

## MINUTES OF LYMPSHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 16/11/2020 DRAFT

Councillors Present: Mrs. A. Bennett, (Chairman), Ms. H. Allsopp, Mr. B. Gooding, Mr J. Hinton, Mr R. Leveridge, Mr. G. Tuttiett.

Also Attending; Mrs S. Ferguson (Clerk)

Minutes were taken by the Clerk. The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

86/20 Apologies and Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:

**Cllr R. Leveridge declared an Interest in Planning Application 31/20/00018**

Apologies were given by District Councillor A. Gilling and County Councillor B. Filmer

**It was resolved to accept both apologies**

87/20 To resolve to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19/10/2020.

**It was resolved to approve the minutes of 19th October 2020- Unanimous.**

88/20 Planning Applications for consideration:

31/20/00017; 5 The Crescent, Lympsham, Somerset, BS24 0BH. Erection of a single storey extension to the rear (NE) and side (NW) elevations with associated works.

**It was resolved to support the application as it is in keeping with the houses in the locality. Unanimous.**

31/20/00018; Stonebow Cottage, Eastertown, Somerset. BS24 0HT. Erection of a single storey extension to the rear (South) and side (West) elevation and change of roof to the existing garden room.

**It was resolved to support the application as the design is sympathetic to the existing property and surroundings. Unanimous (Councillor Leveridge abstained after registering an Interest)**

89/20 To consider move from HSBC bank to Unity Trust Bank and set up of online account and signatories

**It was resolved to make the transition to Unity Trust Bank, and to decide on signatories in December following Co-option of new Councillor.**

90/20 To discuss Eastertown Evolution Document

**Thanks were given to the author of this document, and a proposal was made to invite a speaker from Wedmore to engage with the community at a Parish Annual Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

91/20 To consider street lighting proposal at Lime Grove site, West Road, Lympsham

**It was resolved that lighting was not suitable or needed for the development.**

92/20 To consider purchase of marquee for village use

**It was resolved to revisit this item in the spring 2021, when the Covid situation was more clear.**

93/20 To consider bench refurbishment in Play area and The Pound

**It was resolved to obtain quotes for this project and make a decision in the spring of 2021.**

94/20 To consider purchase of Christmas tree for Memorial Corner

**It was resolved to provide a tree for Memorial Corner. Councillor Gooding to make enquiries.**

95/20 To consider Budget for 2020-2021 in preparation for Precept setting in December 2020

The Clerk had circulated financial information prior to the meeting, with predictions of expenditure to end of March 2021. The Clerk noted that Governance and Accountability, paragraph 5.32, (March 2020) advises that smaller Councils hold a sufficient level of reserves to be financially viable in unexpected situations. A draft Budget was issued and Councillors will make a final decision on the Clerk's recommendations in December 2020, after the tax base is announced. Clerk to provide breakdown and information before the meeting.

96/20 Finance Report and to approve payments for November 2020.

Finance report sent to all Councillors before remote meeting.

(These figures include cheques shown below).

101280 St. Christopher's Church (donation to Grounds Maintenance) £700.00 (min no. 81/20); 101781 SALC Webinar £30.00; 101782 Lympsham Manor Hall (hire) £63.00; 101783 Whitehouse Kennels (dog bins) £96.00; 101276 101784 Clerk salary November (+quarterly expenses) £662.76; 101785 Editor of Lympsham News (ink and prize money for competitions) £260.00 (min no .72/20)

**C/A £9987.82**

**S/A £ 1440.61**

**VAT (To reclaim) £ 424.63**

**CIL £176.21**

**VE75/ H.H. £1625.00**

**Player –Mason A/C £2406.15**

**It was resolved to approve the Financial Report & payments for November 2020 – Unanimous.**

93/20 Reports; (to receive reports on the following matters):

#### **Clerk Report**

Councillor Macleod resigned from the Parish Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October, the Clerk informed Electoral Services and a Notice was posted for the regulatory 14 days on the noticeboards in the village. The period ended on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020, and as there was no election request, the Clerk has now advertised the vacancy for Co-option. One application has been received so far, the Co-option will be on the Agenda for 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The application to the Climate Emergency Community Fund is now submitted. The amounts applied would make a significant difference to the village community buildings' energy efficiency and would provide a wildflower haven on some of the village verges.

The work in West Road for the new development 'Lime Grove' has commenced. The Clerk has contacted Sedgemoor District Council to enquire about the CIL money that the Parish Council will receive and has established that it will be paid in four equal payments in April 2021, then April 2022, October 2022 and finally April 2023. There is no figure for the meaningful proportion due to Lympsham Parish Council as yet.

The Clerk has also enquired when the Tax Base figures will be calculated for Sedgemoor Councils and this is likely to be around 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020, so she will use the 2020-2021 figures for discussion in the meeting in November and come back to the Council with amended figures as soon as they have been received, ready for a decision on Precept setting in the December meeting.

