

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street

on

Tuesday 22nd October, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Present: Cllrs A Ford, A Hargraves (Chair), P Hodge, J Owen, L Tully

Attending: J McGhee (Parish Clerk); 2 members of the public

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public raised the issue of planned footpath developments in the vicinity of Thrupe Lane. Concern was expressed about the preferred option out of a number communicated, which will involve walkers using a significant stretch of Thrupe Lane itself, a narrow and dangerous road. This had already been raised with Cllr Jackson. The member of the public will provide more information to Cllr Jackson so that the issue can be discussed at the next council meeting.

The members of the public left the meeting at 19:13.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE; ABSENCES

Apologies - Cllr Jackson; Cllr Martin Lovell (Somerset Council).

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 10th September, 2024 (Appendix 1).

Resolved. Confirmed.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None.

7. FINANCE

- i. To approve (or not) bank account reconciliation at 15 Oct 24 (Appendix 2).

Resolved. Approved.

- ii. To approve (or not) receipts and payments identified in cashflow from 04 Sep 24 to 15 Oct 24 (Appendix 3).

Resolved. Approved.

- iii. To approve (or not) budget review to 30 Sep 24 (Appendix 4)

The Clerk highlighted the fact that budget lines had been introduced to make clear funds raised/donated and spent on the orchard and play area.

Resolved. Approved.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

- i. To note Clerk's Report (Appendix 5).

The Clerk highlighted the fact that electronic and hard copies have been confirmed for the leases for the play area and allotments; and that the title, plan and conveyancing information are now available (with copies distributed to councillors) for the cemetery/south field area.

Resolved. Noted.

9. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

- i. To note report from Cllr Lovell of Somerset Council (Appendix 6).

Resolved. Noted.

10. FLOOD GROUP UPDATE

Cllr Hodge spoke briefly on recent developments, including a letter from him to Paul Elliston, the Community Engagement Officer (Flooding) of Somerset Council. He pointed out that a full update is available in the minutes of the Flood Group meeting held on 21st October.

'Flood Group Update' will be a standard item on the agenda in future and Cllr Hodge will provide a report to be included as an appendix.

11. ORCHARD GROUP

- i. Survey update

A discussion was held on the draft of the survey circulated at the meeting by Cllr Tully. Some minor changes were discussed. Cllr Gudzelak proposed that the survey be approved subject to those changes being applied; Cllr Hargraves seconded. Council approved the survey unanimously. Cllr Tully is to drive completion of the survey, including updated timescales, and liaise with councillors and Orchard Group members on the distribution of the survey.

- ii. Diagrams of cemetery and field (Appendix 7).

Noted for information.

12. SERVICE AND ASSET DEVOLUTION

Cllr Hargraves spoke about pursuing the idea of a service catalogue which would define services, including costs, which might be devolved from Somerset Council to the parish council. It appears that clarity on this will not be achievable until discussions on redundancies recently announced are complete at the end of January,

2025. Cllr Hargraves will approach Cllr Lovell of Somerset Council to see how this can be progressed.

25/24-25

13. MENDIP HILLS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE – MANAGEMENT PLAN – FEEDBACK

Councillors were invited to respond individually to requests for feedback on the Mendip Hill National Landscape Management Plan.

14. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

i. Traffic Group

A discussion was held on the revival of the dormant Traffic Working Group to pursue the feasibility and implementation on improvements to traffic control in the village. Councillors to consider candidates to lead this group and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

ii. Long Street parking

A discussion was held with P Graham of the George Inn on the parking difficulty around that area. Some signs have been put up encouraging drivers to park carefully, with some resulting improvement. PG will consider enhanced parking facilities and, if appropriate, approach the Estates Department at Somerset Council regarding the use of part of its land currently leased to the parish council.

iii. Contact with J Sackett re HGV surveys.

No contact has been achievable to date; Cllr Hargraves will pursue.

15. REVIEW OF CEMETERY CHARGES

A brief discussion was held on charges, which haven't changed since 2022. Clerk pointed out that charges vary widely across parish councils. The Clerk will produce a comparative table for the next meeting along with a suggestion of change in cemetery charges.

16. NOTICE BOARDS

It was noted that the notice boards are in a poor state, and in particular that the lock on the board at the bus shelter is no longer usable. Cllr Owen volunteered to liaise with Cllr Ford to see what can be done to effect a repair. It was agreed that it is not appropriate yet, for reasons of cost, to consider replacing any of the notice boards.

17. FAYREWAY

i. Clarification of naming for Somerset Council

An enquiry was received from Somerset Council on whether Fayreway should be spelled with or without a space. After some research and enquiries by Cllr Jackson, council was able to confirm that Fayreway should be written as one word, as it is in Somerset Council's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and the Royal Mail's Postcode Address File (PAF). This was confirmed to Somerset Council by the Clerk.

ii. Street sign procurement

Cllr Jackson suggested before the meeting that a new Fayreway road sign be procured to replace one with a gap, at a cost of £60; council unanimously approved.

18. UPDATES ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

i. Post planning application verdict (Clerk).

Complete.

ii. Check/tighten bolts on play area swing basket. (Cllr Jackson).

Complete.

26/24-25

- iii. Provide comments on emergency planning to Cllr Hargraves (All).
Continues – councillors to send on any suggestions re emergency planning to Cllr Hargraves.
Clerk to send on the slide pack provided after the Emergency Planning Workshop.
- iv. Develop policy on councillor expenses (Clerk).
Clerk has obtained a copy of the Recommendations of Somerset Council's Parish, Town and City Independent Remuneration Panel – Framework For Member Allowances. Clerk to use this to develop suggestions for an allowances/expenses scheme for the next meeting.
- v. Report blocked pavement issues (Shepton Mallet/Crocombe/Wells) to Somerset Council Highways (Clerk, Cllr Ford).
Clerk forwarded the reporting link to Cllr Ford, who raised an appropriate highways report.
Response/action awaited.
- vi. Pursue quotation for orchard grass cutting (Clerk).
Quotation requested by not provided; Clerk to pursue.

19. MATTERS OF REPORT – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Cemetery gates
- Play area
- Hedges at cemetery

Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 3rd December, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Church Rooms.

CLOSE