

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 19th December 2022

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

Also in attendance: Kate Egan (Clerk)

Items were taken out of order from the agenda

1 Public Forum

There were four members of the public in attendance. The subjects mentioned were the planning application 2022/2363/FUL (item 11(b), vehicles being driven on the pavements and training for Councillors (item 11(d)).

2 Welcome by the Chairman

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

3 Apologies for absence

Cllr Neil Crump sent apologies, these were received during the meeting

4 Absent

No Councillors were absent

5 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

There were no declarations of interests or requests for dispensations

6 County and District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Alan Townsend sent his apologies but had sent his report prior to the meeting, this is attached as Appendix B.

County Councillor Philip Ham sent his apologies.

County Councillor Barry Clarke was in attendance and gave a verbal report on the bus recovery scheme, improvements at Castle Cary Station, Council tax reduction scheme, cost of living grants, changes to voting at elections, LCN's, how Planning and Licensing will be run under the Unitary Council and devolution of services down to Parish Councils.

7 To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st November, previously circulated.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st November be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

8 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda

(a) Further to the decision to purchase gift for the Rangers, the agreement was to spend £50.00 but with discounts the total cost only came to £36.00

(b) A card was sent by the Chair of the Council to the artist kindly thanking him for the gift of the picture which will be hung in the Memorial Hall.

(c) The village rangers will be the main contact point in removing the plastic strips from trees around the Quarry.

(d) A card was received from a recently retired Parish Councillor thanking the Council for the lunch held in his honour.

- 9 Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered**
- (b) [2022/2363/FUL](#) Erection of 1 no. 2 bed bungalow. 11 Park Hayes, Leigh on Mendip. **Update** The Parish Council recommended the decision be left to the Planning Officer but pointing out concerns regarding Highways.
- (a) [2022/2289/HSE](#) – Erection of integral garage and relocation of front door and bedroom. Raglan, Leigh Street, Leigh on Mendip. **Update** The Parish Council recommended the decision be left to the Planning Officer but to note there are also concerns re the frontage.
- 10 Planning Applications – Responses to be noted from Mendip District Council**
- (a) [2022/0118/HSE](#) Removal of 8ft hedgerow and erection of new 2 metre fence panels and gate (Retrospective). 4 Park Hayes, Leigh on Mendip. **Update** Mendip District Council have granted approval
- (b) To be noted, planning applications still awaiting a decision by Mendip District Council – Appendix A.
- 11 To Be Resolved / Discussion**
- (a) **Discussion on the terminology used within the report from the Appeal so all Councillors understand it fully. Questions were asked to be sent prior to the meeting.**
This was deferred to the next meeting as no questions had been submitted prior to the meeting.
- (d) **Proposal for the whole Parish Council to attend training on Declaration of Interests.**
The Council discussed various options and it was **RESOLVED** that all Councillors would attend the virtual Code of Conduct Training on 9th February. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact SALC to book places.
- (b) **Proposal for the Parish Council to proceed with a pre-application for renewing the planning permission for the new Cemetery or proceed with a planning application including a Tier 1 Risk Assessment**
This was discussed and it was agreed to start the process of re-applying for planning permission but a Tier 1 Risk Assessment will be required first. Quotes will be obtained and this will be brought back to the next meeting. Cllr Estelle Kirby will also contact Grave Diggers and ask if they could investigate the depth of the ground that would be available for burials.
- (c) **Proposal for the Parish Council to create a Parish Council Facebook Page, where Parish Council items will be posted, these will then be shared to the Village Facebook Page.**
This was deferred to the next meeting.
- (e) **Proposal for the Parish Council to match fund the £5,000 grant from Halecombe Quarry to the Recreational Field, an extra £500 is required.**
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve an extra £500 to the Recreational Field Management Committee for the purchase of the Trim Trail. Upon approval the decision was also made to place the order with Sutcliffe Play. It was noted that there is a 10–12-week lead time.
- (f) **Proposal to set up a Community Speed watch Team within the village**
This was discussed and Cllr Martin Carter will follow up and bring back to the next meeting.

Cllr Paula Freeland left the meeting at 9.07pm

(g) Proposal to approve the annual budget for 2023-2024 and to approve the annual precept to be applied for.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the annual budget for 2023-2024 with the deficit to come out of reserves. The Council also **RESOLVED** the annual precept with a 5% increase.

12 Policies

(a) Adoption of the Parish Council Social Media Policy.

(b) Appointment of the Parish Council Moderator for Social Media

These items were deferred to the next meeting.

13 Clerk's / Councillors Report

(a) Update from Cllr Neil Crump on discussion with Halecombe Quarry regarding creating parking spaces at Park Hayes. **Update** Cllr Neil Crump was not in attendance so no update was available.

