

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street

on

Tuesday 26th March, 2024, at 7:00 pm

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

Attending: Cllrs M Lovell, B Height (Somerset Council); J McGhee (Parish Clerk)); one member of the public

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments at this point.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE; ABSENCES

None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e).

(NB - this does not preclude any later declarations).

None.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- i. To confirm and sign minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13th February, 2024 (Appendix 1).

RESOLVED. Approved.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

7. FINANCE

- i. To approve (or not) bank account reconciliation to 21 Mar 24 (Appendix 2). **RESOLVED.** Approved.
- ii. To note cashflow from 07 Feb 24 to 21 Mar 24 (Appendix 3). **RESOLVED.** Noted.
- iii. To approve (or not) change in clerk hourly rate for 2024-25 to £14.95 per hour in accordance with the agreement reached by the National Joint Council. **RESOLVED.** Approved.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

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

9. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

- i. To note report from Somerset Council (Appendix 5). **RESOLVED.** Noted.
Cllr Lovell added a verbal report on an issue which had been raised with him, concerning the refusal of planning officers to agree flood barriers on domestic properties when the property in question is a listed building. This applies to a number of properties in Croscombe. Cllr Height pointed out there are discussions being held within Somerset Council to correct this anomaly and ensure people in listed buildings can put in place appropriate flood protection.

10. CEMETERY

- i. Cemetery gates – report from Cllr Jackson.
Cllr Jackson has carried out work which will enable the cemetery gates to be opened and closed properly. The state of the gates will be kept under review; consideration will be given to more work or replacing the gates altogether.

11. ORCHARD – EVENTS AND FUNDING

Cllr Rogers had done a set of notes of a recent Orchard Management Working Group meeting which included a schedule of events during 2024. These were approved subject to appropriate risk assessments and, where necessary, licensing being in place. Cllr Rogers request approval of £21 expenditure for a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) to ensure the sale of alcohol was covered. This was approved unanimously.

12. ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES AT UNITY TRUST BANK

The Clerk highlighted the need for additional signatories to be able to authorise payments at Unity Trust Bank in the event of existing signatories being unavailable. Cllrs Hargraves and Starnes volunteered for the role. Clerk to progress the appropriate Unity Trust submission form and supporting documentation to enable Cllrs Hargraves and Starnes as signatories.

13. PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

- i. Local produce market – Chairman to raise at village hall meeting.
Chairman has not been able to attend a village hall meeting since action raised; continues.
- ii. How a review of footpaths would work – Cllr Jackson.
Cllr Jackson will instigate a review of footpaths and note/report those in need of maintenance. Cllr Hargraves offered to help in this task.

14. DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

- i. Report from Cllr Shergold on further discussion with C Howes
Mr Howes put the Chairman in touch with a training company and an approach was made. There has been no response. Chairman will pursue with the company.

Cllr Gudzelak will contact St John Ambulance to see if they will provide a defibrillator demonstration as part of the upcoming Funday.

ii. Online training – Clerk

The Clerk has identified training videos – via YouTube and the Zoll website – demonstrating the use of the defibrillator models in Croscombe (Lifepak at the old phone box on Long Street, Zoll at the village hall).

He will post a message with links on the council website and Facebook pages for those interested.

15. FLOOD & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP – REPORT AND NEW MEMBERS

i. Approval or not of flooding report produced by Paul Hodge and Tanya Tyreman, to be forwarded to Somerset Council (Appendix 6).

Paul Hodge (PH – attending) spoke to some of the detail of the report, mentioning issues with the culvert at Jack’s Bridge and the need for enhanced gulley clearance.

RESOLVED. Report approved, subject to minor changes by PH and the Clerk. PH will update the report with a reference to enhanced gulley clearance and the Clerk will add an edit to emphasise the recommendations are not listed in priority – they are all essential – but in order of relative ease of implementation.

Clerk will forward final report to Lead Local Flood Authority Team at Somerset Council emphasising the full support of Croscombe Parish Council for the FEWG and its report and requiring that team to incorporate the FEWG report in full in its reporting requirements under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act. Clerk will also formally request a copy of the Section 19 report produced after the 2020 flooding.

PH explained that the intention is that the FEWG will work as a smaller group in future for working meetings and as the larger body, with members of the public invited, for more general meetings. He also highlighted that the flood plan is being revised and will be reissued shortly. As part of that review, he will be investigating the best way for flood wardens to communicate during a flooding event. Cllr Hargraves offered the benefit of his own experience of similar communication requirements.

Cllr Jackson has volunteered to undergo training in traffic control and road closure during flooding events.

ii. Appointment of new members of FEWG – Michael Shepherd, David Kitcher and Tanya Tyreman.

RESOLVED. Approved.

16. SOWING WILDFLOWER AREAS IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Rogers spoke of the possibility of creating wildflower areas at several areas of grassland in the village as a way of enhancing the environment. After a brief discussion it was decided that he would pursue this as an initiative with interested villagers rather than as a working group of the Parish Council.

17. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS – ANNUAL PARISH, ANNUAL FULL COUNCIL, FULL COUNCIL

These will occur consecutively, starting at 6:30 on Tuesday, 7th May.

18. CHANGE TO PUBLIC FOOTPATH SM 5/24

It was decided this was a minor change and did not require comment or action from the Parish Council.

19. REQUEST FOR SUPPORT ON PURCHASE OF SHEPTON MALLET AMULET THEATRE

Council had received a request from R Jefferies for words of support for the procurement by an independent group, including Shepton Mallet town councillors, to take over the Amulet theatre in Shepton Mallet and run it as a not-for-profit organisation for the benefit of the Shepton Mallet and wider community. Council resolved to

offer its moral support; the Clerk is to send an appropriate message to Mr Jefferies.

20. **MATTERS OF REPORT – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

Chairman indicated that she will be leaving Crocombe at some point and will keep Council informed. Cllr Rogers took the opportunity to ask that a vote of thanks be recorded to the Chairman for the huge service she had provided and commitment she had shown to the village over many years. The Council unanimously agreed.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 7th May 2024. 7:00pm, or following the Annual Full Council Meeting, in the Church Rooms.

CLOSE 20:07