St. Mary Bourne Parish Council www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk



Parish Council Meeting Minutes

held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 19.30, in the Club Room, Village Centre.

Present: Cllrs Bridget Culley, Jeanette Davies, Patrick Foote, Phil Jeffrey, Oliver Madge (Chair), Ed Makgill, Glenda Mew, Dave Peart, Gwen Randall.

In attendance: Parish Clerk from Hurstbourne Tarrant, Miriam Edwards

Members of the Parish: 12

Meeting start: 19:30

157. Introduction led by the chair: General Welcome.

158. A member of the public (MOP) raised the Change of Use Application for the Pavilion. The MOP stated that there was a disagreement that the facility was suitable for a nursery and the long-term effect this shared use is having on SMBCC.

Another MOP also stated there is a concern about the lack of information about the application, as some people were not aware. Stated that not everyone was online, but that H&V reached a wider audience, but the application had not been listed in there. The MOP advised that he had been compelled to post the details on Bourne Valley FB pages to generate interest and allow MOPs to share their views. Cllr Madge explained about the website portal not being updated as frequently as considered (a recent discovery) and that a request for those who cannot access BDBC planning portal. The regurgitation of information available in many other sources was not a benefit in H&Vs limited space.

The application had been discussed and minuted at council meetings, the application published as required by BDBC.

CIIr Madge asked for assistance with articles for the H&V (not a job for the Clerk) and help with admin for the H&V. No replies.

MOP spoke about the history of the Pavilion and Cricket team in SMB. Stressed his view that the nursery and the required set-up was spoiling the Recreation area and was challenging the long-term viability of the Cricket Club. He believes that it is inappropriate as a childcare facility (stated this was backed by Ofsted), the fence and storage container, in his opinion, are not attractive in an AONB. The footfall to the Pavilion has destroyed the grass. Inside the Fridge Freezer is not easy for the club to access. He stated that it would be difficult for SMBCC to recruit new members with the Pavilion in its current state.

Cllr Madge initially responded to advise that the statement about Ofsted is in fact incorrect as this has now been approved, and all reports on the nursery are available to view on Ofsted's website. Cllr Madge advised that very little maintenance in recent years had been done on the Pavilion by either the Cricket Club or the Council and this was had a negative impact on the building. Ninnys have made it cleaner than it has been for a long time.

Cllr Madge requested that MOP forward his points for discussion, and they would be addressed in return. It was pointed out that the Council have been in communication with members of the cricket club committee, both senior and junior, over the summer and that lines of communication are open.

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CIIr Madge advised that a new financial model was needed to rebuild the pavilion, as the current building is drawing towards end of its life (as previously minuted in 2018), and the Parish Council are working towards this plan.

Cllr Madge clarified that the Pavilion rental to Ninny's House is currently temporary, subject to Change of Use Application outcome, further discussions are to be held with SMB Cricket Club Committee on how the first shared season had worked, but it was bringing income into the parish (and a benefit to many parents), and if deemed a success, then it would be the time for discussion on building a new pavilion, of a size and design to facilitate much more use for the current stakeholders, i.e. making it suitable for mixed teams and wider community. Cllr Madge advised that a meeting would be held at the end of the season to talk about the potential for a new pavilion.

Cllr Randall then raised the issue of the fence again, and the manner it had been installed. These are issues that had been dealt with at previous meetings and Ninny's had requested to make the building fit for purpose. When discussed among the councillors, no objections were raised.

MOP requested to comment on the Solar Park Application. Chairman asked to defer their opportunity to speak until later in the meeting during the Planning Section (165) of the meeting.

- 159. Apologies for absence: None
- **160.** Declarations of interest:

 Cllr Culley and Cllr Jeffrey Item 166.2 (possibly)
- 161. Receive reports from Borough & County Councillors: Cllr Sam Carr.

Two main discussion points: B&D Local Plan & Lower Wyke Solar Farm.

Local Plan: New Administration is Lib Dem/Independent - moving forward with Regulation 18 consultation to keep 15K new house builds over the next 15 years across the borough. First 5 years will be a step down to 950 per annum over the next 10 years. Still has to go to Planning Inspectorate.

