

Parish Council meeting 28th November 2023

Present: Fran A'brook, Howard Shaw, David Williams, Innes Davies, Karen Telling, Libby Warden

District Councillors Frances Nicholson, Stephen Pugsley

- 1 Apologies for absence received from Val Thompstone
- 2 Declarations of interest – none
- 3 Minutes of last meeting – were approved and signed by the Chairman
- 4 Planning matters

Olands Farm application had been rejected.

The ongoing problems at St James were discussed. The PC have written to the Enforcement Officer but no reply has been received. Stephen Pugsley asked that Howard forward all the information, letter and photographs to him and he will chase the Enforcement Officer. There have been issues with parking on the road causing problems for the neighbours getting out onto the road. The police have been seen there on a couple of occasions.

- 5 Highways

The new signage at the entrance to the village was agreed to be proving effective. Innes suggested that at the other end of the village the Upton village sign be moved closer to the village and a no pathway sign erected. She would speak to Kate Brown again about this. The use of a speed indication device was discussed again. The reason being that the speed indication either needs to be moved or turned off and cannot be on all the time whereas signage would be permanent. Innes would contact Mike Ellacott of Exford PC and Katie Gibbons of Kingston St Mary PC as they already have speed indicator devices and maybe able to give advice about use.

The question of better signage for Wimbleball Lake at the Hansetown Road junction was again discussed and Innes would speak to Kate Brown again.

Libby expressed concern again about the siting of the new signs close to her farm entrance and questioned whether the newly erected bollards are necessary.

Innes explained it maybe because they have to be positioned a certain distance from a corner but will speak to Kate Brown about this.

- 6 Village Fete – a further meeting would be held in the New Year to discuss this.

- 7 Village Hall

The Harvest Supper had proved popular and deemed a success.

The Christmas craft coffee morning was also successful. Well attended and enjoyed by all who attended. Around £500 had been raised for charities.

The Christmas Lunch is going ahead with between 35 and 40 bookings already.

- 8 Finance

Val asked that signatories no longer on the Council be removed and that the main correspondence address is changed to Rainsbury House. Val also suggested applying for online banking which was agreed but need to check if they will support two signatories as this may be a problem.

VAL – IT SEEMS THIS CAN BE A PROBLEM WITH ONLINE BANKING??) No new councillors will be added as signatories at this time.

- 9 Any Other Business

As Hugo Fox are no longer offering free web hosting services, Val had provided information with regard to the three packages they offered and had recommended the Bronze package at £9.99 per month. This was agreed. This can be discussed again at the next meeting re setting up a DD.

David asked if anyone knew about the new communications tower near Huish Champflower and Frances said it was for emergency services.

- 10 Update from District Councillors

Frances informed the PC that Somerset Council are in financial difficulties and as such may only be providing statutory services next year and as such the PC need to set the Precept in January and decide whether anything extra needs to be included for grit and bins as they may not be provided next year.

- 11 Next Meeting – 6th February 2024. The meeting ended at 7.45.