

Meeting of the Council

21st

November 2024

MINUTES

PRESENT: Ian Horsnell (Chair), Richard Poole, Adele Poole, Richard Toller, Nan Maxwell, Cheryl Pocock, Roger Gay, Jon Ride, Ute Gojrzewski (temp clerk) and 14 members of the public

2024/080-Apologies: None

2024/081-Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: None.

2024/082-Minutes of Previous Meeting: Accepted as accurate.

2024/083-Announcements from the Chair: Ute Gojrzewski (Bishops Nympton Parish Clerk) is temporarily helping out with some of the clerk tasks (mainly agendas and minutes)

2024/084-Democratic 15/Public Question Time: Richard Holloway (member of the public) presented a campaign to make the village a "hunt free zone" after several incidents with Tiverton Stag Hounds Hunt followers inside the village and in surrounding areas. Most recently in Oct and Nov. Apparently hunt followers came through the village on quad bikes at dangerous speeds, on the wrong side of the road, endangering pedestrians and dog walkers. When briefly held up the drivers reacted very rudely and in a threatening behaviour. Also quad bikes were seen to chase deer towards a pack of hounds. A hunt free zone should be denoted by signs in and out of the village. 79% of the village population are in support of the campaign. Police, who were repeatedly called to deal with these incidents, are also recommending such measures and suggest to keep monitoring and reporting any further occurring incidents. It was also mentioned other areas have reported similar issues. Villagers however are concerned about potential retributions from the hunt followers.

The council will support the campaigners by investigating with County Cllr Jeremy Yabsley regarding the highways issues raised by the public and also if a community protection order can be established with the village's boundaries and also by all councillors looking into different options on how to deal with the problem.

2024/085-County Councillor's Slot-Not present.

2024/086-District Councillor's Slot-Not Present.

2024/087-Financial Matters.

2024/087.1-Account Balances. Community Account £357.19, Business Premium Account £3,518.44

2024/087.2-Transactions since last PC meeting:

Receipt of £1125 precept for 24/25, £6.99 out lead paint test kit, £18.24 out dog fouling signage, transfer of £800 from business account into community account

2024/087.3-Financial Regulations. The final draft of the amended financial regulations was presented by Richard Poole and has been agreed by the council. (proposed by Richard Toller, seconded by Jon Ride)

2024/087.4- The councils financial controls have also been presented and agreed by the council. (proposed by Richard Toller, seconded by Jon Ride)

2024/087.5- Richard Poole presented his proposed budget for 2025/26, but will amend some of the line items. The precept request will have to be presented to NDCC by the 16th Dec.

2024/088-Dispensation Requests-There were none.

2024/089-Planning Matters-There were no new planning applications.

2024/090-Village Hall-Adele Poole presented the update. Xmas lights are to be turned on on the 13th Dec. At the moment some maintenance work is taking place. A survey asking the residents for needs/wants did not get much response. The website will be improved soon for online bookings. Payments can already be done online

2024/091-Parish Clerk Vacancy-There has been no interest so far in the vacancy. An email to surrounding parishes got temporary support from the clerk of Bishops Nympton Parish. This is to

cover at least the basics, such as agendas and minutes. The council will have to go the paid route for a permanent solution.

2024/092-Phone Box-A lead paint test kit has been purchased to check exactly what paint will be needed to repaint the phone box.

2024/093-Dog Fouling- A labelled waste bin has been installed at the end of the village hall car park with the appropriate signage on it. This solution seems to work as the dog fouling incidents have become far fewer. There are still specific dog fouling warning signs to be installed on lamp posts around the village.

2024/094-Speeding Signage- Highways have done speed tests and the average speed is not considered to be an issue. It is mostly contractors/vans going too fast. Signage at the village entrance "Please drive carefully through the village" should be sufficient. An interactive solution was discussed, but deemed too expensive.

2024/095- Updates on council policies The Council agreed to review all standing orders, policies and regulations

Statement of Internal Financial Control- presented by Richard Poole and accepted

Standing Orders-Ian Horsnell is still working on it. Will use the DALC model as a template

Complaints Policy- presented by Cheryl Pocock, still needs a couple of amendments relating to the parish clerks tasks

News and Media Policy- presented by Adele Poole, proposed by Nan Maxwell, seconded by Cheryl Pocock

Risk Management Policy- presented by Nan Maxwell, proposed by Richard Toller, seconded by Jon Ride

Still outstanding:

Privacy Policy-Richard Toller

The councillors should evaluate if a separate social media policy should be implemented, as well as a health and safety policy.

2024/096 - Correspondence-There was none.

2024/097 – AoB: none

2024/098- Date of Next Meeting: 16th January 2025 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm