

WEST HARPTREE PARISH COUNCIL

Provisional Minutes to be approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th March 2022 starting at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES: Mr G Joyce, Mrs R Wakeley and Mrs J Burdge.

In the absence of the Clerk, the Chairman took the minutes.

One member of the public attended.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record. The minutes were proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed for adoption.

Min. 3977 – Matters Arising from the Minutes

The agreed February minutes would be signed by the Chairman at the April meeting.

Min. 3978 – Urgent Business as agreed by the Chair – None.

Min. 3979 – Correspondence

Please see Appendix 1.

Min. 3980 – Councillor Resignation

The Chairman thanked a Councillor for her long service and accepted her resignation with immediate effect. A notice of a vacancy would be advertised as soon as possible.

Min. 3981 – Parish Council Website

A proposal to create a joint Parish Council/Memorial Hall Website was discussed at length. The current Parish Council website was out of date and the platform it sat on was obsolete. It was agreed to contact the Parishioner who had created the impressive Hall website to see what could be done.

Initials

Min. 3982 – Memorial Hall

Work was continuing to improve the upstairs area. The new flooring had been laid.

Min. 3983 - Highways

20mph Speed Limit – £20,000 was available for Phase II of the project, (£10,000 secured from B&NES and a further £10,000 from WHPC Cil fund). Parishioner’s ideas and suggestions for the next phase had been requested and would be collated by the Clerk.

The Parish concern regarding drains - The Ward Councillor reported that B&NES were increasing the number of drains (gullies) cleaned from 22,000 a year to 33,000 a year

Pothole – A pothole outside Mendip View, Bristol Road would be reported to B&NES.

Water seepage – water emanating from the verge/tarmac near the junction with Cowleaze Lane would be reported.

Min. 3984 - Recreation Ground

Work to the Recreation Ground fence and replacement gate had been completed and looked good. The purchase of dog prohibition signs was underway.

Min. 3985 – Bus Shelter

The Bus Shelter roof refurbishment was ongoing. Work should start soon.

Min. 3986 – Local Plan Partial Update Consultation

It was reported that the LPPU was with an independent inspector and there was no provision for WHPC to comment any further.

Min. 3987 – Chew Valley Climate and Nature Emergency

Updates from the Chew Valley Climate and Nature Emergency Group were regularly available in the Chew Valley Gazette.

Initials

Min. 3988 – Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II

As part of the Jubilee celebrations a Street Party would be organised in Bristol Road, to the front of the Crown. The Ward Councillor agreed to check road closure procedures.

Min. 3989 - Community Infrastructure Levy

Projects underway included, supporting the 20mph speed project and replacing the Bus Shelter roof.

Min. 3990 – Clerk’s Wages

It was proposed and seconded with all other Councillors in favour of increasing the Clerk’s wages (back dated to March 2021), in line with NALC guidelines.

Min. 3991 – Ward Councillor’s Report

Please see Appendix 2.

Min. 3992 – Planning Matters – None.

Min. 3993 - Finance – None.

Min. 3994 – Meetings attended – None.

Min. 3995 – Items for the Information of the Clerk

Litter Pick - The annual village litter pick would take place on Saturday 16th April, starting at the Bus Shelter at 10 a.m. All necessary equipment would be provided.

Parking, Ridge Crescent – Residents had raised concern over the lack of parking spaces in Ridge Crescent. The responsibility lay with Curo and B&NES, the Ward Councillor agreed to investigate.

Clerk Vacancy – The Chairman had received the current model documents from ALCA. They would be reviewed and agreed in order for the position to be advertised after the April meeting.

Min. 3996 - Future Meetings

Date of the next meeting: Monday 11th April 2022 starting at 7.30 p.m.

Initials

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman

Date Signed

Appendix 1

Min. 3979 – Correspondence

February 2022

1. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 22/01219/FUL, East Harptree.
2. Jackie Head – Survey.
3. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 7.
4. B&NES – Street Works 15/02/22 – 21/02/22.
5. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 15th February.
6. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 20/04595/FUL, 21/04654/ADCOU, Hinton Blewett.
7. B&NES – Public Rights of Way.
8. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 22/000080/COND, East Harptree.
9. Keep Britain Tidy – Great British spring Clean.
10. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 21,04654/ADCOU, Hinton Blewett, 21/04800/FUL and 21/04801/LBA, Coley.
11. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 21/05160/FUL, Hinton Blewett and 22/00622/FUL, East Harptree.
12. Wessex Water – Upcoming works.
13. B&NES – Agenda, Chew Valley Area Forum, Monday 28th February at 6 p.m.
14. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 21/05160/FUL, Hinton Blewett.
15. ALCA – Introduction to Local Councils.
16. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 8.
17. B&NES – Street Works 22/02/22 – 28/02/22.
18. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 22nd February.
19. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 21/03622/VAR, East Harptree.
20. B&NES – Weekly e-newsletter.
21. Chew Valley 10K poster.
22. West of England – A37/A367 Bus, Walking and Cycling consultation.

March 2022

23. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 9.
24. B&NES – Street Works 01/03/22 – 07/03/22.
25. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 1st March.
26. CPRE Avon & Bristol – Goodbye from our Director.
27. Rural Services Network – Rural Funding Digest, March 2022.
28. B&NES – Parish/Town Councils Virtual Briefing on B&NES New Local Plan.
29. B&NES – Notification of Waste and Recycling Collection problems.
30. B&NES – Chew Valley Area Forum, Follow up.
31. B&NES – Weekly e-newsletter.
32. Dom Hooper – Playground and fencing.
33. YCSW – Youth Work Newsletter.
34. NALC – Pay scales 2021/22.
35. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 22/00228/CLPU, Compton Martin.
36. B&NES – Weekly Planning List No. 10.
37. B&NES – Street Works 08/03/22 – 14/03/22.
38. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin, 8th March.
39. B&NES - Precept acknowledgement.
40. B&NES – Ukraine Appeal.
41. B&NES – NI to List THHTC 2804, Temporary Electric Scooter Trial.
42. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 22/00622/FUL and 22/00080/COND, East Harptree.
43. B&NES, Planning Notifications – 22/00975/FUL, Compton Martin and 22/00993/FUL, Hinton Blewett.
44. ICI – Latest News.
45. B&NES – Weekly e-newsletter.

