

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street

on

Tuesday 24th October, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Present: Cllrs K Egan, A Ford, B Gudzelak, C Jackson, M Rogers, H Shergold (Chairman)

Attending: J McGhee (Parish Clerk); two members of the public.

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

One member of the public, David Collyer, indicated that he was present to speak to item 15 on the agenda.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies: Cllr B Height (Somerset Council), Cllr M Lovell (Somerset Council).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rogers informed the meeting that the member of the public present as candidate for co-option, Martyn Starnes, is a personal friend.

5. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

The Clerk outlined the co-option process. The Council and candidate for co-option agreed the application form and supporting information provided was sufficient and that no discussion was necessary. Cllr Gudzelak proposed that Martyn Starnes be co-opted as a councillor; Cllr Jackson seconded. Cllr Rogers abstained from voting. The Council otherwise voted unanimously to co-opt Martyn Starnes as a councillor. He signed and dated the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was countersigned and dated by the Clerk and Chairman, and joined the meeting as a councillor.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- i. To confirm and sign minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 29th August 2023 (Appendix 2). **RESOLVED.** Approved.

7. FINANCE

- i. To approve (or not) bank account reconciliation to 12 Oct 2023 (Appendix 3). **RESOLVED.** Approved.
- ii. To approve (or not) budget review to 30 Sep 23 (Appendix 4). **RESOLVED.** Approved.
- iii. To note cashflow 04 Aug 2023 to 12 Oct 2023 (Appendix 5). **RESOLVED.** Noted.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

- i. To note Clerk's Report (Appendix 6). The Clerk spoke to several items in the report. **RESOLVED.** Noted.

Item 15 was brought forward.

15. REQUEST FOR MOVE OF SPEED RESTRICTION SIGN – OLD STREET LANE (Appendix 9)

A discussion was held on the request from David Collyer on behalf of residents in the area for the Council to support the move of an end of speed restriction sign to ensure the restriction remained 20mph for the full extent of housing on Old Street Lane. This would benefit not only residents but also a wide range of people who use the route for walking and cycling.

Several points were highlighted from the paper produced by Cllr Martin Lovell of Somerset Council (Appendix 9). These were that the opinion of residents affected must be canvassed to ensure support for the change, the Council must support the change and that funding must come from the Parish Council, possibly in combination with community fundraising.

The Council concluded that the sign move would be a good idea but that funding could be a challenge. It was decided that the Clerk will approach Somerset Council Highways Department for an indicative cost to move the sign and report to the next meeting.

9. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

- i. To note report from Somerset Council (Appendix 7). **RESOLVED.** Noted.

10. UPDATE ON PARISH SURVEY AND PLAN

Cllr Shergold reported there has been 61 responses to the survey so far, most of which were anonymous. She is developing a spreadsheet to coordinate and present the results; data will be input in the coming week. Responses were mainly from the older age groups. It would be useful to have more responses from the 30-50 age group. Councillors were asked to consider the households in their zones and encourage more people in the wider demographic to complete and return the survey. That should be done in the two weeks subsequent to this meeting.

The box outside the village hall will be checked for responses.

The aim is to have a parish meeting to present and discuss the results towards the end of September.

Cllr Ford to approach the management of the George Inn to allow the use of the skittle alley for the

meeting.

11. UPDATE ON ACTIONS PLAY AREA ANNUAL INSPECTION

- i. Review of recommendations on periphery of site – discussion with village hall committee.

No further action required since none of the issues were ‘red light’ issues.

- ii. Review of recommendation re carousel.

Cllr Jackson will monitor the carousel and top up soil to maintain an appropriate ground level as necessary.

Cllr Gudzelak indicated there had been an approach from the Primary School to consider sharing maintenance costs. He will liaise with the school on the proposal. Cllr Jackson will approach Shepton Mallet Landscapes for clarity on sharing the costs with the school for grass cutting of the play area.

12. UPDATE ON LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK – SHEPTON

Cllr Shergold was unable to attend the meeting held on 31st July, but it was noted that it was covered in part in the report from Cllr Lovell of Somerset Council (see item 9 above) and that Cllr Lovell had provided a copy of the minutes of the meeting.

13. UPDATE ON MEETING WITH SOMERSET WILDLIFE TRUST RE CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

Cllr Shergold had registered the Council’s interest and awaits a response.

14. INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN PHASE II OF COMMUNITY REVIEW PROJECT (Appendix 8)

Since the Council already has a review process in place it was decided it would not seek to take part in the Community Review Project.

15. REQUEST FOR MOVE OF SPEED RESTRICTION SIGN – OLD STREET LANE (Appendix 9)

Covered above.

16. SOMERSET’S CITY, TOWN AND PARISH COMMUNITIES RESILIENCE SURVEY (Appendix 10)

Cllr Shergold and the Clerk will liaise on this and look to complete the survey.

17. PROPOSAL FOR INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2023-24

The Clerk proposed the appointment of Eleanor Greene as internal auditor for 2023-24; the Council unanimously approved. The Clerk will have the letter of engagement completed and returned.

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

The terms of reference of the Play Area Working Group (PAWG) were reviewed with the only change being to remove para 5.1 which is redundant. Clerk will make change and update the website.

Cllr Gudzelak spoke briefly about Phase 2 of the Play Area development. A number of developments are possible, possibly phased as funding becomes available, including new football posts, some

additional play area items and a basketball hoop. The PAWG will develop a plan with costs and timescales and Cllr Gudzelak will submit to the Council for approval.

19. MATTERS OF REPORT – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Rogers reported on the Orchard event on the 22nd October. It was a great success, particularly socially. A small profit was made. Laura and Nick McElhatton have joined the Orchard Management Working Group.

A hedge at Coombe Cottages needs to be trimmed on the roadside. Cllr Rogers will liaise with the appropriate resident.

Cllr Ford remarked that the village could do with a general clean-up. An item will go on the agenda for the next meeting on the creation of working groups within the village to carry out certain items of general maintenance.

The issue of bonfires and their resulting pollution and health hazard was raised. The Council will monitor the situation re bonfires.

Date of next meeting – 19th December 2023

CLOSE – 20:20.