Implication for SMB Parish is that there will be a consultation in November/December this year — there are no identified sites in SMB Parish at the moment. Typically it would be 35 homes over 15 years, starting 2025/26. Unless the community decides where these should be, a developer will choose for us. Cllr Carr strongly recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan be reviewed and updated for the next decade and to be able to look to control housing. The current one doesn't include an allocation for housing to wont give protection.

Cllr Madge is in communication with Hurstbourne Priors PC. A working party will be required to undertake. A request for any councilors who wish to get involved was made. No replies.

Solar Farm: Cllr Carr advised this is the first major application in the BDBC part of our AONB. It is on the edge of the AONB but still within it. It would set a precedent for other AONBs, and make it hard to fight future applications. Cllr Carr recommended the PC opposes the application.

One of the main considerations is how the farm will connect to the National Grid, there are still many unanswered questions in the application. There will be an impact on traffic and disruption, and an impact on agricultural land, loss of high quality agricultural land. Cllr Carr advised that he will make sure the application goes to the Development & Control Committee at BDBC. Advised that we could still be a year away from any decision.

Questions then came from the audience:

Q: How does an AONB work ie who can decide what is built within it?

A: AONB sits between a National Park and Ordinary Farmland. A National Park is a designated piece of national landscape protected from harm. An AONB is different, the Local Authority (LA) has sovereignty, so BDBC can decide to do as they wish from a planning perspective. The North Wessex Downs AONB Management Unit is in Hungerford – they have input into the planning process,

recommend policies, and comment on applications. The decision maker is still the LA.

Q: AONB & Prime Agricultural Land – so what has driven this project to select that piece of land? A: BDBC is not under any pressure to deliver solar energy, so Cllr Carr said he imagined it was for the land owner to make money. BDBC have to think whether letting the Solar Farm go ahead is 'the right thing to do'. Whatever decision BDBC makes, the company will appeal, could go to Inspectorate, but like any other application it comes down to reasons for and against, and we must ensure we are putting clear arguments forward.

Q: Have there been any successful applications in this area?

A: There has been a growth of interest in the borough – Bramley, large solar proposal refused and gone to appeal. Smaller ones have gone ahead.

Cllr Carr advised that there are buildings on a solar park, and these could be used a ground that has been previously developed rather than virgin agricultural land. It could be used as an argument for development in 40 years time.

There has also been a significant amount of new housing this side of Andover, with another block being developed right now. There are concerns in BDBC that development is creeping closer. This application should not be thought about in isolation, and ask what is the overall plan and what happens to SMB vs Andover.

The local plan moving forward should put emphasis on renewables on new buildings, commercial included. Important to deal with Climate Change but balance should be found with the landscape. It is important that the gap is protected between the villages and Andover. A lot has been built in Test Valley right up to the border of SMB Parish at Wyke Down.

Cllr Madge advised that he has been in contact with Hurstbourne Priors and Hurstbourne Tarrant regarding their views on this from the Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) side too.

Cllr Madge looked to confirm the view from the Planning Working Group, who were not initially all in agreement hence bringing to this meeting for debate. Cllr Jeffrey advised that it is cheaper to build solar on agricultural land rather than buildings, Cllr Peart did not object initially to the application, but after the discussion is happy to revisit this, as is Cllr Randall.

Cllr Makgill has concerns that the junction onto Walworth Road is already a dangerous junction, so with increased traffic in this area could become very unsafe.

It was agreed that the PC is opposed in the majority, because more answers are needed, but those who weren't opposed now feel further clarification is required.

Cllr Madge will draft a PC response for the application. Will email to all councillors for agreement. The Clerk has been in touch with Luke Bengamin at BDBC to extend our consultee response deadline until the end of September.

An MOP raised the issue that he thought there might be a conflict of interest for Cllr Culley as he believed the Cllr's family contract farmed the land currently. Cllr Culley stated she was unaware of the agenda item, and it was agreed that Cllr Culley would not take part in discussions or vote on the matter.

Cllr Carr agreed to clarify with Luke Benjamin, Planning Officer in charge of this application, that final responses were not quite ready for submission and that initial responses would be made by the end of the month.

