


**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on :-  
Tuesday 21st Jan 2025 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall**

**Present:** Stephen Kimsey (SK) (Chair), Dot Hayward (DH), Sarah Payne (SPa), Steve Powles (SPo), Louise Cook (LC), Mary Abel (MA).

No	Discussion	Action
1	<b>Apologies:-</b> Marc Vyvyan-Jones (MVJ), Chris Chanter (CC), Francis Nicholson (FN), Stephen Pugsley (SPu).	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest-</b> None declared	
3	<b>Minutes :-</b> It was agreed that these were an accurate representation of the meeting on the 10th Dec 24. The minutes were unanimously accepted and signed off by the chair.	
4	<b>Matters Arising:-</b> Boundary commission consultation has now ended and we await the outcome VE day on the 8th May the Village hall is looking at holding an event and also looking at a volunteering event, to get more people involved.	
5	<p><b>Somerset Councillors and LCN updates.</b> SK attended the LCN event. Prior to the start of the meeting SK and the rep from Clatworthy managed to speak with Kali Martin from Highways concerning the gritter incident and the current unplanned road closure. It seems that the crashed vehicle was on hire whilst the council waited for new ones to be delivered. Driver of the vehicle was uninjured. Road will be closed for a few weeks and will require reinforcement of the field side bank as well as major repairs to the actual road. End of Feb seems to be a target date - though might be sooner as the Highways contractors were not aware of the importance of the road to Wessex Water. BT has replaced the broken telegraph pole and made temporary repairs to the fibre and telephone. The meeting involved the new Police Crime Commissioner (Clare Moody). The PCC outlined the 5 draft priorities 1 - Strengthen Neighbourhood Policing; 2 - Serious Violence highlighting knife crime and violence against women; 3 - Crime Prevention; 4 - Victim support and services; 5 - Standards in Policing. Amongst the topics discussed - County Lines - PCC was asked what activity we should look for - though the PCSO did say most drug related cases in our area are low-level. A bit of discussion regarding speeding - especially through villages. Other policing updates included mention of Quad bike and other farm vehicle thefts. (We should encourage farms and others to sign up to Farm Watch and also take advantage of vehicle and equipment marking.)  Exmoor National Park - have a new Management Plan currently available for consultation/public comments, Deadline is 10th March. <a href="https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/105454/Par">https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/105454/Par</a></p>	All

	<p><a href="#">tiership-Plan-2025-2030_for-consultation.pdf</a></p> <p>Moorland Food Bank project - progressing very well.</p> <p>Highways - of relevance was the comment that emails to Highways (via the Council website) are closely monitored - and if something is urgent, dangerous, etc. then including such words in the header will be noticed by those monitoring.</p> <p>Highways also mentioned recent incidents between the public and highways contractor staff which have resulted in the latter being subject to abuse and eventually walking away from the work. .</p> <p>There was some discussion around the subject of Ice Signs - bottom-line seems to be that Highways are not too keen on providing these unless on a route that is part of the regular gritting programme - the assumption that road users should have is that non-gritted routes always have the potential of being slippery.</p> <p>We should audit the current grit bin levels and contact Highways as and when they need topping up.</p> <p>Affordable Housing - next meeting is early February (on which we have a rep)</p> <p>Somerset Local Plan - this is something we need to look at - and respond to current consultation</p>	
6	<p><b>Highways:-</b>See LCN update above re the road to Clatworthy. Speeding is an issue down the Cleeve and Tanners corner. A permissive path from the village could help reduce risk. SK to speak to the landowner PS to see if this could be agreed.</p> <p>At Winters Cross 2 vehicles have crashed into the wall, blocked drains have led to icy conditions. Blocked drains need flushing through. DH to contact Highways. Winters Cross grit bin needs topping up. It is hoped that a volunteer day will provide local residents willing to take ownership (monitoring grit level, etc.) of the grit bins in their neighbourhood.</p> <p>It was suggested that next winter one of the grit bags in Brown Lane could be relocated to the village hall. As yet we do not know if this is a service we will have to pay for.</p>	SK DH
7	<p><b>Finance:-</b> Treasurers Account still the same as Dec with £7326.06-2 bills due the Insurance of £162.20 and also a grant to the village hall to buy a small grit bin for £45.</p> <p>The Commercial Instant Access Account has £1088.93 and has earned £1.75p in Interest in the last 2 months.</p> <p>Bank charges - we need to visit Lloyds to check on the proposed charges and then if they are going ahead visit alternative banks to set up a new account. The precept is due to go into the bank account at the end of April, so we should make any changes after that date.</p>	DH DH/ MA/LC /SPa
8	<p><b>Planning.</b> Somerset Council are consulting on their local plan. There is an event being held <b>on Monday 24 February 2025.</b> (Restricted to parishes and members only). <b>At the JMR Room, Deane House, Belvedere Road, Taunton. Please sign up using the QR code below, if you are interested.</b></p>	

		
9	<p><b>Emergency Plan:</b>-Needs volunteers and people to contact. Resilient communications (broadband, mobile, etc.) are regarded as critical. Village Hall could be used as a meeting/ information/emergency hub. The village hall could apply for the Community Safe Space scheme. Communication is a vital element.</p>	
10	<p><b>VE Day</b> - Is there anyone around who remembers the war? Mary may have some contacts. We could have a bonfire on the field, possibly show the Land Girls movie- Village Hall investigating things to do around the day/ weekend.</p>	
11	<p><b>Community Health and Wellbeing grants:</b>-DH listened into a webinar on this. SALC are running this in partnership with Somerset Council  <a href="https://somerset-alc.org.uk/health-wellbeing/">https://somerset-alc.org.uk/health-wellbeing/</a>  These are small projects that can help with a community's health and wellbeing. There are grants available and some help with project managing and setting things up. The first thing is to identify a need. It would need to be match funded. Ideas could include getting a footpath set up from the village to avoid walking along the road. A stile by the swings could also help here. Also possibly the setting up of a craft social club group.</p>	SK
12	<p><b>AOB:</b>- Data retention - we have many files and possibly lots of paperwork that we don't need to keep. DH has found a policy from Dorset on parish council data retention. To investigate if there is a similar one for Somerset. Then have a get together of key people and go through the documents  Cheddar 2 reservoir - surveys for pipeline are due to go ahead shortly, although it maybe a long time before any construction happens  On the Cleeve a new entrance has been added to a small woodland plot. DH to report to Highways</p>	DH  DH
13	<p><b>Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 11th March 2025</p>	