

HATCH BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council held on Wednesday, 14th July 2021 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall

Present: - Ms Christine Scott (Chair), Mrs Pippa Fowler, Mr Kevin Comer (Vice Chair) , Ms Alison Handel, Mrs Wendy Grant plus 5 members of the public

Members absent: - None

Apologies: - Mr Tony Murphy

In Attendance: - Ms Chadwick as Clerk, Cllr Ross Henley, Cllr John Thorne

Public Forum

Cllr Thorne and Cllr Henley presented their reports. Cllr Thorne was asked to give SCC's view on A358 plans.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Murphy.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the 5th May were approved unanimously.

4. Presentation from Mr Lehner from West of England Developments

A short presentation was given by Mr Lehner about the site at Station Road, and draft revised plans circulated. Mr Lehner asked the Council what their plans were for further affordable housing in the village. The Council updated Mr Lehner about the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and housing needs assessment. Following discussion during which no support for his revised plan was forthcoming, Mr Lehner left the meeting.

5. Casual vacancy

As there were no requests to Somerset West and Taunton for an election it was agreed to co-opt candidates to fill the vacancies. Three candidates had put their name forward for co-option to the Parish Council and each gave a short presentation explaining what they could offer to the Council and the community. Following a vote, Mrs Piper, Mr O'Dell and Mrs Walton were elected unanimously. All agreed the declaration to accept office, which will be collected by the Proper Officer.

6. Sub Committee Reports

6.1 Community Shop

The pop up cafés at the Village Hall are being well supported, and have raised £662 so far. Advice has been sought from the Plunkett Foundation on raising funds. A proposal has been put to the Village Hall on siting a temporary building which will be considered on 20 July. Next meeting 22 July.

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6.2 Community Car Scheme

12 trips were undertaken in June and 10 in July so far. 2 new drivers have been added.

6.3 Improving Living

Following Mr Reid's resignation this group is presently dormant. Ms Scott invited the Councillors to contact her if anyone is interested in taking on this role for the Council.

6.4 A358

Ms Scott reported that a group consisting of 8 local Parish Councils had submitted a proposal for changes to the Highways England (HE) A358 plan between Thornfalcon and Southfields and had met with HE to discuss these in detail. HE have sent their response for consideration, but not all the suggestions have been accepted. Ms Scott updated the Council on the court case outcome brought by the Transport Action Network. HE have been invited to the next Council meeting.

6.5. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mr Comer reported that it has been agreed to split the plan into 5 streams (housing, business, environment, recreation and infrastructure) and volunteers have been agreed for four of the streams. Mrs Walton agreed to take the final one. The AECOM housing needs assessment has been received and is being reviewed.

7. Update on Footpaths/Bridlepaths/Rights of Way/Signposts

Clerk reported that Rod Harrington is still working on the upgrade of the footpath from Home Orchard to the Playing Field with the landowner and Somerset West and Taunton Council. Clerk reported she is in contact with Martin Cooper of Somerset County Council about clearing paths and bridleways of vegetation. Clerk also reported the work on the signpost at the corner of Bickenhall Lane at Village Road would commence this coming weekend.

8. Communication Strategy

Mr Comer presented to Council on a potential communication policy and publicity methods. Mr Comer will circulate a proposed Transparency Policy. A group shared drive has been set up in the Parish Google Drive for the Neighbourhood Plan documents. The need for councillors to have parish email addresses was discussed. This could be done under hatchbeauchamp.com but the cost is prohibitive. Mr Comer to investigate other options. Clerk to check with SALC.

9. Post Lockdown/Covid Village Party

Mr Murphy is planning an event on the 29th of August (Bank Holiday weekend) together with Mrs Murphy representing the Village Hall. Posters have been placed

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around the village. There will be free activities, cream tea, community barbecues for all to use and a cash bar. The Council have been asked to contribute £500 with the Village Hall contributing £900. This was discussed and approved.

10. Covid Volunteer group

The council discussed disbanding the group in light of reducing coronavirus restrictions. After debate it was agreed to leave it dormant for now, but not disband.

11. Littering in the Village

The litter bin and a dog waste bin plus associated signage to the value of up to £320 which were approved at the last meeting have been purchased and placed in the village. Two litter signs and one dog fouling sign are still to be placed and the Clerk requested ideas for the siting of these to be sent to her.

12. Finance

12.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Council approved the bank reconciliations.

12.2 Schedule of Cheques

The Council approved the Schedule of Cheques, to which the Village Hall payment of £500 will be added.

12.3 Grass cutting grant

The Clerk updated Council on the grant. The first bill for grass cutting has been received. No response to the VAT letter has been received yet, Clerk will chase.

12.4 Update on internal audit and public rights period

Following review of the AGAR at the previous meeting, the internal audit was completed with no changes. The Notice of Public Rights has been posted with effect from June and remains open until 6 August.

13. Agenda Items for next meeting

None

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

To be signed by the Chair at the next meeting (Wednesday, 8th September 2021):

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

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

Amendments:

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Signed: Dated.....



Produced by:
Helen Chadwick, Clerk
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