162 Minutes of Full Council meeting held 11th July 2023

- 162.1 Approved by: Proposed: Cllr Makgill, seconded Cllr Peart
- 162.2 Action list to be picked up at a later date.

ACTION: Publish Action List from meeting to Parish Council - CLERK



163. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-2023 (AGAR)

163.1 Amendment to AGAR Section 2 – Staff Costs and All Other Payments.

Approved by Full Council and resubmitted on 14.08.23 as per instructions

from External Auditor BDO LLP.

RESOLVED: Minute reference added to Section 2 for formal record.

ACTION: Update Section 2 and confirm to BDO LLP - CLERK

164. Finance:

164.1 Bank Balances on 02/09/2023

Account A: £111,426.49 Account B: £626.92

Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Foote have met and checked the accounts against bank statements prior to the meeting. Ear Marked reserves are not kept separately currently, only recorded. As part of preparation for Budget 2024/2025 additional reserves for maintenance/repair of Parish Assets should be considered, with input from Working Groups and their spend

forecasts.

Total in All Accounts	Earmarked Reserves	Operational Balance
£112,053.41	£23,000.00 CIL £9440.00 Lottery Grant	£42,211.18
	£6,402.23 Greenham Trust Grant Play Area £7,000.00 Riverbank Project	+ 2 nd 50% Precept Due in
	£24,000.00 3 Months running costs at Approx £8000 per month.	Sept £20K
	TOTAL: £69,842.23	

164.2 Payments & Receipts for Approval made in July 2023

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
DD	06/07/2023	Southern Electric	£123.37	
DD	10/07/2023	Scottish Water	£147.42	
BACS	11/07/2023	SMB Village Centre	£130.00	Office Hire
BACS	11/07/2023	Premier	£2142.00	Lengthsman Cluster
BACS	11/07/2023	NALC	£52.04	Councillor Training
BACS	11/07/2023	Eclipse Pest Control	£130.00	
BACS	11/07/2023	Scofell Landscapes	£823.99	Grounds Maintenance
BACS	11/07/2023	Mrs L King	£100.00	SMB Book
BACS	11/07/2023	T2 Southern Ltd	£336.00	Water Heater for Pavilion
BACS	14/07/2023	Rory Redfern	£725.33	Jazz Evening Band
BACS	17/07/2023	Greenham Trust Ltd	£715.67	Match Funding for Jazz Evening
BACS	17/07/2023	Andover Glass Works Ltd	£311.78	Replacement Glass Pavilion
BACS	28/07/2023	AA Deptford	£318.00	Charge Pack & Pads for Defib
BACS	31/07/2023	Maxine Owen	£1529.76	July 2023 Payroll
		TOTAL	£7585.36	

Receipts £80.70 Bank Interest

£500.00 Rent from Ninny's for July 2023

£1440.00 Eventbrite for Jazz eve (transferred to Greenham Trust for match-funding)

£819.53 Q2 Fishing Licence

164.3 Payments & Receipts for Approval made in August 2023

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
DD	04/08/2023	Southern Electric	£25.20	
BACS	07/08/2023	Toby Bunce Tree Services	£1714.00	
BACS	09/08/2023	Scottish Water	£169.79	
BACS	09/08/2023	SMB Village Centre	£130.00	Office Hire
BACS	09/08/2023	Scofell Landscapes	£823.99	Grounds Maintenance
BACS	09/08/2023	Premier Grounds	£1350.00	Lengthsman Cluster
BACS	09/08/2023	Vision ICT	£43.20	Gov.uk email
BACS	17/08/2023	Southern Electric	£96.14	
BACS	17/08/2023	Southern Electric	£111.87	
BACS	31/08/2023	Maxine Owen	£1269.76	August 2023 Payroll
BACS	31/08/2023	HMRC	£105.04	HMRC & NI
		TOTAL	£5838.99	

Receipts:

£83.90 Bank Interest

£500.00 Rent from Ninny's for August 2023 £3781.87 Greenham Trust from Jazz evening

165 Planning: (Any queries please email: planning@stmarybourne.org)

165.1 – Summary List Of applications since last meeting shown below:

