

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 7pm at the Town Hall

Present: Mr J Oldham (Chair), Mr. R Douglas, Mr C Laughton, Mr R Tizzard, Mr T Campbell, Mr T Carty, Mr P Lock, Mrs M Lock, Mr J Edmonds, Mr A Fletcher and Mr. M. Lancaster

Public Question Time:

There were nine members of the public in attendance.

A gentleman asked if item 9 on the agenda would be discussed. Mr. Oldham said that there would be a proposal to defer this item and item 10.

Receive any reports from County Councillor William Wallace, District Councillor Sarah Dyke and Parish Councillors:

District Councillor Sarah Dyke: Mr. Oldham summarized the report tendered by her in an e-mail. The full report is attached to these minutes.

Mr Campbell: Mr Campbell Expressed a concern that in any restriction of on street parking, council should be mindful of the limited parking opportunities for many residents of the village. Mr. Edmonds commented on the problems of people parking in Bathwell Lane. A short discussion ensued regarding the proposal to place some yellow lines by the entrance to Bathwell Lane. Mr. Oldham reported that this was still under consideration by County (as there had been a formal objection, but all agreed that the parking within the road area needed to be restricted. Mr. Lock asked whether the clump could be made over to car parking.

Mr. Oldham: Mr. Oldham mentioned that the electric charging points had been installed today and would be commissioned towards the end of March. He also reminded councillors of the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th April and asked if councillors could spread the word about this.

Mr. Oldham then discussed the fact that a recent letter received by councillors from a solicitor on behalf of a resident, the content of which had implications for the clarity of decision making around items 9 and 10 of the agenda. On request of the clerk, the letter has been sent to our insurers for advice. Pending that advice, he asked if council would agree to deferring until the next scheduled meeting on 2nd April 2019. Mr. Douglas added that it would not be a level playing field for a couple of the potential projects until this was resolved. There was some concern from councillors in regard to item 10, that it further delayed the decision. It was, however, agreed to postpone these discussions. Mr. Lock commented that some of the proposals were of poor definition of scope and costs, and this delay was an opportunity to asks those submitting the proposals if they wanted to improve the clarity in these areas. This was agreed.

Action: Mr. Oldham to write to all proposal submitters with this suggestion

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Received from District Councillor Sarah Dyke, and Mr M Ritchie. Reasons for absence accepted.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Received from Mr T Carty, potentially within the action list, *member of Redcliffe Homes residents Working Party.*

3. **Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 5th February 2019**
There was one change proposed (attendance of Mr. Douglas missed out). The minutes were then approved (proposed by Mr Lock , and seconded by Mr Campbell), and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Circulation of the draft Planning Committee and Finance Committee meeting minutes dated Tuesday 19th February 2019** was noted.

5. **Planning**

- 5.1 **The following Tree Preservation order** was noted:

19/00304/TPO Application to carry out tree works *Sycamore, Higher Gunville*

6. **Review and update Action List:** The Action List was reviewed and updated. The following were discussed in detail:

The development of the library was discussed and it was agreed that the DOMPL and SCC would be contacted to discover the current status.

It was noted that some new signs had been obtained regarding dog fouling and had been put up.

It was noted that the emergency plan was on hold pending the upcoming Parish Council Elections.

Plastic Free Community – Mr Fletcher updated the Council on the stages and requirements of becoming a Plastic Free Community and commented that we were making progress with the milestones. It was agreed that Mr Fletcher would suggest a suitable agenda item to enable adoption of the concept at the next council meeting in April.

7. Mr. Oldham described the process for applying for election to the next Parish Council quadrennium together with key dates including the date of the May Parish Council meeting following the election which will be on 14th May. Mr. Oldham asked for volunteers to deliver the leaflets about the election to each house in Milborne Port. Messrs Carty, Fletcher, Douglas, Campbell and Phil and Maureen Lock offered to help. Mrs. Oldham will address the partitioning of the distribution.

Action: Mr. Oldham to divide up the leaflets and let volunteer councillors know their “area”.

Note a member of the public approached Mr. Oldham after closure of the meeting and also offered to help.

8. Update on Plastic Free community. This was largely covered in the consideration of action items.

Action: Mr. Fletcher will propose a motion for adoption of the concept at the April meeting.

9. **Adoption of vexatious complaints policy.** Item deferred to April.

10. **Canadian solar use of funds decision** Item deferred to April.

11. **Finance**

- 11.1 **Receipt of Financial Statements dated 31st January 2019** was confirmed. Mr Douglas discussed the development of the processes to improve the representation

of the financial position of council. Mr. Carty commented that he was concerned about how the spend against budget was being tracked. Mr. Douglas commented that his proposed changes were intended to address that concern. Mr. Carty further mentioned that we might be carrying too much in reserves. Mr. Douglas commented that we would achieve clarity when we did further population of the ear marked reserves and other columns of the package.

