

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE PARISH ROOMS ON THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2022, 7:00PM

PRESENT: Cllrs M Rogers, J Cansdale, C Sully.

IN ATTENDANCE: G Pettitt (Parish Clerk). Cllrs G Kennedy, M Lovell, A McGuire

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: No members of public present. No questions were put to the meeting.

Cllrs McGuire, (Independent), and Cllrs Lovell and Kennedy, (Liberal Democrat), were in attendance to meet the parish as candidates in the Unitary Authority elections in May. These elections have defined a new ward that consists only of Shepton Mallet and Croscombe. All three candidates said that they would expect to attend Croscombe Parish Council meetings regularly. Cllr Kennedy noted that it would be important with the new Authority to have a bonding between villages and towns and for villages to have a collective voice. Villages have differing needs from towns, but has shared issues with Shepton Mallet, for example the Sheppey and flooding.

Cllr McGuire stated that she would be keen to hear Croscombe's voice. Her special interests are in education, housing, mental health and social care.

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Cllrs B Gudzelak; S Fawcett-Fice; and G Parker offered apologies.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies and reasons given. Approved.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. There were no declarations of interest.

41. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC.

RESOLVED: To exclude item 51 iv. from Press and Public. Approved.

42. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS. The Chair reported that Cllr Parker is moving from the parish and thanked her for the immense amount of work she had given to parish affairs since her election.

The litter pick had been completed - it was a fun occasion working through the village and into Ham Woods.

Noted that at least two households are expecting to host Ukrainian refugee families.

43. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

Resolved: To approve the minutes of Full Council 17 February 2022 and Extraordinary Council 13 March 2022. Approved and signed.

44. FLOOD & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP REPORT (FEWG) [formerly the Flood Cttee]

The Clerk reported that the group is re-establishing itself as a working group, continuing the work of the former Flood Committee, with slightly broader objectives to include environmental considerations. Terms of Reference will be brought to a future meeting. The Somerset Prepared grant funding has come through. The Environment Agency has inspected sites for the new flood gauge and telemetry device. This is being discussed with homeowners. Other items, including sand bags, Hi Viz vests and new storage facilities, will be purchased in the near future.

45. **PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the contract with Creative Play has been signed. Awaiting further details of start date and on-site discussion before works begin. [Note - after the meeting Creative Play suggest a provisional start date of 11 July]

46. **EVENTS**

- i. Tidy Village litter pick - reported above in item 42. Duke of Edinburgh students also participated in the planting of a willow 'fedge' in the cemetery as a screen to the spoil heap at the far end. Thank you to everyone involved in that.
Mendip District Council (MDC) is conducting pilot schemes on wildflower plantings and will contact the Council if this idea can move forward.
The MDC Biodiversity Officer is conducting two surveys of ancient trees and hedges, which local school children could participate in. This may move forward in May when species identification will be easier.
- ii. The Jubilee Working group is arranging a brazier for the beacon lighting and has leafleted parishioners.

47. **PARISH ORCHARD AND CEMTERY FIELD REPORT**

Cllr Rogers reported that trees will be planted this coming Sunday 3 April 2pm onwards. All are invited, refreshments will be available.

48. **TRAFFIC WORKING GROUP REPORT**

- i. The Clerk reported that the missing bollards on the A371 are beginning to be replaced.
Communication with County Roads has highlighted the following:
 - a) Provision of repeater 20mph signs including map of suggested placements.
 - b) Parking issues on Back Lane.
 - c) Provision of 'Not suitable for HGV' signs on Thrupe Lane and Duncart Lane

Response not received yet.

- ii. There is no update on the possibility of sharing the SID with St Cuthbert Out.
- iii. Somerset County Council, (SCC), is prioritising Active Travel - the first phase of this is to learn about how pedestrian access between towns and villages can be improved. This to promote health and reduce carbon emissions. Cllrs and members of the public in neighbouring parishes are surveying the relevant paths, noting focus points (bus stops, pubs, shops etc), as well as where pathways are dangerous, non existent, narrow. Note that SCC is planning to replace all stiles with metal gates.
RESOLVED: To produce pdfs for the new council to conduct Active Travel research - data to be recorded on Parish Online. Approved.

49. **UNITARY AUTHORITY**

Process organisation is intensifying, draft boundaries of the new LCNs will be available early summer, for implementation towards the end of the year.

50. **PARISH PLAN**

Cllr Sully reported that the template / structure is ready for the new council to address.

51. **FINANCE**

- i. **Payments:**
Resolved: To approve payments: Phone costs - £10; Fruit trees - £792; Salary Mth 12 £444.60; ILCA - £72.00. Approved.
- ii. **Receipts:** Tree sponsors - £1,240; Play Area grants - £13,900; Cemetery income - £3,050; Flood equipment grant - £725.50; Training contribution - £10. Noted.
- iii. **Reconciliation:**
Resolved: To approve Unity Trust a/c reconciliation to 4 March 22. Approved.
- iv. **Pay Settlement:**
RESOLVED: To approved NALC backdated pay settlement. Approved.

52. **POLICY REVIEWS** - all deferred to next meeting

- i. Co-option Policy
- ii. Data Protection Policy
- iii. Email Contact and Privacy Policy
- iv. Financial Regulations.

53. **LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORTS**

- i. **Avon & Somerset Police:** Noted.
- ii. **Somerset County Council:** No report.
- iii. **Mendip District Council:** Noted.

CLOSE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12 May 2022 [Note this date CANCELLED - next meeting will be Monday 16 May 2022]

Signed

Date