

Musbury Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held Monday 19th June 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, Mrs S Coombe (Clerk) & 6 Parishioners

- 1 **APOLOGIES** - No apologies were received.
- 2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING held Monday 20th March 2023** were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.
- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - No declarations of interest were received.
- 4 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ISSUES - AGAR**
 - 4.1 **Internal Auditor's Report** - Approved
 - 4.2 **Annual Governance Statement** - Approved and duly signed
 - 4.3 **Annual Accounting Statement** - Approved and duly signed
 - 4.4 **Exemption** - Councillors certified that MPC will be exempt from a limited assurance review. **ACTION: Clerk to send the certificate to PFK**
 - 4.5 **Exercise of Public Rights** - Date set 26th June 2023 to 4th August 2023 for the exercise of public rights. **ACTION: Clerk to publish all relevant documents on the website.**
 - 4.6 **Co-option** - The Chair stated that Andrew Moulding has agreed to be co-opted on to the Council. **ACTION: The clerk to email Andrew informing him of Co-option. Councillors to continue seeking anyone they know about joining the Council.**
 - 4.7 **Stop Line Cycle Way** - Seaton Chamber of Commerce emailed looking for support with regards a working group in order to promote the National Cycle Route 33 Stop Line Way & associated activity. The council agreed in principle & fully support the idea. **ACTION: Clerk to reply asking the council be kept up to date on progress.**
- 5 **ACCOUNTS**

5.1 The following transactions were presented for approval - they were agreed & proposed by Cllr Perryman and seconded by Cllr Craker

ROSPA 12/4	£102.60	G
DALC Membership 17/4	£159.32	G
A Stark - Maintenance 18/4	£55.00	G
BRB Carpentry 20/4	£589.90	F
Clerk Salary 24/4	£268.78	G
A Parkman - Allotment clearance 25/4	£50.00	A
Clerk PAYE 28/4	£7.60	G
P Rorstad - Noticeboard 12/5	£150.00	G
I Churchill - Grass cutting 18/5	£725.00	G
Village Hall - Rent 24/5	£20.00	G
Clerk Salary 25/5	£268.78	G
Clerk PAYE 30/5	£7.60	G

5.2 Recent Transactions and Balance - The Clerk presented the April & May 2023 Treasurer's Statements. The accounts were reviewed by the Chair and Councillors, reconciled with the corresponding bank statements and duly approved by the Council.

6 **PLANNING**

6.1 23/1145/FUL - Endellion Axminster Road Musbury Devon - Garage conversion with garage door infill & change of roof orientation. **Decision: Approved**

6.2 23/0760/FUL - Longmead Combyne Road Musbury Devon - Erection of front, side & rear extensions & alterations. **Decision: Approved**

6.3 Baxters Farm - The Chair commented that there was nothing to add since the last meeting & that it is definitely looking better than prior to work commencing however there were concerns & comments about the troughs in front the property that are situated on the public highway.

7 **HIGHWAYS & PUBLIC SPACES**

7.1 Playing Fields - The clerk reported that she had received an email saying that sadly someone had graffitied on the play equipment. Many thanks to the working group who cleaned it off. The working group have installed the extra 6 steeping posts and also dealt with the slide bolt threads that needed shortening and capping off, invoice to follow. Cllr Craker also commented that the working group have received quotes for 2 different surfaces & are looking at which will be best from a maintenance point of view.

7.2 Allotments - The clerk reported that an email had been received from the tenants on Plot 8 stating they have cleared the rubbish left from the previous tenant so there was no longer a need for the council to organise clearance. The tenants of Plots 21 & 22a have also requested to relinquish their plots. **ACTION: Cllr Corbett to check allotments for clearance requirements prior to decision for return of deposits.**

8 **P3 FOOTPATHS** - Nothing to report re footpaths however Cllr Corbett is currently speaking with Janet Albano in the hope she will continue her valiant work on our footpaths.

