

LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Memorial Hall on Monday 21st October, 2024

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

Attending: Joe McGhee (Clerk); Tom Kemp (Tree Officer); 2 members of the public.

1 Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Barry Clarke (Somerset Council).

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 Public Session

There were no remarks from the public at this point.

6 County Councillor Reports

There was no county councillor report at the meeting, but Cllr Clarke had previously sent an update by email which was noted with no further comment.

7 Monthly update from Tom Kemp – Parish Tree Officer

Cllr E Kirby asked TK to assess certain trees in the vicinity of the Memorial Hall because they seem to have a number of damaged/drooping branches and may represent a safety risk. TK will assess and advise.

He also provided updates later in the agenda (items 14, (f) and (g)).

8 To confirm the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16th September, 2024, previously circulated (Attachment 1)

Resolved. Confirmed.

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.**(a) 2024/1635/HSE**

Erection of single-storey side and rear extension and porch to new entrance.

Sugar Bush Cottage, Leigh Street, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

The applicant, Roz Beckett, was present. She spoke briefly to the application and answered several questions.

The council considered the application from the points of view of design/materials, highways/road safety impact and amenity. The consensus was that the design, appearance and materials are in keeping with the area, there is no impact in terms of highway and road safety, and no significant impact in terms of amenity for neighbours. Cllr Freeland proposed recommending that the application be approved; Cllr E Kirby seconded; council unanimously voted to so recommend. Clerk to apply appropriate comments.

11 Planning Applications – Decisions to be noted from Somerset Council

(a) 2024/1100/APP

Application for approval of details reserved by condition 5 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) on planning consent 2024/0279/FUL

Great House Farm, Hollybush Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA3 5QZ

Decision. Approval.

(b) 2024/1375/HSE

Erection of detached garage.

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

Decision. Approval.

(c) 2024/1347/APP

Approval of details reserved by conditions 4 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan) on planning consent 2024/0279/FUL (Operational development relating to proposed flood alleviation scheme)

Great House Farm, Hollybush Lane, Leigh On Mendip, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA3 5QZ.

Decision. Approval.

(d) 2024/0891/FUL

Change of use of land to a cemetery (Resubmission of 2017/0326/FUL)

Land at 369224 147302 Bellfield, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset

Decision. Approval.

(e) 2024/1125/FUL

Barn conversion to a new dwellinghouse.

Barn at Knaphill Farm, Knap Hill, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset.

Decision. Approval.

(f) 2024/1421/VRC

Variation of condition 2 (Plans List) on consent 2023/0375/FUL (Change of use to commercial livery and erection of new stable building and associated facilities.)

land at 368354 147875, Pitten Street, Leigh On Mendip, Radstock, Somerset.

Decision. Approval.

12 Finance

(a) To approve (or not) bank reconciliation to 14 Oct 2024 (Attachment 2)

Resolved. Approved.

(b) To approve (or not) receipts and payments as identified in the Cashflow 10 Sep 2024 to 14 Oct 2024 (Attachment 3).

Resolved. Approved.

(c) To approve (or not) budget review at 30 Sep 2024 (Attachment 4).

Resolved. Approved.

13 Clerk's / Councillors' Report

(a) NS&I update. NS&I will send form for an update to confirm BACS information and allow funds to be transferred from the council's investment account with them to its current account with Unity Trust Bank.

(b) Additional inscription added to memorial on ashes plot in cemetery.

(c) Clerk booked on Code of Conduct training in November.

(d) Email received from J Hudson on a recent planning application and forwarded to councillors.

(e) Invitation posted for people to become involved as volunteers for Somerset Sight.

(f) Crime figures from PCSO sent on and "meet and greet" in the Bell in from 17:00 to 18:00 on Wednesday, 23rd October, advertised on Facebook pages.

- (g) Clerk attended a Parish Online webinar about the import of Somerset Council (former district councils) databases to assist with management of devolution of assets and services.
- (h) Links posted on usual channels to encourage people to report potholes at the Somerset Council website.
- (i) Email sent to Andrew Turner at Somerset Council expressing interest in volunteer training and asking to be kept informed.
- (j) The slide pack from the Shepton LCN Emergency Planning Workshop has been forwarded to councillors.

