at SCC.

**154/20 PLANNING – CURRENT APPLICATIONS**

**154.1/20 2021/0125/FUL**

154.1.1/20 **Erection of 4930 sqm of Use Class E (former B1) B2 and B8 floor space and conversion of workshop to form 70 sqm offices. Partial infilling of quarry to create a level development platform at Barns Close Quarry, Quarry Lane, Leigh-on-Mendip, BA3 5QG**  
Recommended refusal – decision pending

**154.2/20 2020/1877/OTS 2020/1877/OTS**

154.2.1/20 **Outline Planning Permission with some matters reserved (access considered) for the erection of up to 40 dwellings and provision of school playing field and car park** – decision pending. Conservation Officer comments have been added including the church and other village heritage considerations. Also added to the website is an alternative approach to drainage considerations. DM mentioned the 17 Nov Developer’s letter re quarry exclusion zone; PF will review and discuss if necessary. Context Planning is still on standby to help produce a ‘brochure’ to represent Parish Council views to a Planning Board meeting.

**DM/PF**

PMN: A significant number of comments added on 19 Mar 21

**154.3/20 2020/0758/FUL Erection of new livestock building at Grove Shute Farm.** Parish Council recommended refusal. Ongoing.

**154.4/20 2020/2559/FUL Construction of single storey classroom and administration area extension – The County First School, Leigh-on-Mendip** – pending consideration, no significant comments.

- 155/20 FINANCE**
- 155.1/20 **Financial Statement as at 15 March 2021** – the statement was approved. Reconciliation to be resolved by the end of the financial year.
- 155.2/20 **Cheques agreed and raised:**
- Mrs A Brooks – Clerk Salary February 2021: £226.96
  - Thomas Turner for website - £23.98
  - Idverde Invoice – February 2021: £99.14
  - Audit – the Clerk reported that she had received an invoice from the auditors which will be on the next agenda for payment
  - DM reported that Frank Higgins will put a new lock on the noticeboard at Park Hayes corner; invoice may be paid on receipt.
- 156/20 CEMETERY MATTERS**
- 156.1/20 **Spoil Heap** – a heap of top soil has been left in the churchyard. The Clerk reported that gravediggers have been asked to remove this.
- 156.2/20 **Cemetery Plan** – DM had submitted a plan for consideration starting with preparation, progressing to agreeing the layout, PC approval, raising finance, implementation with availability for use from the end of 2022. This was approved.
- 156.3/20 **Interment of ashes** – the Clerk reported that there would be two interment of ashes taking place very soon and dates will be confirmed.
- 157/20 CORONAVIRUS:** Four briefings received from SCC. No known parish issues
- 158/20 REVIEW OF POLICIES AND STANDING ORDERS:** A draft GDPR policy has been prepared. AB has Financial Regulations to complete as per update from DM. All policies to have been reviewed by May. **Clerk**
- 159/20 HEALTH AND SAFETY:** No issues to report.
- 160/20 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER:** DM will draft a newsletter for approval at the April meeting based on Councillors inputs by end March. **Bereavement support** – we were asked to include a brief in the newsletter; it was agreed to put it on the website and consider a reference in the newsletter. **All DM**
- 161/20 COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**
- 161.1/20 **PCSO (DS)** – No issues to report. MC has been in contact with Toni Lines (Neighbourhood Beat Manager) and will invite her to a meeting **MC**
- 161.2/20 **Footpaths and Rangers (DS)** – the broken signpost in Sparks Field will be dealt with by SCC Rights of Way who have it on their work list. PF mentioned dumping of materials where new gates are being installed. MC reported that photographs have been provided to Rights of Way. The bridge at 56 on FR8/28 has been re-decked.

