

HATCH BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall

Present: - Mr Kevin Comer (Chair), Mrs Pippa Fowler (Vice Chair), Mrs Jan Walton, Mr Steve Williams, Mr Shaun O'Dell, Mr Andy Grant, Mrs Sue Wright and Mrs Katie Piper plus attendees as below and 2 members of the public

Apologies: - None

In Attendance: - Cllr Wakefield, Ms Chadwick as Clerk

Public Forum

- Cllr Wakefield circulated her report, including an update on the Local Community Networks and her report is available on the website

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair in accordance with Standing Orders

Mr Kevin Comer was proposed as Chair by Steve Williams and seconded by Andy Grant, and carried unanimously. Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair was signed by Mr Comer.

Mrs Pippa Fowler was proposed as Vice-Chair by Kevin Comer and seconded by Steve Williams, and carried unanimously. Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair was signed by Mrs Fowler.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies received from Councillors.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2023 were approved.

5. Casual Vacancy

Alison Handel was thanked for her service to the Parish Council. Following clearance to co-opt from Somerset Council Elections Department, the Council received a proposal two excellent candidates to fill the current vacancy. Councillors voted 6 to 2 to elect Mrs Jill O'Connor and her Declarations of Acceptance of Office was duly signed and the register of interest form passed to her for completion.

6. Sub Committee and Community Reports

6.1 Community Shop

Report circulated by email. Awaiting the outcome of the planning application. More information was required by Highways, this has been submitted and response awaited.

10th May 2023

Signed: Dated.....

A donation of £2000 has been pledged.

6.2 Village Hall

Report circulated by email. The Village Hall will be closed for refurbishment from the second week of July to September. The chairs, kitchen, and toilets will be replaced and new AV equipment installed.

6.3 Greener Hatch Beauchamp

Report circulated by email. Raised beds built and planted, good amount of engagement so far. Plans for possible herb beds/containers in the future.

Repair cafe on the 27th May, able to offer repairs on electrics, furniture, clothing, bikes and computers so pretty good for a village size event. Capland no-dig talk set for 2nd July.

Future events and project ideas include freecycle event, community compost behind the garages by Neroche View, community orchard to the front of Neroche View and alternative bus ideas.

6.4 A358

Report circulated by email. The conduct of this highways project continues to suffer from an appalling lack of transparency. However we have discovered that the current 'appropriateness' review is by HM Treasury - a FOI request is in to ask them about the details and response is due in the next couple of weeks. Meanwhile National Highways still has not published the summary of last year's consultation - despite recent undertakings. The campaign continues - careful timing of actions is required given the current hiatus, fast response will be needed when the process resumes.

6.5 Neighbourhood plan

A community consultation event is due to be held on 12th/13th May.

7. Bus Proposal

The Councillors heard a proposal from Andy Grant for trial bus service once a week for 3 months from July. The aim being to prove demand to Somerset Council. The Neighbourhood Plan supports the need. Partial funding had already been pledged by a parishioner so the cost to the Parish Council would be maximum £800 with operating costs offset by fares received. Questions were received about timings (not yet set), wheelchair accessibility and the definition of success measures. Following a vote, it was agreed 6 to 3 to proceed with this plan.

8. Insurance

The Clerk to presented a proposal to renew insurance with Zurich at a cost of £405.20 vs £380.70 in the previous year. The Council resolved to renew the insurance with Zurich from 1 June 2023.

9. Next meeting

It was resolved to hold next meeting one week earlier than usual on 5th July in light of proposed village hall closure for refurbishment

10th May 2023

Signed: Dated.....

10. Updates to Parish Council Documentation

The Council approved the updated 2023 Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct.

11. Finance

11.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Council approved the bank reconciliations.

11.2 Schedule of Cheques

The Council approved the Schedule of Cheques as follows:

Summary of Payments Due				
	To pay:			
	Clerks wages	3 Mar to 4 May		532.80
	Chairs expenses	Printing		187.88
	S Williams exps	Notice boards		98.22
	S Comer neighbourhood plan expenses			125.00
	Zurich insurance			405.20
	Repay Community shop monies held			184.10
	Cheques to pay:			<u>1533.20</u>

It was noted that following approval at the previous meeting, payments had been made of £1,500.00 for play equipment and £2,160.00 for defibrillator renewal, plus two payments had been approved by email, firstly £39.96 for 4th quarter dog bin emptying and secondly a sum of £5,015.72 for Stuart Todd ref his consultancy work on the Neighbourhood Plan, offset by grant monies received net of VAT which can be reclaimed.

11.3 AGAR

The Council reviewed and approved the draft Annual Governance Report and Financial Statements and the draft Certificate of Exemption. These were authorised to be signed by the Chair subject to the completion of the Internal Audit

11.4 Annual Review of Risks

The Council reviewed and approved the Annual review of Risks from the Clerk

11.5 Bank signatories

It was resolved to add Katie Piper as a bank signatory

12. Agenda Items for next meeting

It was agreed to add Local Community Networks and Community Infrastructure Levy to the next agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

10th May 2023

Signed: Dated.....

To be signed by the Chair at the next meeting (Wednesday 5th July 2023):

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

10th May 2023

Signed: Dated.....