## HUISH CHAMPFLOWER PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on: -Tuesday 12th November 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Stephen Kimsey (SK) (Chair), Mary Abel (MA), Dot Hayward (DH), Sarah Payne (SPa), Steve Powles, Francis Nicholson, Marc Vyvyan-Jones and Chris Chanter.

		Action
1	Apologies	
	Louise Cooke and Stephen Pugsley	
2	Declarations of Interest- none	
3	<b>Updates from Somerset Councillors:</b> Somerset Council has very little money and are making redundancies to balance the budget. The Moorland foodbank move has been very positive with many volunteers coming forward. Since our residents are more likely to go to Wiveliscombe, we should encourage residents to donate to the foodbank there, this will go on the website and noticeboards.	SK/DH
4	<b>Boundary Commission Review.</b> <i>Papers circulated.</i> Looking to reduce the number of councillors on Somerset Council and to create areas with equal electorates. Clatworthy are having a public meeting on this. The parish council agreed to use the meeting on the 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec as a public meeting and offer a few refreshments, DH to advertise. A vote of the parish councillors showed unanimously that they wanted to remain with Exmoor as they felt they had common issues with that area. To merge with Wiveliscombe would mean their voice getting lost. In the current area there are 2 councillors covering an electorate of approx. 6,000. By the 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan we need to frame a letter to give feedback on this. Both the parish council and residents can send letters in with their opinions. The LCN network works better here than in other parts of the county largely due to the old Exmoor panel. Somerset councillors are a lifeline on Exmoor issues. Ideas for a motion at the meeting to be circulated between parish councillors. After the meeting we will draft a response articulating the views of	DH All
	residents.	
5	<b>Exmoor LCN</b> Update by SK. The Highways Department is being heavily cut. It is proposed that Highway Supervisors will go from 10 to 4. Lots of potholes around, even appearing after the extensive resurfacing on Maundown Hill. The Parish Council agreed to write letters to the CEO and the leader of the council expressing our concerns around this. The organising and quality assurance will be severely diminished. <b>Fundraising is going ahead for a new pool</b> at Minehead.	DH/SK
	Active travel-we are a gateway area to Exmoor-please complete the survey	
	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6bdc1c6ae4ab4b0ab8ca1b1972b07ae7	
6	We need to encourage residents to complete this as well.	DH
6 7	Somerset Local Plan-DH to complete online response form by 30th Nov	DH
/	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> 10th September 2024. Minutes were agreed as accurate. SPa proposed they were accepted, seconded by MA and signed by SK	
8	Matters Arising	
	<ul> <li>Scotts Hill flooding raised by SK at the LCN meeting with Highways, the drains still blocked, and the road is collapsing at Watercombe.</li> <li>Scoops bought for the grit bins and bags. DH will distribute them</li> </ul>	DH

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	• Potato Villa owners sent an email about trespass and the culling of deer. A local resident came across a man with a rifle unexpectedly and contacted the police, he did have a license, but we need to be clear exactly where the paths are, other people heard shots which seemed to be aimed upwards towards the Cleeve and this is a public safety issue. We need to look at this urgently and reply to the owner. There are concerns about the footpath off the Cleeve as it is very difficult to follow, would a footpath diversion help? MVJ is to send a map of the paths. Lots of concerns were made about the deer cull, could they clarify how many deer are being culled each year and what species. Trespass is a civil not a criminal offence and we need to clarify what path is being referred to. An email/ letter to be sent to the owners of Potato Villa asking for clarification. The barbed wire fencing on the Cleeve has still not been rectified, a reminder will be sent.	MVJ
	• Icy Road signs investigate temporary options	DH/SK
9	Finance Treasurers Account as of 12th Nov 2024 Balance £7379.19 Since last meeting £100 paid towards the village hall defibrillator and £871.73 in wages April to Sept. Business Bank Account Balance £1087.18 Interest earned £1.87 since last meeting. DH to be reimbursed for the scoops £18.99	
	Letter received from the bank they will now be charging £4.25 per month in a maintenance fee a total of £51 PA - this will start on the $14^{th}$ Jan 2025. To investigate opening and transferring accounts to the NatWest bank who do not charge.	DH
10	<b>Bleed kits</b> there are ongoing charges for this, perhaps there is a better way, to ask Kristin and Sarah P to put a first aid kit together for the hall- SK to send an email	SP/SK
11	Planning- no current applications	
12	<ul> <li>Highways Report any potholes you see, using this link https://service.somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-on-the- road/?issue=POT&amp;serviceCode=HRI</li> <li>A letter has been received by some residents, from Wessex Water, about a proposed pipeline to the new Cheddar 2 reservoir. At the moment they are conducting non-intrusive surveys looking at the geology and ecology of proposed routes. The area affected is possibly on the side of the valley by Smiths and Harts farms etc. It is likely to be disruptive during construction but hopefully not visible afterwards. More information will follow.</li> </ul>	All
	Friday 27th November Business lunch at St Peters Feedback to Village Hall committee on Bleed Kits, Emergency Plan, VE day	DH/ SP/MA
	<b>Next Meeting</b> 10th Dec to include residents to discuss Somerset Council boundary changes.	