

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 15th July, 2024

Present: Cllrs Iain Kirby (Vice-Chair), Estelle Kirby, Paula Freeland

Attending: Cllrs Barry Clarke, Philip Ham (Somerset Council); Joe McGhee (Clerk).

1 Welcome by the Vice-Chairman

Cllr I Kirby welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllrs Vicki Taylor, Sue Sweet

3 Absent

None.

4 (a) To receive declaration of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda

None.

(b) To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests

Cllr Vicki Taylor has an approved request for dispensation in relation to Leigh On Mendip Memorial Hall until June 2027.

(c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

5 County Councillor Reports

Cllr Clarke delivered a verbal report.

It has been a quiet month, mainly due to the general election.

The council has a large waste disposal contract with Suez who have requested an additional £47M over the next six years, putting considerable financial pressure on the council. There are an additional fifteen other similar contracts to be managed by the council.

A new interim financial officer has been appointed.

A flooding workshop is to be organised for a date in August; Cllr Clarke will advise. A number of farmers have expressed interest because of issues with runoff contributing to flooding.

The council is having a problem in general with staffing, including the appointment of a permanent S151 (Chief Financial) officer.

6 Public Session

No members of the public were present.

7 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

None.

8 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th June, 2024, previously circulated (Attachment 1)

Resolved. Approved.

9 Matters arising from the minutes but not on the agenda.

None.

10 Planning Applications – If other planning applications are received between the date of this notice and the date of the meeting, they may be considered.

None.

11 Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted from Somerset Council

(a) 2024/0649/HSE

Erection of double carport and garden shed.

Thrice Barn, Leigh Street, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA3 5QP

Decision. Approval.

(b) 2024/0836/HSE

Proposed detached garage.

13 Apple Meadow View, Park Hayes, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5GP

Decision. Approval.

(c) 2024/0841/HSE

Erection of a single storey rear extension

2 Westleigh, Towns End Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset BA3 5QT

Decision. Approval.

12 Finance

(a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation to 07 Jul 2024 (Attachment 2)

Resolved. Approved.

(b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 10 Jun 2024 to 07 Jul 2024 (Attachment 3).

Resolved. Approved.

(c) To approve (or not) Budget Review at 30 Jun 2024 (Attachment 4).

Resolved. Approved.

13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

The Clerk spoke to expand on one item, the first, on the report.

(a) Another discussion was necessary with NS&I on the council's investment account with them. Clerk will give verbal update at the meeting.

After a lengthy discussion with an NS&I agent, following their confused interpretation of a withdrawal request for a request to change the name on the account, the Clerk was advised to simply send in a covering letter with supporting documentation, signed by all current signatories (Cllrs Taylor and I Kirby along with the Clerk), to request that the account be closed and the balance transferred to the council's Unity Trust current account. This has been drafted and will be signed and sent off so that, hopefully, by the time of the next meeting the requested actions have been carried out by NS&I.

(b) Comments applied at Somerset Council planning via the planning officer for application 2024/0841/HSE.

(c) The Shepton Local Community Network Yearly Report was published on the website.

(d) Notice of road closure affecting Park Hayes posted to website.

(e) Signed volunteer form received from M Carter.

(f) Cllr Taylor wrote to the Recreation Field and Memorial Hall Committees with a proposal to merge their annual meetings with that of the Parish Council. They are considering their responses.

(g) Chris Cudmore provided the following updates:

Parish Paths Liaison Officer -

- Four new kissing gates and two "2in1" gates have now been installed to replace stiles by Somerset Council on the footpath from Leigh Street to Old Wells Road/Blackers Lane.

Several thanks received from parishioners.

- Tarmac have spoken to a contractor regarding the clearance of the public footpath to the south of Halecombe Quarry.

- Two footpath issues have been raised due to long grass. This is not a valid issue. Both fields have now been cut.

LoMe Rangers -

- A team of Rangers met to trim and clear areas of the village on 21st June.

- Thanks to Chris Ingrem for repainting the village stone signs and fingerposts.

14 To Be Discussed / Resolved

(a) Update on application for the new cemetery: ecology report; discussion with neighbour. (Cllr E Kirby).

The ecology report is expected shortly; the planning officer is being kept informed.

Cllr E Kirby requested approval for a fee no greater than £300 from the new cemetery budget allocation to pay for the ecology report. **Resolved.** Approved.

The neighbour who requested has been assured with regard to how the plans will impact access; Cllr E Kirby will be meeting him to discuss.

(b) Community Plan update, including notice board. (Cllr, Sweet).

Continued.

(c) Welcome Booklet; Action Plan. (Cllr Sweet).

Continued.

(d) Clarification of need for annual meeting with Memorial Hall Committee. (Cllr Taylor).

Cllr Taylor had forwarded an explanatory note on the role of trustees which clarified the role of custodian trustee. As custodian trustee of the Memorial Hall the Council has no role in its management and so an annual meeting is not required.

(e) Forward planning. (Cllr I Kirby).

Cllr I Kirby continues to collate information; a draft forward plan will be presented to the September meeting.

(f) Mendip Local Plan Part II.

No comment required from the Parish Council.

(g) Better Buses for Somerset.

Cllr I Kirby will liaise with Cllr Sweet to respond to a request from Better Buses for Somerset for feedback; the response will be based on feedback obtained during the development of the Community Plan.

(h) Purchase of additional Speedwatch sign.

A request was received for the Council to purchase an additional Speedwatch sign.

Resolved. Approved. The Clerk will order and liaise with M Carter re delivery and installation.

(i) PCSO W Mortimer – crime reports.

The Clerk will in future send these reports as a PDF to ensure councillors can view them.

15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.

None.

16 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 16th September, 2024 in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.00pm.

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions; Equal opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.