14 To Be Discussed / Resolved

(a) Cemetery development – next steps

Cllr E Kirby advised that the planning application for the new cemetery had been approved. She also advised that at a recent Whatley Quarry meeting a donation to help purchase new benches for cemetery was confirmed, from Heidelberg Materials. The Clerk is to send an invoice for £600 to Samantha Stagg of James Reed Public Relations. Cllr E Kirby will identify appropriate benches. The benches will have an inscription/sign mentioning the donation. Cllr Sweet agreed to take delivery of the benches and store them until installation.

A larger sign will be produced for the cemetery itself.

Cllr E Kirby will also liaise with Claire Haskins re the path from the church to the new cemetery.

Cllr Taylor will liaise with Simon James re new posts for the cemetery gates.

(b) Updates from Cllrs Sweet/Taylor:

- Community Review Action Plan (Attachment 5)

Cllrs Taylor and Sweet gave a short verbal report on actions completed and a number of further questions to be put to parishioners and reported on by January; Cllrs Taylor and Sweet will send an email to the other councillors inviting input on this topic.

- Men's café/shed/repair shop

Cllr Taylor has learned of a group of people going to different parishes to offer a repair shop service. She will look to find out more about the group and how it operates.

It was agreed that it is more appropriate to refer to a repair shop than a "men's shed"

- Community notice board

The publican of the Bell Inn, who is also a joiner, has offered to implement a community notice board. It will replace the existing board on the wall of the Inn and be moved round the corner. Council resolved unanimously to provide £200 towards the costs. Cllr Taylor will liaise with the publican on this initiative.

- Welcome booklet

Cllr Sweet is liaising with Chris Cudmore on the update of the welcome booklet. CC is developing a welcome guide to go on the website. Cllr Sweet invited comments/suggestions from councillors on the content of the guide.

- Community transport

Cllr Sweet provided a sheet of information on Mendip Community Transport, and mentioned a volunteer system in place for hospital appointments. Consideration will be given to including information on this in the welcome guide and publicising on Facebook. Cllr Sweet will update the action plan to include this.

Cllr Taylor pointed out that there is now a formal point of contact for the parish council at Mendip County Practice – the head of reception, Vicky Wickham.

- Unity Trust admin/signatories/approvers.

Clerk to clarify access and update – remove legacy access, implement admin access for himself, ensure at least two approvers and signatories.

(c) Quarries report**- Halecombe Quarry**

Cllrs Taylor and Sweet attended the recent meeting and provided an update. The meeting was constructive. Halecombe has a new Site Manager, Luke Wilson. The footpath round the quarry has been renovated, and the same will be done for the path to Great House Farm in the spring. Cllr E Kirby requested clarity on signage for the new quarry exist (for safety reasons); Cllr I Kirby will liaise with Luke Wilson on this.

- Whatley Quarry

Cllr I Kirby provided an update. Meters have been installed in houses in Chantry, Whatley and Mells, which monitor blasts and provide feedback, allowing public relations staff to provide reports on the impact of blasting on local properties.

Production volumes are ahead of target; they aim to reduce stock held. 80% of material is moved by train; 20% by lorry. Westdown will start production in 2026. An electric train is being trialled for transporting stock.

(d) Grit bin replacement

Clerk to check size of damaged bin and obtain quote for a replacement.

(e) Communication with Willmotts re light pollution (T Kemp, Cllr Taylor)

TK read out a draft text he has produced which he will forward to Cllr Taylor so that she can communicate on behalf of the council with Willmotts.

(f) Clarification of areas maintained by Idverde for Somerset Council (Attachment 6)

TK has produced a diagram showing the key areas and sizes of land maintained in Leigh On Mendip. This was noted as useful and will be held for future reference, but not further work is necessary at this point. TK was thanked for his efforts on this.

(g) Community Emergency Plan (Cllr Taylor – Attachment 7)

Cllr Taylor produced a sheet of points on possible emergencies to be addressed and methods for doing so; councillors to consider and discuss at the next meeting.

(h) Update on response to PCC consultation (Cllr Taylor)

Cllr Taylor has sent an email offering parish council support for the new vicar.

(i) Update on Speedwatch training (Cllr Freeland)

Cllr Freeland will undertake training when available.

(j) Collation of comments on bus timetable (Cllr Kirby)

Cllr I Kirby has sent on comments on behalf of the council to Better Buses for Somerset.

15 Matters to report / items for next agenda.

- Emergency Plan
- Forward plan
- LCN update

16 Date and time of next meeting: Monday 18th November, 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.