

WEST HARPTREE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th November 2021 starting at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr R Ireland (Chairman), Mr P Hutton (Vice-Chairman), Mr G Joyce, Mr J Mitchell, Mr P Wood and Mr D Wood.

APOLOGIES: Mrs R Wakeley.
Mr C Gay did not attend.

No members of the public attended.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record. The minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed for adoption.

Min. 3906 – Matters Arising from the Minutes – None.

Min. 3907 – Urgent Business as agreed by the Chair – None.

Min. 3908 – Correspondence

Please see Appendix 1.

Min. 3909 - Community Infrastructure Levy

Recreation Ground – a revised plan, Option 3, to fence around the play equipment, was presented to the meeting. It was agreed that the scheme would prohibit dogs from the play equipment area and would be more cost effective than the previous suggested option. Contractors would be invited to tender for the work.

Additional signs required to complete the scheme would be costed.

A request to upgrade some of the play equipment was noted and would be addressed at a future date.

Bus Shelter – No response had been received from the Contractor. It would be followed up.

Initials

Min. 3910 – Memorial Hall

The Hall Management Committee were in the process of drawing up Phase 2 of a scheme to improve the upstairs area, using the recently awarded National Lottery Grant.

Current fundraising activities included a craft and book sale and a Christmas Bazaar.

Min. 3911 - Highways

20mph Speed Limit – The public consultation had been delayed, there was concern that the scheme’s funding would be lost if deadlines could not be met. The Ward Councillor assured Councillors that the funding was secure. He agreed to find out the consultation start date, duration and end date. The plan was currently with B&NES waiting to be signed off prior to a public consultation. Councillors would also consult with Parishioners at an open meeting in due course.

Thanks, were extended to the Ward Councillor for his continued support.

The Triangle – The Begonias had been replaced with Wall flowers. These and the existing bulbs would make a colourful show in the Spring. Thanks, were extended to the Volunteers who had carried out the planting.

Other Highways matters – a Pothole in the centre of the carriageway outside the Linney, Bristol Road and, as a result of heavy rain debris had collected outside Crown Cottage and Fernlea, The Street. Both matters had been reported to B&NES for their attention.

Min. 3912 - Recreation Ground

The play equipment was in good order, please see Min. 3909 regarding the fencing.

Min. 3913 – Bus Shelter

Please see Min 3909.

Initials

Min. 3914 – Local Plan Partial Update Consultation

Thanks, were extended to a Councillor who had worked through the many documents and drafted a response. The agreed response was forwarded to B&NES within the extended consultation period.

Min. 3915 – Chew Valley Climate and Nature Emergency

The Nature Emergency and Protection working group had contacted the National Farmers Union as Farmers and Land Owners would have a big say regarding future farming practices.

Min. 3916 – Standing Orders and Planning

ALCA's advice had been taken regarding removing planning matters from the full council meeting to a sub-committee. It was agreed to abandon the aspiration, as to comply with current regulations would entail setting up additional meetings and create more paperwork.

Min. 3917 – Ward Councillor's Report

The Ward Councillor reviewed various points in his recent report, and was thanked for the very useful document. Please see Appendix 2.

Min. 3918 – Planning Matters

Application(s) pending consideration

- a. Planning application 21/0269/FUL, 1 Nine Elms Cottages, Widcombe – Erection of outbuilding and removal of existing sheds and storage container (resubmission).

Notification of decision

- b. Planning application 21/3216/FUL, Crown Inn, The Street – Erection of flat roof single storey extension to the south west elevation to enlarge existing toilet facilities. PERMIT.

Min. 3919 - Finance

To agree the following payment(s):-

Wells Market, Wall flowers	£75.00
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Initials

Min. 3920 – Meetings attended – None.

Min. 3921 – Items for the Information of the Clerk – None.

Min. 3922 - Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting: Monday 13th December 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman

Date Signed

Appendix 1 Min. 3908 – Correspondence

October

1. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 21/04323/FUL, East Harptree.
2. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 42.
3. B&NES – Street Works 12/10/21 – 18/10/21.
4. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 12th October.
5. B&NES – LPPU and SPD Consultations.
6. ALCA – The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Beacons, 2nd June 2022.
7. B&NES – Remembrance Events in Bath.
8. Airspace – Bristol Airport Stage 2 Engagement Presentation.
18. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 26th October.
19. B&NES – Minutes for the Parish Liaison meeting, Wednesday 13th October.
20. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 21/021/04223/TCA and 21/03269/FUL, West Harptree, 21/04333/TCA,
9. B&NES – Parish Liaison, You Tube Link.
10. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 43.
11. B&NES – Street Works 19/10/21 – 25/10/21.
12. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 19th October
13. B&NES, Development Management – 21/03269/FUL, 1 Nine Elms Cottages (Revised application).
14. B&NES – Covid rates increasing.
15. CPRE – AGM.
16. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 44.
17. B&NES – Street Works 26/10/21 – 01/11/21. 21/03990/FUL, 21/03730/FUL, 21/04387/TCA, Compton Martin, 21/04290/FUL, East Harptree, 21/04800/FUL and 21/04801/LBA, Coley.
21. B&NES – Forum Update – Covid and Health Services Update.
22. ALCA – October In Short.

