

**LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL**  
Meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

Present: Cllrs Paula Freeland (Chair), Estelle Kirby, Iain Kirby, Vicki Taylor

Also in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk)

**163/22 Public Forum**

One Member of the Public was in attendance.

**164/22 Welcome by the Chairman**

Cllr Paula Freeland welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**165/22 Apologies for absence**

Cllrs David Mattick, Martin Carter and Vicki Trundle

**166/22 Absent**

There were no Councillors absent, all were in attendance or had sent apologies

**167/22 Declaration of Interests, Dispensations and Requests for Recording**

There were no declarations of interests from Councillors, Dispensations or a Request for Recording

**168/22 County and District Councillor Reports**

County and District Councillor Phillip Ham was not in attendance but sent his apologies prior to the meeting. District Councillor Alan Townsend also sent his apologies but forwarded a very short report prior to the meeting.

Parliament has approved the Somerset Structural Changes Order which authorises the new Somerset Council to take over from 1-4-23. This gives the go-ahead for the local elections to take place on 5-5-22 for the 110 new councillors. The formal Notice of Election is being published today. This means that the pre-election period of 'purdah' commences which prohibits us from making statements that could be construed as political. One factual item to report - the Planning Inspectorate have turned down the appeal against Mendip's refusal of 29 houses in Rode. Reasons for the refusal are not yet published on Mendip's website. Application ref 2020/1686

**169/22 To confirm the minutes of the previous meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, previously circulated.**

A few minor amendments were corrected, following this the Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes for 21<sup>st</sup> February be accepted as true record and were signed by the Chair.

**170/22 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda**

**(a)** The Parish Council is also waiting to hear from Highways whether permission is required for the work on Park Hayes grass area.

**171/22 Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered**

**(a) 2022/0118/HSE** – Removal of 8ft hedgerow and erection of new 2 metre fence panels and gate (retrospective) **Update** Leigh on Mendip Parish Council recommended approval as it would not have any significant impact on the neighbouring properties. In the context of the boundaries to the neighbouring properties and as the fence would not have any significant impact on the neighbouring properties.

- (b) **2022/0298/FUL** Fire Risk Assessment works to include the installation of a fire door to the first-floor corridor, replace the existing window within bedroom 1 with a new window, reinstate a gate within beer garden, adapt existing doors to form a new escape route through a store room and onto the main road and installation of a fire door and an existing aperture blocked up to give 30 minutes fire resistance. Bell Inn, Leigh Street, Leigh on Mendip **Update** Leigh on Mendip Parish Council recommended approval as the proposals did not impact on the historic fabric, were low key alterations and would not have any significant impact on the neighbouring properties.
- (c) **2022/0299/LBC** Fire Risk Assessment works to include the installation of a fire door to the first-floor corridor, replace the existing window within bedroom 1 with a new window, reinstate a gate within beer garden, adapt existing doors to form a new escape route through a store room and onto the main road and installation of a fire door and an existing aperture blocked up to give 30 minutes fire resistance. Bell Inn, Leigh Street, Leigh on Mendip **Update** Leigh on Mendip Parish Council recommended approval as the proposals did not impact on the historic fabric, were low key alterations and would not have any significant impact on the neighbouring properties

**172/22 Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Mendip District Council and Being Monitored**

Due to the number being monitored, these have been included in a separate supporting document.

These were discussed and will be updated next month

**173/22 To Be Resolved / Discussed**

**(a) Proposal to appoint Noelle Leigh as the Parish Council Tree Officer**

Discussions are still ongoing; this was deferred to the next meeting.

**(b) Discussion and updates from Cllrs Estelle Kirby and Vicki Taylor following the Jubilee planning meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March.**

Various events are being held of the Jubilee weekend, these will be well advertised within the village on the website, Facebook, Lampposts and the Notice Boards. A leaflet will also be printed, this will be delivered to all residents in the village.

**(c) Proposal to accept the quotes for the installation of a new bench at Park Haynes for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Estelle Kirby has looked at prices for wooden benches and they vary between £250 and £300.**

Approximately £300 has been earmarked for the purchase of a Jubilee bench, ideas and styles are still being researched, this will be brought back to the next meeting.

**(d) Discussion on the update from Cllr Paula Free on whether a contractor has been invited to quote for the work required on the churchyard walls.**

This was deferred to the next meeting.

**(e) Proposal to accept the quote for the annual contract for the grass cutting of the Churchyard, Cemetery and the land east of the memorial hall.**

Price comparisons were sent to the Councillors prior to the meeting, Cllr Vicki Taylor proposed Company A be awarded the annual contract, this was seconded by Cllr Iain Kirby. The Council **RESOLVED** to award Idverde (Company A) the annual contract for the grass cutting of the Churchyard, Cemetery and the land east of the memorial hall for an annual cost of £1135.31 + VAT.