Response Date	App Reference	Address	Туре	Consultee Response
05/09/23	23/02000/FUL	Lower Wyke Farm SMB	Solar Farm	Discussed at this Meeting
28/08/23	23/01956/FUL	Bourne Court, SMB, SP11 6BT	Change of Use on Annexe	No Objection
29/08/23	T/00318/23/TCA	6 Batsford, SMB SP11 6AX	Tree Work	No Objection
25/08/23	23/01662/HSE	Garston, Stoke SP11 OLU	Extension	No Objection
23/08/23	23/01936/VLA	Rowe Farm, Gangbridge	Variation of Legal Agreement	No Objection
21/08/23	23/01609/HSE	Bramley Cottage, Gangbridge Lane	Extension	No Objection
18/08/23	23/01463/RET	Cricket Pavilion SMB	Change of Use	No Objection
21/07/23	23/01826/AGPD	Jamaica Farm	AGPD	No response Required
11/08/23	23/01771/FUL	Binley Cottage	Livestock Barn	No Objection
09/08/23	T/00282/23/TCA	6 Batsford, SMB SP11 6AX	Trees	No Objection
07/09/23	23/01703/HSE	5 Spring Hill SMB	Amendment to Application	No Objection
01/08/23	23/01703/HSE	5 Spring Hill SMB	Extension	No Objection
01/08/23	T/00271/23/TCA	4 Spring Hill	Trees	No Objection
01/08/23	T/00269/23/TCA	13 Stevens Green	Trees	No Objection

- 165.2 Two topical applications published on Facebook (23/01463/RET & 23/02000/FUL) Discussed earlier at this meeting.
- 165.3 Response Deadline for Solar Farm application (23/02000/Ful) Discussed earlier at this meeting.
- 165.4 Planning Tracker To be discussed in Other Business Section 170.6
- 166 Highways & Footpaths: (Any queries please email: highways@stmarybourne.org)
- Cllr Foote advised there was nothing of great consequence to report. Worst of potholes dealt with over the last month by Highways, but still some bad ones outstanding. New Barn Farm Crossing has been done. Happy for any parishioners to contact with details of any outstanding. Vegetation: Some hedges are badly overgrown. Between Derrydown & the Bourne Valley Inn, on both sides, neglected for many years. Cllr Foote advised he has started conversations with the relevant landowners. Also on top of Spring Hill at The Camp Site the hedge is very high. Cllr Foote advised he would contact them.

Cllr Culley offered to explore whether the Culley's could provide a service to cut some hedgerows at cost to PC or relevant residents.

It was mentioned that also opposite the Coronation Arms the hedge is several metres out. Cllr Foote will approach the owner.

Cllr Foote has also been walking the footpaths armed with secateurs chopping back where possible.

Cllr Makgill advised the Council that the footpath across Bell's Meadow (Mac's Field) at the point it rises up to the gate on Bourne Hill has worn away with use. It was agreed, because this is the Test Way, the responsibility is Hampshire County Council's. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Rights of Way officer at HCC. The footpath should be well maintained as this is the off-road route to school from the Village Centre, and anything that would discourage the number of cars at the school at drop-off time should be supported by the Parish Council.

Cllr Foote advised that Caroline Hoyes had retired from her position in the role of Footpaths Officer for the Parish after many years of dedicated service, and many miles walked across the paths of the parish. The Parish Council would like to thank Caroline for her dedication to this role.

ACTION: Report Test Way maintenance requirement to Hampshire County Council's ROW Officer - **Clerk**

ACTION: Vacant Position of Footpaths Officer to be added to Hill and Valley PC article and on FB page.

- 166.2 Footpaths across farmland. Aspect has been addressed. No further action required.
- 167 Flood Emergency Group (FEG): (Any queries please email: flood@stmarybourne.org)
- 167.1 Cllr Makgill advised that he noticed Conway were in the parish clearing gully's by the War Memorial in SMB this is a huge soakaway which is blocked. Cllr Makgill requested they clear the pipes into the soakaway which should help alleviate flooding in that area. There is still work to do on the High Street. It was noted that HCC had not advised of the visit, as they had previously, so no chance for vehicles to be moved out of the way or any conversation was able to be had as to what the priorities might be for the parish.
- 168 Lake: (Any queries please email: lake@stmarybourne.org)
- 168.1 The Lake Working Group (WG) met on 11th September 2023.