9 **REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

No report received from Cllr Chubb - EDDC

DCC - Cllr I Hall having served a year as chairman of DCC initially expressed his sincere thanks to the parish for the Civic Service held for him on the 30th April 2023. The civic service was held in Musbury parish church, attended by about 140 civic guests, family and friends, and was conducted by the Right Reverend Robert Attwell, Bishop of Exeter. His son Charles gave an address and, Mrs Penny Corbett, a former teacher and wife of the chairman of Musbury Parish Council, delivered a reading of "The Widow's Mite" which Cllr Hall first heard when a pupil at Axminster school in 1976. Tea was served in the Village Hall, courtesy of Jill Vanderwolfe and team. Cllr Hall thanked parish councillor Peter Perryman and the Reverend Steven Martin, Rector of the Holyford Commission, which includes Musbury, for assisting with the arrangements. He thanked all those who had helped him during his term of office. He said it had been humbling to gain more understanding of the great areas of challenge throughout Devon and to witness such wonderful work by volunteers throughout the community in the county. Parish councils, police and community

organisations including Axminster Care Service and ARC were represented at the service as were members of the sporting community in Axminster in which Cllr Hall has been so active.

Cllr Hall apologised that he had not been able to assist Cllr Craker with the disposal of the mats from the play area.

Potholes: As you'll be aware, since the start of the year highways have been faced with an extremely high level of pothole defects across the network, following the prolonged cold and wet weather we experienced over the winter. To put it into context, around 26,500 potholes have been identified and passed to our contractor, Milestone, since January – this is around 8,000/30% more than for the same period last year. January alone saw almost 7,400 potholes identified, the most of any month in over 3 years. Similarly, our inspection team have assessed almost 35,000 reports of potholes from members of the public since January, compared to just over 14,000 last year. To tackle this backlog, teams across the Devon Highways partnership have worked very closely to enable re-prioritisation of resource so that safety critical defects on our highway network could be identified and repaired as effectively as possible. In order to achieve this some of our works programmes required adjusting, with schemes postponed or re-planned to free up available resource. We also had to make the difficult decision to temporarily cease identification and repair of serviceability (i.e. those that don't meet the intervention requirements of our Highway Safety Policy) highway defects, so that the focus could remain on those defects that represented the biggest risk to users of our network. At times, we have had over 40 pothole repair gangs working across the County, along with repairs and inspections taking place during evenings and at weekends. We're pleased to report that, following concerted efforts, the number of potholes currently with Milestone for repair has now stabilised, sitting at around 800 (down from 3000 at its peak in February) and is much more in-line with the sort of volume we'd typically expect for this time of year. On this basis a number of the additionally resourced gangs have now returned to programmed works and we have very recently re-introduced the identification of non-safety defects, as we fully recognise the benefit of acting proactively and repairing these before they worsen and require attention at a later date.

The Chair thanked Cllr Hall for for all the work he has done & continues to do for the community.

10 POLICE MATTERS - No report received

11 MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN

11.1 Fire Hydrants - At a previous meeting there was a query about fire hydrants that had been tarmacked over in the village. The Chair organised for them all to be checked & serviced by the Fire Brigade & reported that no working hydrants had been tarmacked over & all are working well.

11.2 Mountfield Wall/Axminster Road - A MOP queried if the council had any plans to address the state of the Mountfield wall and general neglect of the weeds on Axminster Road? The wall fell down over a year ago and the bird faeces from the nesting rooks above have resulted in excessive weed growth, which is increasing the number of small mammals, bugs and pollen. It is looking like a very neglected part of the village. Even though a road sweeper had attended it made little difference. **Action:** Clerk to write to Josh Dutfield regarding the wall & the weeds & Pest Control at EDDC to report the ongoing problems with nesting rooks.

12 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS

12.1 Canvassing for Councillors - A MOP commented about how another parish had leafleted residents in order to increase the number of councillors, the possibility of some form of e mail bulletin was also discussed and a MOP said they were already compiling a list of emails addresses but said the complexities of GDPR would need to be considered before progressing with this.

There being no further matters for discussion the meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

The proposed date for the next meeting: Monday 24th July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Committee Room.

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Chairman Date

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Clerk Date