

## **HATCH BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** - Mr Kevin Comer (Chair), Mrs Pippa Fowler (Vice Chair), Mrs Jan Walton, Mr Shaun O'Dell, Mrs Sue Wright, Mrs Jill O'Connor, Mrs Katie Piper and Mr Andy Grant plus attendees as below and two members of the public

**Apologies:** - Cllr Henley

**In Attendance:** - Cllr Wakefield, Ms Chadwick as Clerk

#### **Public Forum**

- Cllr Wakefield circulated her report, including an update on the Somerset Council budget gap and financial emergency, and shared details of the public consultation. The Somerset Council budget is due to be finalised on 20 February.

#### **1. Apologies**

None.

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

None

#### **3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were approved.

#### **4. Casual Vacancy**

There was one candidate for the posted casual vacancy, who shared an outline of their background and skills and confirm their eligibility. Following a vote, Councillors resolved unanimously to elect Mrs Annette Cox to fill the vacancy. The declaration of acceptance of office was completed and witnessed by the Clerk, and a Register of Interests form was supplied to be completed and returned.

#### **5. Community Updates and Councillor external contact reports**

##### **5.1 Greener Hatch Beauchamp**

Tree planting is going ahead on 13 January, volunteers welcome, contact Greener Hatch Beauchamp group for details.

##### **5.2 A358**

A position statement response was sent before Christmas. Following our correspondence. Rebecca Pow MP has issued a statement recognising the position of Hatch Beauchamp and West Hatch.

##### **5.3 Neighbourhood Plan**

A draft has been submitted to Somerset Strategic Planning Group and Stuart Todd our consultant. Comments have been received back and are being processed. Workshops are planned to draft our reply.

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Signed: ..... Dated.....

## 5.5 LCN update

Sub groups have been formed to pursue areas of priority. Next meeting is due on 17 January.

## 5.6 Footpath update

A report on footpaths was circulated.

## 5.7 Any other reports

There has been further correspondence relating to planning matter 19/23/0017. Somerset Council have not agreed to allow tree planting on verges. The Chair shared a report from the SALC AGM.

## 6. Village Tidy

It was provisionally agreed to hold another Village Tidy on 16 March following the success of the Coronation event.

## 7. Bus Service

Councillors reviewed the proposed bus service plan as per email circulated by Kevin Comer on 30 November. We received an offer to continue this at a reduced cost of £50 per day (down from £150 in the trial). The data from the trial showed that approximately 50% of this cost would be covered from fare revenues, and if that is borne out then £1250 would be sufficient to fund a whole year of service. Should it turn out the fare revenue falls short over the first 6 months, we would expect to end the service at that point, so our contribution will be capped at £1250 less a contribution of £100 received from Hatch Community Car Service, for which the Council expressed its thanks.

A leaflet outlining transport options available in the village (Car service, Slinky bus, bus services) to be drafted by Andy Grant and the Clerk.

## 8. Budget

- The draft Parish Council budget as circulated by email was approved. It was agreed to continue to pay burial ground grants despite not receiving any grant from Somerset Council in the future towards this (previously £345 received)
- The Councillors considered Village Hall grass cutting given the cessation of any grant from Somerset Council in the future towards this (previously £1100 received) – it was agreed to cap support at £2000
- The budget for road, bus and neighbourhood plan projects was set at £2250
- The precept for the financial year 2024/25 was agreed at £6300, a 5% increase.

## 9. Finance

### 9.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Council approved the bank reconciliation

### 9.2 Schedule of Cheques

The Council approved the Schedule of Cheques as follows:

Summary of Payments Due							
To pay:							
Clerks wages	3 November to 4 January	532.80				11.84 x 9 weeks x 5 hrs	
Clerks expenses	GoDaddy renewal	17.82	550.62			domain	
Groundwork UK - bal of grant repaid			86.55			Info only - approved by email	
Cheques to pay:			637.17				

## 10. Agenda Items for next meeting

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Signed: ..... Dated.....

None

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

To be signed by the Chair at the next meeting (Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024):

The minutes reflect an accurate record of events subject to any amendments listed below.

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

Amendments:

Produced by:

**Helen Chadwick**, Clerk

hatchbeauchamp.pc@gmail.com

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Signed: ..... Dated.....