**(f) Discussion on the items and format for the Annual Newsletter.**

Cllr Dave Mattick had sent a draft proposal to Councillors prior to the meeting, this was briefly discussed and ideas will be confirmed by email. The final copy will be approved at the next meeting.

**(g) Proposal to amend the contact details for the NS&I Bank Account**

This was deferred until after the Local Elections.

**(h) Proposal to have a regular posting on the village Facebook to promote the Village Design Statement and key topics**

The Council **RESOLVED** to have a regular posting on the Village Facebook Page to promote the Village Design Statement and other key topics. Cllr Paula Freeland will write the first article.

174/22

**Clerk's Report**

- (a)** The Parish Council is still waiting to hear from District Councillor Alan Townsend on why the approval of reserved matters are not publicly available on the Mendip District Council website.
- (b)** No further news has yet been received as to the status of the grant application to Hanson. Tarmac have confirmed that the first Halecombe Quarry Community Fund Meeting is being held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022, this meeting has now been deferred until the 30<sup>th</sup> March.
- (c)** Cllr Iain Kirby has started work on the Parish Council Emergency Plan; this will be brought to the Council as a draft copy once completed.
- (d)** A meeting was held between Cllrs Dave Mattick, Estelle Kirby and the new Burial Clerk to discuss the various issues. Funeral Directors will be contacted with the new contact details and once the paperwork has been sorted several items may need to be purchased but this will be brought back to the Council at a later date.
- (e)** The Parish Council are still awaiting information from the police about the parked cars. Once information has been received, notices will be issued.

175/22

**Finance**

**Bank Balances as at: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**Current Account £9,286.55**

**Reserve Account 9,573.99**

**Approval of Financial Report and Cash Book**

The Council **RESOLVED** the approval of the Financial Report and Cash Book

**Receipts**

**(a)** Mells Park Trust - £2,000.00

**Payments**

**(b)** Clerks Salary – February - £293.76

**(c)** Idverde - £101.12

**(d)** Bruton Tree Care Ltd - £270.00

**(e)** Unity Trust Bank – opening of new account - £500.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the above payments and receipts.

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### **Councillor Reports**

**(a) PCSO**

There are no new issues to report

**(b) Footpaths**

There are no new issues to report

**(c) Rangers**

There are no new issues to report

**(d) Highways**

There are no new issues to report

**(e) Recreation Field**

There are no new issues to report

**(f) Quarry**

There are no new issues to report

**(g) Allotment Association**

Spring work has started and the annual rent of £2 is due to the Parish Council

**(h) Cemetery**

The issues were discussed under item 174d/22

**(i) Memorial Hall**

The hall is now fully functional after being decorated. A new music system is going to be installed with a hearing loop.

**(j) School**

There have been staff changes within the school and the Chair of Governors has decided to stand down.

177/22

### **Correspondence**

**(a)** Whatley and Westdown Community Liaison Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March – forwarded 25.2.22, Whatley and Westdown Community Liaison Meeting is now an in-person meeting – forwarded 01.03.22, Whatley and Westdown Community Liaison Meeting was cancelled and has now been rescheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March – forwarded 03.03.22

**(b)** Mendip Parish Forum – 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm via Teams – forwarded 03.03.22

**(c)** Letter from Mendip District Council to advise the Parish Council that the planning application 2021/2649/FUL will be considered by the Planning Board on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – forwarded 08.03.22

**(d)** LGR Advisory Board Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> March is being held at Stoke St Gregory – forwarded 10.03.22

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### **Matters to report / items for next agenda**

**(a)** Nomination papers are now available for the Unitary and Local Elections. If anyone is interested in representing the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk.

**(b)** The server currently hosting the website is due to be closed down as soon as possible, a discussion was held regarding moving the website to a different provider. The Council **RESOLVED** to build a new Village/Parish Council Website using WordPress, this will be hosted by IONOS for an annual cost of £12 for the first year and then £96 the following year. This was proposed by Cllr Iain Kirby and seconded by Cllr Paula Freeland. The Council also **RESOLVED** to pay the Parish Clerk up to an additional 10 hours for the additional work involved. This was proposed by Cllr Estelle Kirby and seconded by Cllr Vicki Taylor. The Parish Clerk will work with the webmaster of the website to transfer all the items across. These decisions will be ratified at the next meeting due to this being an urgent item.

179/22

**Date and time of next meeting: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in the Memorial Hall**  
Meeting Closed 9.19pm