

Musbury Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 31st July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room where the following business was conducted.

Present: Cllr Colin Corbett (Chair), Cllr Matt Craker (Vice) Cllr Peter Perryman, Cllr Ian Hall, Cllr Chubb, Mrs S Coombe (Clerk) & 13 Parishioners

13/23 APOLOGIES – No apologies received.

14/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Monday 19th June 2023 were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

15/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Declarations of interest were received from Cllr Corbett reference the planning application at 18/23 & Cllr Craker reference Village Hall Internet Supply.

16/23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

- a. Co-option – Andrew Moulding agreed to be co-opted on to the Council. This was proposed by Cllr Corbett & seconded by Cllr Perryman – Action: Cllr Moulding to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office & Register of Interest.
- b. Spending Review 1st Quarter – The Clerk shared the year to date spending progress against budget.
- c. Chairs Allowance – The chair asked for an allowance for small incidental expenses. All councillors agreed to implement an allowance of £100.

17/23 ACCOUNTS

- a. The following transactions were presented for approval, they were duly approved, proposed by Cllr Perryman and seconded by Cllr Craker

Musbury Village Hall	Hall Hire	£20.00
BRB Carpentry	Maint - PF	£108.00
S Coombe	SLCC Fee	£73.00
SWW	Allotment Water	£151.45
S Coombe	Clerks Salary – July	£285.00
HMRC	PAYE - July	£71.20

- b. Monthly Treasurers Accounts - The Clerk presented June & July 2023 Treasurer's Statements. These were reviewed by the Chair and Councillors, reconciled with the corresponding bank statements and duly approved. The following June payments were included in these statements

A J Gallagher	Insurance	£559.73
Acres Overland Ltd	Install 2 Footsteps	£237.17
Martin Minter	Internal Audit	£50.00
Clerk Salary	May & Jun	£570.00
Clerk PAYE	May & Jun	£142.60
Musbury Village Hall	Hall Hire	£20.00

18/23 PLANNING - 23/1471/FUL – Sellerswood Farm, Combpyne Road, Musbury, Devon – Replacement of thatch roof with slates, loft conversion, construction of half hip to gable extension & construction of 3 new dormers. **Action: Clerk to comment via portal that there were No Objections**

19/23 HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC SPACES

- a. Allotments – Councillors agreed despite the annual rent for the allotments being extremely cheap that with the current cost of living crisis to keep the amount the same as the previous year. **ACTION: Cllr Corbett to check allotments for return of deposits.**

b. Playing Fields – There is enough money in the Regeneration Fund for work to commence & councillors agreed to a quote from playground specialists SNC Southwest Ltd to carry out the resurfacing work & supply & install a steel basket swing, the quote from this company will also mean less community participation prior to the work being carried out. The revised quote with a slight price increase has come in at £15,395.00 plus VAT which can be claimed back by the PC.

20/23 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr I Chubb - There are currently a couple of 2 & 3 bedroom show homes at Heathpark that have been constructed using carbon neutral materials featuring solar panels, heat pumps & triple glazing, all these will reduce running costs for occupants so will be good if East Devon could roll out new modular housing. There are repair cafes in Axminster, Exmouth, Honiton & Sidmouth where you can take items to be fixed instead of disposing of them. There is a new agenda for water refill stations, there is an app for your phone to show where you can refill water bottles to limit plastic pollution. He reminded residents of the East Devon App which is informative for things like waste collections, recycling, food hygiene ratings for eateries & planning applications close to your location. He also asked residents to voice their opinions if they are unhappy about the countrywide closure of Train station ticket offices.

A member of the public asked about the mobile library service but Cllr Chubb reported that unfortunately no decisions have been made about this.

Cllr Moulding asked if East Devon are making any progress with trying to resolve the issues regarding building new dwellings due to the phosphate problem. Cllr Chubb said he's not aware of anything but there needs to be some movement regarding it in the near future.

Cllr Craker asked if there had been any outcome relating to the investigation into the investigation regarding the Alderman in Exmouth that had cost £53,000.00. There was no real verdict as nothing could be proven so turned out to be an expensive exercise.

Cllr I Hall - welcomed our new councillor to his role. He then followed on by speaking about the costly investigation & added about the safeguarding of our young people. Controls need to be put in place so that this doesn't happen again. To make it clear this administration have refused time & time again to have DBS checks to ensure that they are fit for purpose as councillors to make these decisions & ensure there are no wrong'uns within council, whether that be Parish, District or County. County introduced them around 2018 because they need to set the standards & we need to have confidence in our elected members. He is of the understanding that when the discussion about DBS was brought up at the last district meeting it was shut down immediately by the new chair without debate regarding controls to protect our young people moving forward & that just isn't right & there needs to be more questions going forward.

Cllr Hall spoke about the phosphate issue & the library service that had been mentioned previously & mentioned No toy left behind, which is based at Pippins Community Centre in Axminster where they recycle, swap & exchange toys. He reiterated a few points from his latest report & finished in praising the work & great community effort with the playing field regeneration project.

Cllr Moulding asked about the issue with pot holes. Cllr Hall said they are reducing the number of potholes slowly but unless they can make internal cost savings elsewhere there will be no improvement in the short to medium term as no money is forthcoming.

21/23 POLICE MATTERS – No report received

Cllr's Chubb, Hall, & Craker attended a recent police meeting. The inspector & his direct sergeant for this area are very proactive & they reiterate that any issues need to be reported via the correct channels however there has been no clarification yet as to what that is! If we do not report incidents, they will not put in the resources to tackle the problems. An e mail address would be ideal as the Devon & Cornwall police website is very difficult to navigate. They had a huge campaign across the district, out on foot patrol & with their speed gun, there has been a massive police presence. They are being very pro-active & are listening to concerns. Next meeting is in October in Seaton.

22/23 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN

- a. Cllr Perryman said they are looking to put broadband into the village hall & have approached the parish council to help with funds. They have also applied to EDDC for a grant to get 16 solar panels put on to the hall with 2 batteries. He will also be calling a meeting on Monday 7th August to discuss ideas for a village scarecrow for 2024.
- b. A member of the public reported that the pavement is overgrown from the bottom allotment gate to Maidenhayne Lane. Action: Clerk to send location from What3Words to Cllr hall for action. He also brought up about the parking on the yellow lines by the garage, it is obstructing the view at the junction of vehicles travelling often at speed along Marlborough Road & will soon cause an accident. Parking on the flag pole green is also an issue.
- c. There was a query as to why the scaffolding at Baxters Farm is still there. The drinking troughs in the road are also an issue as they are on the public highway. There was a query re the end date for which the current permit runs.
- d. There was a query as to whether the Parish Council had received their P3 grant for the current financial year as it is usually paid in April. The clerk said that as yet she hadn't received anything & would look into it.

23/23 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS - There were no questions from parishioners.

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

The proposed date for the next meeting: Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

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Chairman
11th September 2023

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Date

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Clerk
11th September 2023

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Date