Appendix 2

Min. 3991 – Ward Councillor's Report

West Harptree Parish Council Report

11/3/22

West Harptree Speeding Phase 2

I would welcome a discussion about the way forward in building community consensus to identify a second (and potentially third) phase of the speeding programme. I would like to make sure phase two works are undertaken within the 2022/23 financial year. I would also like to put in a bid into the 2023/24 Transport Improvement Programme, should there be need for a third phase.

Litter Picking Query

There was an early question about litter picking on the A368 between Parsonage Close and the lake, where stop/go boards are required and it is too dangerous for volunteers to pick. B&NES has always litter picked all the A roads and many B roads across the district once a year. The programme was due to run from 7/2/22 to 25/3/22. The A368 should now have taken place according to the original schedule. I know some stretches were delayed during the storms so the programme is due to overrun slightly.

Due to extra investment in my portfolio this annual pick will now be twice per year. There will be one full pick in autumn 2022 and another in spring 2023.

Recycling Round Query

The January WHPC raised the issue of recycling rounds where trucks were full part way around the round. In WH over New Year there were two weeks of missed collections to some houses, the same each time. Councillors suggested that where these issues are foreseeable that the rounds should be reversed so that the same residents were not affected in two successive weeks.

B&NES looked into this case and confirmed that in normal circumstances that the rounds would be reversed in the way suggested. They apologised that this did not happen on that occasion and have raised this with supervisors.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Following the appeal for information about anti-social behaviour I received communications from 10 residents of West Harptree. None of these concerned the ASB we had discussed. 9 of these related to dog fouling and 1 related to noise from the pub. I said I would bring this to your attention.

Dog Fouling

Had lots of rounds of correspondence about this following the appeal for information. I encouraged residents in all cases to seek intelligence on suspects to pass to me, so we can direct enforcement action. Following discussions two residents had informal conversations with a suspect and reported that the problem improved. I have asked them to keep me up to date about the problem should it worsen.

Main Road Surface

The Council Budget voted for £242,000 for the partial resurfacing of the A368. The money prioritises the section between West Harptree and the lake bridge (Bishop Sutton direction). I have pressed the case that this should stretch to include the street through the village and I await news.

Ward Empowerment Fund

I can confirm that I was successful in allocating £250 Ward Empowerment Fund to the West Harptree Village Hall to help upgrade the sound system.

Budget: Investment in Neighbourhood Services

Neighbourhood Services includes road repairs, line painting, drain cleaning, litter picking, graffiti, fly tipping and dog fouling enforcement, etc, and has been cut over the course of 10 years to the detriment of these frontline services. In my tenure I have been gradually reversing these cuts, with a major investment in last month's budget of £3m across the district during 2022/23. Roads especially have fallen so far behind that a decade of cuts cannot be turned around in a year, but this is going in the right direction.

The investment is set to include:

- Extra £2m for road repairs (including £242k for the A368)
- Increasing the road line painting capacity three-fold
- Increasing the number of drains (gullies) cleaned from 22,000 a year to 33,000 a year
- Extra capacity in the enforcement team to allow intelligence-led enforcement of dog fouling, whilst maintaining the enhanced level of enforcement service for fly-tipping and litter
- Clean and Green Weeks, where a new team work their way around the wards. These are designed to work with the community and respond to priorities articulated by B&NES councillors, parish councils.
- A free graffiti cleaning service for private homes (until now people have had to make their own arrangements)
- Refilling grit bins during winter (until now they had not been refilled if needed during the winter)

Other B&NES Issues:

- Council house building: the budget allocated £11m to build the first council houses in B&NES in a generation. These will initially focus on Bath, the Somer Valley and Keynsham.
- Social care: B&NES is in a 7-year contract with Virgin Care for the non-profit provision of social care. Virgin Care was recently bought by a profit-making company. We are unhappy about this sale and are considering our options on the future of this contract.
- Bristol CAZ: early indications from BCC were that they had listened to requests about the need for CAZ exemption for hospital trips, blue badge holders and workers on low incomes. The final scheme now only exempts these groups for a transitional period. We are feeding back to BCC that this transitional period does not go far enough.
- A37 public transport, walking and cycling study. WECA-funded works to improve active and public transport on the A37 are due to start in 2024. Ahead of this B&NES, Bristol CC and WECA are considering a series of options. These include a Park & Ride at Whitchurch, mini Park & Rides at A37 villages, improvement to the bus service and an off-road walking and

cycling route running alongside the A37.

- Powers for moving traffic enforcement: B&NES is applying to the government to enforce contraventions like banned turns and weight restrictions. Currently these are enforced by the Police but it tends not to be a high priority for them. Sadly, these new powers do not currently include speed enforcement. Councils being able to enforce speeds would be a game-changer and we have pressed that this should happen in the future.

- Ukraine: B&NES has been promoting opportunities to donate to Ukraine crisis appeals. We have written to the government to say we are ready to resettle refugees via the government's humanitarian sponsorship rule.

- Re-opening public toilets: B&NES budget started the process of re-opening public toilets that have been gradually closed over the last 10 years. In this first round one public toilet is being re-opened in Bath and one in Keynsham.