Councillor Allsopp has made some preliminary enquiries on prices for a Marquee for the village (Item 7 on Agenda). The Clerk will forward this email in due course to the Members.

#### **GENERAL REPORTS**

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Farmwatch reported various break ins with the loss of agricultural machinery and gardening tools, the closest of which was in Highbridge. Police recovered some stolen equipment hidden in undergrowth in Croscombe after a tip off by a dog walker.

**Lympsham Academy and Pre-school:** All pupils now back at school following a Covid -19 confirmed case.

**Sports Club:** Now closed for Lockdown 2.

**Manor Hall:** Clerk has sent out invoice to W.I. for hall hire in January and February.

**Highways:** Some damage to a bollard on A370 opposite turning for Lympsham, reported by Clerk.

**Play Area:** To remain open during Lockdown 2 as per Government regulations. Inspection carried out by Clerk, nothing to report.

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**Signed:**

**Chairman**

**Date:**

**Grounds Maintenance and General Maintenance Issues:** Regular GM taking place.

**Drainage Issues:** None reported.

**Footpaths:** No issues reported.

**Village Events:** All currently suspended.

**Lympsham in Bloom:** Autumn planting through the village is progressing gradually; the team have just received a donation of polyanthus, pansies & bulbs kindly donated by Truespeed, but numerous plants, etc. have had to be bought locally from available funds. The Committee has also been considering how wildflower projects might link in with future plans including the Churchyard.

**Village Signpost Sub-Committee:** Awaiting quotations & further guidance from County.

**St. Christopher's Church Re-ordering:** Unfortunately, due to 'Lockdown Part 2' the latest meeting on site with architects had to be postponed.

However, floor plans are currently being revised to take into consideration various updates, including the possibility of improving the heating in the Church within the overall project.

### **County and District Report:**

**Corona Virus Update:** Revised Government regulations mean that Somerset will now enter a period of enhanced lockdown measures aimed at stopping the spread of the Corona virus. The measures will be reviewed on or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Whilst numbers in the County remain relatively low there has been a marked increase in the number of positive tests. As at 1<sup>st</sup> November, the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 2,738 and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 208. The rate per 100,000 currently stands at 65.5 for Somerset with Sedgemoor at 94.8 and SW&T at 70.6. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 17% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 1.3 and 1.6.

***It is vitally important to remember at all times the Hands-Face-Space message.***

**Covid-19 survey:** The purpose of the Somerset Covid-19 Survey is to understand the barriers people are facing adhering to the government guidance to stop the spread of the virus. Somerset Public Health team and the Somerset Covid-19 Engagement Board want to hear from as many people as possible across the county so that they can use the feedback to further shape the local response to the pandemic. The survey will cover a includes Covid-19 testing, whether people have become more isolated as a result of the pandemic, how the guidance around local alert levels and the Hands, Face, Space campaign has been understood, as well as views on how others are adhering to the guidance. The survey will close on Friday 13 November. To take part go to: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/covidsurvey>

**2021 Primary School Places:** Applications for Primary School places in 2021 need to be made through Somerset County Council's website: [www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions) The deadline for submissions is Friday, 15 January 2021.

**Winter Gritting:** SCC's fleet of 23 lorries will be maintaining the extended gritting service of last year, with approximately 900 miles of road up for treatment in 2020/21. SCC treat over a fifth of Somerset's roads and the main priority is to keep the busiest routes clear whenever ice or snow is expected. For more information about Somerset County Council's winter service programme, including a searchable map showing all the roads treated, please visit [www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting](http://www.travelsomerset.co.uk/gritting) and follow @Travel Somerset on Twitter.

**Climate Emergency Strategy:** The Somerset Climate Emergency Strategy which identifies key priorities to reduce the carbon footprint across the County and achieve Carbon neutrality by 2030 has been written with the assistance of over 5,000 residents who took part in the survey and drop in events. The strategy will now be presented to the SCC Full Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November for endorsement.

**One Somerset:** The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick, has written to all council leaders in Somerset inviting them to submit their business cases for Local Government Reform by 9 November 2020 with final supporting submissions to MHCLG by 9<sup>th</sup> December. It is then expected that the Secretary of State will make a decision in early summer 2021.

### **Planning Application Decisions by Sedgemoor District Council this month:**

- 31/20/00014 The Millshed, Batch End Farm, Batch Lane, Lympsham, BS24. Full Planning permission sought for erection of an agricultural building to cover an open feed yard

**Decision Date: 27/10/2020 Decision; Granted permission. Decision Level: Delegated**

**Items for discussion /Report at next meeting:** Councillor Co-option, New Residents pack, Precept setting and Scribe Accounts package.

Next meeting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.