- 11.2 Consider request for £500 donation to the Spirit of Milborne Port.** This has been done in the past years After some discussion, this was proposed by XXX and carried.

- 11.3** The following **Payments** were approved:

Mrs E Francis – Town Hall Cleaner	£100.00
Mrs E Curtis – Dog sign reimbursement	£79.99
Came and Company – insurance premium inv. 36227838	£83.80
Westree Company – Tree works inv: 987	£138.00
JNR Lit – Air con unit inv: 13891	£1740.00
SSDC – Dog bin emptying Inv: 06000038790	£254.40
SSDC – Ranger Labour Inv: 06000038576	£1358.64
K M Dike Nurseries – Grounds maintenance Inv: 461	£1128.98
Milborne Port Computers – Website and Emails inv: 15244	£132.00

12. Correspondence

- 12.1** The following **Correspondence** was considered:

- **Letter of complaint regarding Mr. Oldham**

Mr. Oldham asked Mr. Douglas to lead this item. Mr. Douglas stated that the Council had no powers to act in this case but had forwarded the complaint to the monitoring officer who had responded that the complainant must send it directly to the monitoring officer, not through the council. The complainant has been informed of the procedure. Mr. Oldham offered to discuss the complaint and his written response to council. Mr. Carty commented that there could be a high degree of frustration in the public when they were not allowed to speak and that we should listen and be seen to be listening to the electorate. Mr. Oldham commented that we do try to do that when there was pertinent information to be gleaned but had to balance that the Parish Council meetings are not public meetings, but meetings held in public. Mr. Douglas reminded the meeting that we perhaps needed to improve the message that personal opinions of councillors were just that, and only the resolutions following discussion were when the council spoke as a corporate body.

- 13. Newsletter and Communications:** It was resolved to publicise the Elections, the move to a plastic free community and litter pick village litter pick, the village entry to SW in bloom, deferment of the Canadian Solar process and the Annual Parish Meeting.

- 14. The date of the next Full Parish Council Meeting** was confirmed as **Tuesday 2nd April 2019.**

Appendix

Report for Milborne Port Parish Council

5th March 2019

Cllr Sarah Dyke, SSDC Ward Member for Milborne Port

The financial constraints placed on local government by falling budgets is challenging, but changing the way the Council works, although difficult, enables South Somerset to continue to deliver the best possible services for residents and businesses in South Somerset.

Some (but by no means and exhaustive) list of South Somerset District Councils achievements are below:

- No cuts to public services – we delivered a budget in 2018 that was balanced and meant that there have been no reductions to services for the 2018/19 financial year
- There has been minimal B&B temporary accommodation for displaced families and children – for example there was only 1 between April and September last year. A really great achievement
- Wilkos and Marks and Spencers in Yeovil were purchased to support our regeneration ambitions and as part of an investment portfolio for the new commercial strategy, which will enable the Council to become a more commercial organisation and to generate income to continue to provide high quality services
- A transformation programme is ongoing which will enable the Council to be more streamlined and put it on a more financially sustainable footing. This process has involved reducing staff headcount and costs by 22%. A recent Peer Review found that despite these staff losses, morale was high and a high service level was being maintained.
- Residents benefitted from seeing an increase in the number of affordable homes built in South Somerset. In total, 69 affordable homes were built in the 2017/18 financial year, compared with 59 in the previous year.
- Cartgate Tourist Information Centre won a Gold award for Visitor Information Service of the year. Nearly 70,000 visitors stop there every year looking for information to explore the area and to take advantage of the many discounted ticket prices for key events
- Businesses have benefitted from a series of networking events and a programme of workshops for small businesses to improve their profile on the internet with training on subjects such as Digital Strategy, Web Design for example

- More families than ever before took part in free Play Days in South Somerset, giving thousands the opportunity to take part in a massive range of free activities
- Milborne Port and Yeovil both won Gold awards in their categories in the South West in Bloom competition

To come this year:

- A brand new website with 24/7 access and a customer portal area which will enable better access to services and information launched on 12th February. Residents and businesses will be able to track requests and pay for services when needed.
- A town centre action plan is being created for Wincanton among other town in the area, as set out in our Priority Projects 2018/19.
- The Council will move forward with being more commercial, business like and generating income whilst remaining focussed on and delivering for our communities. Income generation is important as it helps to protect services as far as possible and meet our ambitions to improve life in South Somerset by making investments that will deliver valuable income.
- Along with the other 5 councils in Somerset, SSDC has commissioned research into options for change and how local government can ensure sustainable service provision is available that meets the needs of our communities.

Any questions, please call me on 07979 535542 or email sarahmilborneport@gmail.com