

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street

on

Tuesday 29th August, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Present: Cllrs K Egan, C Jackson, M Rogers, H Shergold (Chairman)

Attending: Cllr M Lovell (Somerset Council)

J McGhee (Parish Clerk)

One member of the public

1. WELCOME

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies: Cllr S Fawcett-Fice, who resigned by email on 29th August, 2023; Cllr A Ford; Cllr B Height (Somerset Council).

Absences: Cllr. B Gudzelak.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- i. To confirm and sign minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13 Jun 2023. **RESOLVED.**

Approved.

Updates were provided on actions arising from the meeting.

- a) Cllr Egan has not been able to submit questions related the Somerset Council's Health and Wellbeing fund for inclusion in the Parish Plan because the questions have not been received by her. She will send if and when the questions become available.
- b) The Clerk reported on a conversation with the Chair of the FEWG, who confirmed the group membership as H Causer, D Collyer, Cllr A Ford, P Hodge, P Jones, J Scott, G Pettit (Chair), Cllr H Shergold. There have been no developments since the installation of telemetry equipment by the Environment Agency in May, and there are no meetings currently

scheduled.

- c) Cllr Egan reported that there had been no contact from Somerset Council with regard to monitoring the impact of heavy vehicles on the historical buildings in the village. Cllr Lovell to pursue within Somerset Council.
- d) With regard to the proposal to change a footpath at Thrupe Lane, Cllr Jackson agreed to forward an email exchange he had with Somerset Council on the matter but with no resolution. Subsequent to the meeting, Cllr Lovell was able to forward an email which had been sent from Somerset Council but it wasn't possible to identify if anyone at the Parish Council was an addressee. The Clerk searched the email system but could find to trace of a notification.

5. FINANCE

- i. To approve (or not) bank account reconciliation to 31 May 2023 (**Appendix 1**). **RESOLVED**. Approved.
- ii. To approve (or not) budget review to 30 Jun 23 (**Appendix 2**). **RESOLVED**. Approved.
- iii. To note cashflow 03 May 2023 to 07 June 2023 (**Appendix 3**). **RESOLVED**. Noted.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

- i. To note Clerk's Report (**Appendix 4**). **RESOLVED**. Noted.

7. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

- i. To note report from Somerset Council (**Appendix 5**). **RESOLVED**. Noted.
Attention was drawn to the request from Cllr Lovell for a councillor representative to attend the Local Community Network – Shepton meetings (see item 11. Below).

8. REVIEW OF REGISTRATION OF PLANNING RESPONSES

The Clerk had raised the issue, via email to councillors, of a planning application which had been reviewed in January, 2023. The view of the council was 'no objection' but that didn't appear to have been lodged on the Somerset Council planning portal. It was resolved that in future verdicts of 'no objection' will always be recorded so that the view of the council is clear in all cases. The Clerk had emailed Planning East at Somerset Council, on behalf of the applicant in the planning submission, to confirm that the parish council view was 'no objection'.

Cllr Lovell pointed out for future reference that planning rules had changed from April, 2023, so that a parish council can express the view that a given application should go to committee, even if that is not the view of the planning officer, but must provide 'material planning reasons' for making the request.

9. PLAY AREA ANNUAL INSPECTION (**Appendix 6**)

The Play Area Annual Inspection report was discussed. It was noted that none of the remedial tasks suggested were above 'Low' risk, and that all but one – clearance of the surface beneath the carousel – were on the periphery of the site and not actually the responsibility of the parish council.

Cllrs Shergold and Egan will take up the periphery issues with the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Jackson will investigate the remedial task recommended for the carousel.

10. COMMUNITY FUNDED 20MPH SPEED LIMITS (Appendix 7)

A discussion was held on a communication from Somerset Council about the possibility of community funded 20mph speed limits. It was noted that Croscombe already had in place such a speed limit in parts of the village. Council view is that because of the short timescales for submissions and the cost the council would have to bear, pursuing this is not a feasible option in this financial year. However, a question about the possibility of more extensive 20mph speed limits will be included in the parish plan questionnaire and the possibility of an application for a feasibility study kept in mind for the next financial year.

11. REPRESENTATION AT LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK – SHEPTON

Cllr Shergold volunteered to be the Croscombe Parish Council representative at the Local Community Network (Shepton) meetings.

12. REVIEW OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS (PER STANDING ORDERS 5j)

i. Flood and Environment Working Group

Approve revised terms of reference (**Appendix 8**). **RESOLVED**. Approved.

See also 4.i.b above.

ii. Orchard Working Group

Approve terms of reference for new Orchard Management Group (**Appendix 9**). **RESOLVED**.

Approved, subject to a change in name to Orchard Management Working Group (OMWG).

Cllr Rogers confirmed the membership of the OMWG as M Cadogan, R Ganesh, B Hancock (Vice Chair), H Huckvale, Cllr M Rogers, J Scott (Chair), H Shergold (Treasurer), C Watson.

The picnic scheduled for 13th August had to be cancelled due to bad weather and ground conditions. A proposal for an autumn event will be submitted to council with appropriate supporting documentation (TEN, event plan, risk assessment).

iii. Parish Plan Steering Group

Cllr Shergold reported that the PPSG had met to consider the parish plan questionnaire (circulated by email before the meeting) and thanked participants for their contribution. The view of the group was that subsequent consideration and development of the plan should be returned to the council as a whole. Council agreed, so that the PPSG will be removed from the website.

The questionnaire design will be refined by Cllr Shergold to prepare for printing and circulation, including the feasibility of professional printing. A question on possibility of a feasibility study into a more extensive 20mph zone, to include the whole village, will be included.

The broad proposal for distribution and collation of responses is that councillors will distribute by hand to households in their respective zones (Cllr Shergold will cover the zone allocated to former Cllr Fawcitt-Fice). Respondents will be able to return questionnaires to drop boxes at the

George Inn or Village Hall and will be given the option of the survey being collected by a councillor.

Anticipated dates are: issue of survey by 1st October; responses received by 15th October; results collated and reported to council meeting on 24th October. Agenda for that meeting to include parish plan survey results and planning of parish meeting for presentation and discussion of them.

iv. Play Area Working Group

Deferred to the next council meeting.

v. Staffing Working Group

It was decided that a permanent Staffing Working Group with three members wasn't necessary to address one member of staff, and the decision was made to cancel the group. Clerk to remove it from the website. It will be reconstituted on an ad hoc basis in future to deal with staff issues, with appropriate councillors allocated to the task.

vi. Traffic Working Group

The terms of reference of the TWG are to be updated with the removal of section 1.2.

The next meeting of the group will be scheduled once Cllr Egan has a response from Somerset Council to the point identified in 4.i.c above.

13. MATTERS OF REPORT – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- i. Cllr Shergold had circulated an email she had received from Somerset Wildlife Trust proposing the development of a climate adaptation plan for Croscombe and Shepton Mallet. It was decided that Cllr Shergold would respond positively and take part in an initial meeting to discuss. She will also liaise with the FEWG on the matter.

Date of next meeting – 24 October 2023

CLOSE Meeting closed at 20:15