November

23. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 21/04689/FUL, 21/04322/COND, 21/02834/COND, Compton Martin.
26. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 2nd November.
27. Rural Services Network – Rural Funding Digest, November 2021 Edition.
24. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 45.
25. B&NES – Street Works 02/11/21 – 09/11/21.
28. ALCA – Planning and Sub Committees.
29. Airspace – Bristol Airport Stage 2 Engagement Presentation.
30. WERN – Invitation to AGM.

Appendix 2

Min. 3917 – Ward Councillor’s Report

20mph Zone in West Harptree

The plan that was agreed earlier with WHPC is quickly moving to the statutory public consultation stage. It was sent to the Cabinet Member for Transport yesterday to sign off. She is due to sign this off on Tuesday, in case there is anything else for WHPC to feed in on Monday night.

I know WHPC planned to consult with villagers about this as well. If any help is required do let me know.

Looking towards the Full Local Plan

I have been doing a lot of behind the scenes pre-work on housing allocations looking to the Full Local Plan and expressing my strongly held view that houses be built where either a) there are jobs to reduce commuting, b) there are excellent public transport links to offer an alternative to cars or c) where the land is sufficiently cheap that houses built will be genuinely affordable. I will continue to push this view as we move into preparations for the Full Local Plan.

Bristol Clean Air Zone

Bristol's CAZ is due to be introduced in summer 2022. Private cars will be charged £9 per day to drive into the zone if they were made before September 2014 (diesel) or before 2006 (petrol). The zone would include travel to Temple Meads, to the BRI or any central shopping area.

Although decision-making about this rests solely with Bristol City Council I did ask B&NES to make representations to BCC on behalf of local residents here who are Bristol-facing for services, especially citing those visiting hospital, disabled people and those on low incomes.

BCC have announced a number of exemptions who will not need to pay the charge. These include:

- Those with a hospital appointment or visiting someone in hospital
- People with blue badges
- Community transport and public transport
- People on low incomes (under £27k pa)

Giving Parish Councils a louder voice

Following the positive feedback from Chew Valley Parish Council representatives at the special consultation zoom session discussing planning, I suggested at the meeting that similar sessions could take place again.

I've discussed this with the Leader of the Council (whose portfolio engagement sits in) and he has agreed that I can propose a series of sessions on a range of topics so that Parish Council representatives can interact with senior officers and councillors.

Any input into the topics for discussion would be useful.

Ward Councillor Survey

There was a slight delay to starting my Ward Councillor Survey in Mendip ward. The small

number of addresses I post to should have received theirs, but the ones I do on foot have not been done yet. I hope to have these done by Christmas.

Holding Housebuilders to account

In other local villages we have had regular problems with developers not sticking to their plans and seeking to vary or retrospectively change their planning consents. I feel this is unfair although the law makes Councils fairly toothless in these cases.

My strategy each time has been to negotiate with developers and try to make the process as difficult as possible, calling to Planning Committee and so on. In one recent case a new development was on high ground overlooking properties. They had to build on still higher ground once they had started and so wanted to increase the overall height of the houses. I ensured they had to reduce the height of the buildings so that the overall height was the same.

I want to develop a reputation for the Council that it no longer immediately rolls over in these cases.

Investments in Neighbourhood Services

An additional £800,000 is being invested in Neighbourhood Services in 2022/23 which is continuing to reverse 10 years of cuts to frontline services. This is a difficult time to achieve this in the light of the savings that still need to be made. I've been focussing on ensuring this investment is not eroded as part of the budget process. This investment would give additional capacity to services like gulley emptying, fly-tipping enforcement, road marking painting, etc.

2022/23 Budget Savings

Government settlement figures have not been finalised but it is estimated a further £13m budget savings are needed in B&NES in the 2022/23 budget. This is achieved by a combination of restructuring services for efficiency, increasing income and potentially providing fewer services. My work has been trying to shift the focus away from providing fewer or reduced front-line services.

We look set to balance the books again this financial year, as we did in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The books were only balanced one year in the previous four years (2015-19).

Fly Tipping

My war on fly-tipping continues as we pursue every case. I'm pleased that fly-tipping tonnages have reduced year on year since I took it on. We've had a couple of high profile cases in the last month or so which are large enough to justify prosecution rather than issuing a fine.

Waste and Recycling

Recycling rates jumped from 56% to 59% in the last year, which is B&NES best year for recycling. More recent figures show this improvement continuing.

I have introduced In-Cab technology to black bin trucks and will roll out to the remaining services soon. This has led to a significant drop in reports of missed collections. This also allows a booking system for Green Waste collections, meaning that residents will be able to

book online for a free Christmas Tree collection service in January.

We have been managing national shortages around fuel and drivers in recent months. We keep fuel supplies for these reasons so we were not affected by the fuel shortage. Driver shortages have affected all Councils but I'm happy to say we did not have to suspend recycling collections services as other neighbouring Councils had to this year.

Free School Meal Vouchers

B&NES in continuing its scheme of providing vouchers over half term and the Christmas holidays to the poorest families in the area.

Moving Toward Area Working

For the last two years I have been agitating for a shift away from silo working and more towards area working at the Council. This happened successfully in the previous Council I sat on and made a positive difference to the way services were delivered. It's a long process to move towards this way of working but I hope it will be in place by the end of 2023. The principle is that more officers work to geographic areas and get to know those areas and local people more, and meaning that services can be provided in a more holistic way. This might mean Parish Councils have more named officers who have a specific interest in their part of the area who they can work with. More progress will be made in 2022/23 for fuller implementation later.