It was agreed that the nettles would be dealt with in two specific patches in early spring 2024 before the nettles have a chance to take hold. Scofell have quoted for the work £350. Cllr Davies has provided the Clerk with the relevant forms required by the Environment Agency for this to be done.

Initialled Date Date 23.

SMB-PC Ordinary Meeting Minutes: Tuesday 12th September 2023: Page 6 of 9

It was also decided to clear the trees & debris at Derrydown end of the lake surround. Scofell have been asked to quote for this work.

The logs and chip around the lake need clearing and various MOP have taken some for their own use, but there is still lots left for clearing.

CIIr Davies has been approached by a MOP who would be interested in helping, and will give contact details to the Clerk.

There are problems with cut weed in the river within the boundary of the lake, there are differences in opinion as to how this should be dealt with. Cllr Davies has spoken with Maggie Skelton (Watercress & Winterbournes) while she was visiting the village for a vole survey, and Maggie will be sending through the latest advice on how the weed should be dealt with. She advised it is different to the recommendations for a normal river. It was agreed to wait for the correct recommendation before taking further action to ensure the correct methods are used by the PC/advised to Riparian Owners.

The PC were advised that the river at Gangbridge had been cut once dry by the lengthsman in previous years.

Cllr Madge asked for confirmation from everyone that the PC is in agreement that a plan is needed on what should be done and to ask the Riparian Owners and the PC to work together as to when and how this should be done. All agreed to wait for W&W advice.

Cllr Culley advised that an open meeting would be held on 26th September to discuss current plans and for MOP to raise issues or share ideas for the Lake. All members of the parish are welcome, and the meeting would be advertised on FB, on noticeboards and on the PC website. A plan to have a fairly fluid agenda so that the vision, works, planting/weeding, trees, fishing can all be discussed as well as any other items the MOP wishes to raise.

Cllr Madge advised the working group that there are now two fallen willows on the island, and wondered why there has been no discussion or inclusion within a plan for their removal / management?

Concern was raised that this working group needs to take ownership of the pressing matters and look to finalise budget requests and maintenance issues. Further meetings are to shape the future of the lake and surround, not the current matters in hand.

169 Recreation Ground: (Any queries please email: rec@stmarybourne.org)

- 169.1 General update from Cllr Madge, although anything of significance had already been discussed at this point.
- 169.2 Cllr Makgill advised that there is a repair required in the fence surrounding the play area in SMB. Small children are able to escape unaided into the car park, so an urgent repair needs to be done.

ACTION: Proposed to add a block of wood, as a short term fix, to prevent this from occurring-**Clir Makgill.**

169.3 It was advised to the council that finally we have Topographical Maps of the whole SMB Recreation Area. This will enable the PC and other stakeholders to work on any redevelopment ideas for the area, not just rebuilding of the pavilion/relocation of the play area/management of parking limitations. The map is the blue-print to work from.

All stakeholders in the area along side the PC should be included in discussions, it needs to be driven by the PC as land owner, but the plan and assets within belong to everyone in the parish and need to have equal voices.

The Village Hall, Cricket, Shop, Bowls, & the electorate need to all contribute to what needs to

be done to improve the area and create a long-term option. Cllr Madge recommended that the PC work towards gathering everyone's ideas first and including within an initial plan that can be presented to the electorate for consultation.

ACTION: Ongoing.

170 Other Business

170.1 Parish Wide Tree Report: After considering the three quotes the PC unanimously agreed to go with the middle quote from Wessex Woodland Management for the tree report. The cost is £950 + VAT.

CIIr Madge advised that the work on the trees on the far side of the Rec had been completed, an Oak has been crown-lifted and a heavily diseased Horse Chestnut removed. The Horse Chestnut immediately next to it is also diseased and is likely to need to be removed in the near future.

It was agreed to allocate £4000 to Tree work on the Rec for work that requires professionals. The trees along the back of the Rec need crown-lifting, so quite a large amount of the grass area can be reclaimed.

Fence/Posts: The council were advised that the broken post by the entrance to the Village Hall will be repaired on 13th September, and the same contractor has been asked to quote to repair the broken fence in the car park.