- 161.3/20 **Old Wells Road – signpost at Downhead junction** – currently finger being made and DS is waiting for an update. When the weather has settled it can be painted. DM will inform the insurers of the delay. **DM**
- 161.4/20 **HIGHWAYS**
- 161.4.1/20 **New sign on Old Wells Road near Downhead junction** – is incorrect. The directional signage is showing the wrong way, it should depict a crossroads. PH will inspect. MC will send photograph to PH. **PH/MC**
- 161.4.2/20 **Beacon Crossroads** – PH stated that other local Parish Councils have received an email from St Cuthbert Out asking for support for a roundabout at Beacon Crossroads. The Clerk reported that she had not received this. PH will forward the link to the Clerk. **PH**
- 161.4.3/20 **Parking in Park Hayes** – a resident in Park Hayes has complained about the Council’s parking suggestion to avoid parking on the east footpath. There is a problem with the hedges by the west pavement that can make it difficult to walk on that side. DM will draft a response for Councillors to approve and the Clerk will respond, copy PH. **DM**
- 161.4.4/20 **Street Lighting** – AT had obtained a response from SCC and it was noted that costs are available from the Highways Lighting team. It was agreed to obtain a quote before taking any further action. **MC**
- 161.4.5/20 **Street Cleaning** – MC had heard nothing further about the next street clean. The drain by the pub car park has been worked on but is still flooding. Will be reported again. **MC**
- 161.5/20 **RECREATION FIELD** – 100% relief from business rates confirmed. Received the second of two grants.
- 161.6/20 **MEMORIAL HALL:** In lockdown with no activity at the moment
- 161.7/20 **SCHOOL (MC)** – have requested a grant towards some outdoor shelving in the amount of £432 which is within the budget. After discussion all agreed to go ahead; MC will inform the school **MC**
- 161.8/20 **QUARRY (DS)**
- 161.8.1/20 **Community Fund** – it is being accumulated in an account with SCC. An administrator has been appointed to manage it and a meeting will need to be arranged to launch this fund quite soon. There is a meeting scheduled to take place on 21 April that is understood to be a Quarry Liaison meeting and that the Community Fund launch will need a separate meeting. PH will speak to Andy Cadell about arranging this meeting. It was agreed to review the applications that have already been made for grants from the fund. **PH**
- 161.8.2/20 **Wildlife Boards** – boards have been vandalised. The quarry will arrange to have these replaced with vandal proof boards.
- 161.8.3/20 **Village Support** – this will continue as previously. The quarry is planning to establish a second outdoor classroom which will include information on the work of the quarry. They will fund a marquee at the Village Day if it

goes ahead. Tarmac's National Community Support Manager is supporting the model established by Halecombe.

- 161.8.4/20 **Entrance** – still waiting for SCC to approve the new entrance from Lime Kiln Lane after which the footpath diversion will be removed.
- 161.8.5/20 **Management** – a new Senior Manager has been appointed with two assistants.
- 161.9/20 ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (VGT)** – reviewing their tenants agreement and will be sending to PC in due course. The accessible tracking will be laid shortly.
- 161.10/20 FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE** – MC will repost item on Census. **MC**
- 161.11/20 ONE/STRONGER SOMERSET** – Stronger Somerset invitation to visit their website and get involved with the consultation. One Somerset – similar invitation
- 161.12/20 SALC (Clerk)** – nothing to report other than emails already circulated.
- 162/20 POINTS FROM THE PARISH BULLETIN:** Nothing to report.
- 163/20 MEETINGS ATTENDED/TO BE ATTENDED:** Wilder Churches 24 March 7.00 p.m. via Zoom encouraging wildlife in churchyards. SALC 7 April looking at both Somerset strategies.
- 164/20 CORRESPONDENCE**
- 164.1/20 **Insurance** – DM will contact Insurance company to ask them to include gates and fencing in the policy. **DM**
- 164.2/20 **NALC – Councillor Guide to Cyber Security.** MC will check cost. **MC**
- 164.3/20 **VE Day** – Clerk to send email to MC. **Clerk**
- 164.4/20 **Neighbourhood Policing Review** – Clerk to forward to PH **Clerk**
- 164.5/20 **Letter from resident of Bellfield** regarding motorcycling in Barns Close – he was recommended to refer concerns to Rick Massey.
- 164.6/20 **Elections** – DS will be standing down. DM asked Councillors to seek other parishioners who would consider joining the Council. **ALL**
- 165/20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
- 165.1/20 Monday 19 April 2021 at 7.00 p.m. online. APCM 17 May which has to take place within 14 days of election on 6 May. PH indicated that there may be a requirement to bring the meeting forward.