

MINUTES OF CROSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Church Rooms, Church Street

on

Tuesday 3rd December, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Present: Cllrs A Ford, A Hargraves (Chair), P Hodge, C Jackson, 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

There were no members of the public present.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE; ABSENCES

Apologies were received from Cllr Gudzelak.

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).

Cllr Jackson pointed out that the applicants involved in the planning application covered in item 6(i) are friends of his, and so he would take no part in discussions or voting on that application.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- i. To confirm and sign minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 22nd October, 2024 (Appendix 1).

Resolved. Confirmed.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- i. **2024/1905/HSE**

Erection of single storey rear extension

5 Combe Green, Crocombe, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, BA5 3QP

Council discussed this application and given that materials/design are appropriate, there are no highways/traffic implications and no significant impact on neighbours, council resolved to recommend approval of the application.

28/24-25

ii. **2024/1623/FUL**

Conversion of farm building into a dwelling.

Land at Thrupe Farm, Thrupe Lane, Masbury, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

Council noted the assurance in the application to remain faithful to existing materials and retain the existing building footprint. Cllr Jackson had spoken to several neighbours who were supportive of the application. Given these facts, and that there are no significant highways/safety implications, council resolved to recommend approval of the application.

7. FINANCE

- i. To approve (or not) bank account reconciliation at 28 Nov 24 (Appendix 2).

Resolved. Approved.

- ii. Following NJC agreement on local government staff salaries for 2024-25, to approve (or not) increase in clerk hourly rate from £14.95 to £15.58, backdated to April 2024.

Resolved. Approved.

- iii. To approve (or not) receipts and payments identified in cashflow from 15 Oct 24 to 28 Nov 24 (Appendix 3).

Resolved. Approved.

- iv. To approve (or not) invoice to the value of £2,685 from Shepton Mallet Landscapes for cemetery maintenance and 50% share of maintenance of playing field.

Resolved. Approved.

Cllr Martin Lovell (Somerset Council) joined the meeting at this point (19:20).

- v. Discussion of precept for 2025-26.

There is insufficient detail on services which the Council may have to consider taking over from Somerset Council in 2025-26, so resolution of the precept for the next financial year was deferred until the January council meeting. The Clerk will produce a draft budget as the basis for discussion.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

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

Resolved. Noted.

9. LOCAL AUTHORITY REPORT

- i. To note report from Cllr Lovell of Somerset Council (Appendix 5).

Cllr Lovell spoke briefly to his report and the situation with budget discussions/approval within Somerset Council.

Resolved. Noted.

10. WORKING GROUP UPDATES

- i. Flood Group

Cllr Hodge spoke to a written report he had provided.

Cllrs Owen and Jackson are redeveloping the flood alert system.

The group will seek grant funding from Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) to help with flood mitigation/management measures.

Cllr Hodge has secured sponsorship from a local estate agency, Sandersons, for walkie-talkies.

Cllr Hodge and Peter Graham of the Flood Group attended a planning/resilience day.

The SRA will drive a one-stop shop website for flood information and advice, but from 5th December will no longer coordinate flood responses. The Parish Council thenceforth will deal directly with the Environment Agency and Somerset Council.

29/24-25

ii. Orchard Group

Some work has been done in the orchard on tree supports since the last meeting, but in general the results of the survey are awaited before any further work is undertaken. Cllr Hargraves has carried out an initial analysis of the survey responses; Cllr Hodge will repeat/verify that analysis. Cllr Tully will type up the written feedback from the forms.

iii. Play Area Group

Update deferred until the next meeting.

11. FEEDBACK FROM PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL CONFERENCE

Cllr Hargraves provided feedback on the conference. His feedback was that it was of little value, particularly in terms of developing any clarity on the subject of asset and service devolution.

12. SERVICE AND ASSET DEVOLUTION

The Parish Council continues to seek information from Somerset Council, and now understands that is unlikely to be available before the results of the latest round of consultations on redundancies are known by the end of January

13. STRAWBERRY LINE FOOTPATH OPTIONS (Appendix 6)

Council considered the options for linking the completed railway path at Hamwood Viaduct to Thrupe Lane, as shown in Appendix 6. Council considered that the most sensible option is Option 4 – it minimises impact on the countryside, is practical for all types of users and minimises the use of Thrupe Lane which is a narrow and dangerous road. The Clerk will confirm this view to Cllr Lovell of Somerset Council, who will in turn convey this to the appropriate parties.

14. SOMERSET DAY 2025 (Appendix 7)

Councillors will consider involvement in this event and provide their views.

15. NOTICE BOARDS – POUND FOLD

Cllr Jackson will liaise with Mike Dowell to assess/review notice boards and make recommendations on actions. Council resolved that the notice board on Boards Lane, recently damaged in a storm, is not used and so can be removed; Cllr Jackson will remove it.

16. CEMETERY GATES AND HEDGES

Cllr Jackson will look at the immediate problem of securing the small gate at the cemetery. If necessary, he will remove it.

17. VILLAGE WIDE COMMUNICATION

Council will monitor the possible development of a replacement for Roundabout magazine and, if necessary, consider a Parish Council publication to meet the need for a hard copy source of regular village information.

30/24-25

18. UPDATES ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- i. Provide comments on emergency planning to Cllr Hargraves (All).
No comments have been forthcoming yet. Council considered that Crocombe's principal emergency planning needs are covered by the flood plan.
Cllr Owen volunteered to (re)develop the general emergency plan.
- ii. Develop policy on councillor expenses (Clerk).
The Clerk has reviewed the Recommendations of Somerset Council's Parish, Town and City Independent Remuneration Panel and recommended this be distilled into several key principles; he will send these out in an email to councillors.
- iii. Report blocked pavement issues (Shepton Mallet/Crocombe/Wells) to Somerset Council Highways (Clerk, Cllr Ford).
Report made online by Cllr Ford.
- iv. Suggest candidates to head up Traffic Working Group (All).
No suggestions have been made. Council will keep under review.
- v. Produce comparison sheet of cemetery charges (Clerk).
After a discussion and comparison of charges across multiple councils, Council resolved to leave Crocombe cemetery charges as they are for the time being.
- vi. Contact J Sackett re HGV statistics (Cllr Hargraves).
This hasn't been feasible; action discontinued.
- vii. Procure Fayreway street sign (Clerk).
Clerk to procure sign and pass to Cllr Jackson for installation.

19. MATTERS OF REPORT – ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Date of next meeting – Tuesday, 14th January, 2024, at 7:00pm in the Church Rooms.

CLOSE