ACTION: Contact Wessex Woodland to arrange date for tree survey to commence- CLERK

170.2 **Electric Scooters on the Rec:** Cllr Davies advised that people had been riding electric scooters at speed on the Recreation Ground. There was discussion as to how this might be stopped, but no conclusion drawn.

ACTION: Work out how much of an issue, and what to do - All Councillors

NALC Training: Cllr Davies attended New Councillor training offered by NALC via Zoom in late July. Cllr Davies advised that overall it was useful, but mostly common sense. Cllr Davies noted that above all Communication with the electorate should be key in everything the PC does. Cllr Madge has found a document that offers a toolkit for councillors which he will share.

ACTION: Councillor's Toolkit to be created with input from all councillors - ALL

170.4 **Bulbs:** Cllr Davies requested that she buy a quantity of bulbs for Autumn Planting. She advised she was happy to plant them, but needed funding. The PC agreed to fund to £150.00.

ACTION: Purchase bulbs - Cllr Davies

170.5 Rats by the Almshouses/Duck Bridge/Ford: Cllr Madge advised that evidence of rats had been reported to the PC. It is likely this is because of ducks being fed too much bread. Legally the PC can't stop people feeding the ducks bread, but the local environmental health can deal with the issues as it's a public health issue. Surrounding compost heaps may also be a contributing factor. The PC was advised at the meeting that the land effected may still belong to the Portsmouth Estate and not be the PC's responsibility.

ACTION: Contact the Environmental Health Office for advice on next steps. – **CLERK ACTION:** To gain clarification of land ownership – **Clerk**

170.6 PC Website & Hugofox: The Clerk has been notified that from October the current Parish Council Website hosted by Hugofox will no longer be free of charge. Hugofox are offering Bronze/Silver/Gold options. Without the Planning Tracker the Bronze level of service would be adequate for the legal needs of the PC. This is £10 per month. The clerk will investigate how easy it is for the electorate to use BDBC website directly for planning information, communicate that, and move forward at Bronze Level, then revisit in a few months.

ACTION: Advise Hugofox of Bronze Level uptake - CLERK

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SMB-PC Ordinary Meeting Minutes: Tuesd					8 of 9

ACTION: Investigate ease of use on BDBC planning portal - CLERK

170.7 **Bench Repair on Lakeside Footpath:** Cllr Madge advised that the Bench had been removed for repair, a bench which is a memorial to Mrs Inness, the first VOTED chairperson of SMB PC. Cllr Davies has agreed to photograph it on its return, and write an article as she has a photo of Mrs Innes. Thank you to Mike Thomas who has collected the bench for refurbishment. The arms will be sandblasted and repaired where needed. There are some cost implications for materials, and the PC unanimously agreed to pay Mike for his time. The PC will obtain a new plaque.

ACTION: Source appropriate new plaque - Cllr Davies/Clerk

- 170.8 BDAPTC: Meeting on 26th October via zoom Cllr Foote to attend
- 170.9 6th June 2024: 80th Anniversary of D-Day/ BourneFest Cllr Madge advised that there is a big focus on this event across Hampshire, and already in the parish a working party has met to organising BourneFest for this date. (Fundraiser for the school & Play Area Project). James Crozer is likely to be involved representing the Royal British Legion (RBL). It was agreed this is an important event for the PC to support, namely because of the military presence in the area and that events around the Coronation were reasonably small.

ACTION: Maintain communication with organising committee and look for funding on offer from government. Contact James Crozer and gauge RBL activities. – **Cllr Madge/Clerk**

170.10 Almshouse Trustees: Trustee roles are up for re-election this year. Two trustees are currently nominated by the Parish Council (Dan Culley & Penny Wood) – current 5 year term runs out on 12th October 2023. Both would like to be nominated for another 5 year term. Unanimously agreed they both do a good job for the Trust and if both willing to stand the PC would support their terms.

Despite previous requests, CIIr Madge again requested from members of the Parish Council to advise him or the Clerk if there were any other organisations or activities that the PC was involved in - the representation with Almshouse came as a surprise.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 19:30

Meeting end: 21:23

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SMB-PC Ordinary Meeting Minutes: Tuesday 12th September 2023: Page 9 of 9