(b) Due to the stepping down of the Parish Path Liaison Officer, one is required within the Parish, if anyone is interested, please contact the Clerk for further information.

Update Chris Cudmore has very kindly offered to be the Parish Path Liaison Officer.

(c) Following the resignation of Dave Mattick as a Parish Councillor the Parish Council are now able to proceed down the co-option route. If anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk.

(d) Update from the Parish Tree Advisor on the trees on Park Hayes and any further actions that may need to be carried out. **Update** No update had been received

(e) Update from Cllr Iain Kirby on the Local Community Networks (LCN's), a report on response to the consultation was sent out as part of the supporting papers. **Update** Cllr Ian Kirby gave a verbal report, the LCN's have not yet been decided and it was disappointing to read the consultation analysis that all the local hard work had been ignored.

(f) The gift of the picture has been added to the insurance policy at zero cost as there is less than six months to run on the policy.

14 Finance

Bank Balances as at: 12th December 2022

Current Account £13,354.79

Please note the payments approved at the previous meeting are still awaiting authorisation (total of £447.37, amount remaining £12,917.02)

Reserve Account £9,574.95

Receipts

Payments

(a) Christmas Gifts for the Rangers - £36.00

(b) Purchase of Ink - £17.85

(c) Ionos – Website Hosting - £4.80 – pd by DD 25.11.2022

(d) Clerks Salary – November, Burial Clerk and Backpay to 1st April - £486.52

(e) HMRC – November - £35.20

(f) Idverde – Grass Cutting - £113.53

(g) Memorial Hall – Hall Hire - £42.00

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the above payments.

15 Councillor Reports

(a) Cllr Martin Carter reported that the road markings at Tadhil have been reported again to Highways

16 Correspondence to be noted

- (a) Invitation to a Councillor Forum being held by Avon and Somerset Police on 6th December at Croscombe Village Hall starting at 5pm – forwarded 01.12.22
- (b) December Bulletin from Somerset County Council – forwarded 05.12.22
- (c) Latest Issue of Community Matters Newsletter from Whatley Quarry – forwarded 08.12.22

17 Matters to report / items for next agenda

There were no matters to report

18 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 16th January 2023 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

APPENDIX A

Planning Applications – Applications not having yet had a decision made by Mendip District Council

- (a) **2022/1603/FUL** Erection of 3no. dwelling houses. Land South of Apple Meadow View, Park Hayes, Leigh on Mendip
- (b) **2022/0053/OTS** Application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved for the erection of 3 no. dwellings with details of access. Corner Cottage, Quarry Lane, Leigh on Mendip
- (c) **2021/2121/FUL** Creation of external storage area with erection of shed and installation of two shipping containers (Retention of works already started). Land at 370558 147315 Quarry Lane to Somers Hill, Leigh on Mendip
- (d) **2022/1007/FUL** Demolition of existing barn and erection of holiday let. Annexe, Long Cottage, Tadhil Lane, Stoke St Michael
- (e) **2022/1855/REM** Application of reserved matters following outline planning consent 2022/1019/OUT for the erection of a single dwelling and associated access. Matters of access/appearance/landscaping/layout/scale to be determined. Land at 368840 147202 Park Hayes, Leigh on Mendip.

APPENDIX B

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to “lack of substantive business” we have been advised that the Full Council meeting scheduled for 19 th December has been cancelled. And we have now been advised that the Cabinet Meeting scheduled for 9 th January has also been cancelled for the same reason.

PLANNING

2022/1603/FUL, 3 houses south of AMV – The Chair of the Planning Board agreed that this should be referred to the Board for a decision. Saxonvale – Last weeks Planning Board finally gave approval to the Mayday Saxonvale application subject to agreement of a major raft of conditions which will not be easily resolved. Many fear that the site will remain derelict for years to come.

Planning Policy – The Government announcement that nationally imposed housing targets are to become ‘advisory’ rather than ‘mandatory’ has yet to be translated into Local Plans. This means that speculative development may still be approved. The status of the Local Plan has been further eroded by the Judicial Review decision last week that the allocation of the additional 505 dwellings in the north east of the District had been incorrectly managed by both Mendip and the Examining Inspector. We await clarification from Mendip of the effects on the Local Plan and the costs incurred.

SCRUTINY

The November Board meeting reviewed the debrief from this year’s Glastonbury Festival. The main concern expressed by local residents was about noise nuisance outside permitted hours. Although Mendip are the Licensor they considered that any drug concerns were matters for the police. The other major issue was crowd control and the experiences of people who had been swept about by mass movements of humanity.