

HATCH BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Hatch Beauchamp Parish Council held on Wednesday, 5th May 2021 at 7.00pm by Zoom video conference

Present: - Ms Christine Scott (Chair), Mrs Pippa Fowler, Mr David Graham, Mr Tony Murphy, Ms Alison Handel, Mrs Wendy Grant

Members absent: - None

Apologies: - Mr Eddie Reid, Mr Kevin Comer, Cllr Thorne

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

Public Forum

Cllr Thorne's report was circulated to the meeting and Cllr Henley presented his report. Mr Henley's gave his opinion regarding the postponed election in Somerset and the changing structure of Local Government in Somerset.

1 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr Graham proposed Ms Scott as Chair, Ms Handel seconded and Ms Scott was elected unanimously. Mr Comer, having written to indicate his willingness to act, was proposed by the Chair as Vice Chair. Mrs Fowler seconded and Mr Comer was elected by unanimously.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Comer and Mr Reid. Ms Scott reported that Mr Reid has offered his resignation and thanks were expressed by the Council for Mr Reid's work on the Council. The Clerk was asked to post the casual vacancy notice.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the 10th March were passed unanimously.

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. One candidate had put their name forward for co-option to the Parish Council and gave a short presentation explaining what they could offer to the Council and the community. Following a vote, Mrs Grant was elected unanimously. Mrs Grant agreed the declaration to accept office, which will be collected by the Proper Officer.

6. Sub Committee Reports

5th May 2021

Signed: Dated.....

6.1 Community Shop

The site architects for the Village Hall are instructed to incorporate a site into the new Village Hall refurbishment. Two funding applications are in progress together with crowdfunding a pop up café at the Village Hall. Next meeting 6 May.

5.2 Community Car Scheme

Following Mrs Noble's resignation, Mr Comer is now chair/secretary and parish magazine entries reflect new contact details (noticeboards will need updating). Following earlier months total of 2/3 trips, there were 9 journeys in April and dormant driver volunteers are being contacted to see if they want to restart duties (currently 2 active drivers). We are still restricted to 'essential journeys' only.

5.3 Improving Living

The first walk is planned on Friday 28 May, the notice to advertise this to be deferred until replacement lead walker confirmed. Ms Scott invited the Councillors to contact her if anyone is interested in taking on this role for the Council following the resignation of Mr Reid.

5.4 A358

Ms Scott reported the Parish Council comments on the EIA Scoping document had been submitted on 30 April to Highways England. Both Ms Scott and Mr Graham joined a meeting with other parish councils in April to discuss concerns regarding dualling and siting of flyover. The next community forum with Highways England is w/c 10 May.

7. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Mr Comer sent a report stating the steering group had its first contact with AECOM (consultants) regarding updating Housing needs for the parish. It seems they will not update SWTs existing survey, but will make recommendations on tenure mix etc. KC has asked to break the plan into 5 streams (housing, business, environment, recreation and infrastructure) and we are looking for leaders for each of these (existing group or new volunteers). So far environment and recreation have attracted interest. AECOM has recently been in contact to ask what further help we need, but KC hasn't yet returned the call.

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

Clerk reported that Rod Harrington is actioning the upgrade of the footpath from Home Orchard to the Playing Field with the landowner and Somerset West and Taunton Council. Sterling Services have offered to pay for the works. Mrs Fowler will contact Mr Harrington about the history on these footpaths. Clerk reported Mr Harrington is happy to represent the Council for all Public Rights of Way matters. Clerks reported she in in contact with Taunton Deane Bridleways about the A358 affected bridleways.

5th May 2021

Signed: Dated.....

9. Updates to Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct

The updated 2021 Standing Orders and Code of Conduct were approved as drafted. The Clerk proposed one change to the Financial Regulations which was approved. Finalised copies of the above to be circulated to Councillors by the Clerk.

10. Post Lockdown/Covid Village Party

Mr Murphy is planning an event on the August Bank Holiday together with Mrs Murphy representing the Village Hall.

11. Parish Meeting 22nd May

It was agreed to hold the Meeting from 11 am on 22nd May at the Village Hall to coincide with the pop up café. Ms Scott to prepare a report and take questions. Clerk to post required Notices.

12. Littering in the Village

It was agreed to purchase a litter bin and a dog waste bin plus associated signage to the value of up to £320 including Vat and delivery. Clerk to circulate specifications and purchase same on her credit card to be refunded by Council through expenses.

13. Finance

13.1 Bank Reconciliation

The Council approved the bank reconciliations. The Clerk to action changes to the Natwest mandate to include Ms Scott, Mrs Fowler and Mr Comer and remove out of date signatories.

13.2 Schedule of Cheques

The Council approved the Schedule of Cheques.

13.3 AGAR

The Council reviewed the draft Annual Governance Statement, Internal Audit Report, Schedule of Exemption and Accounting Statements and Statement of Assets. These were approved with one addition to the Statement of Assets. The Clerk was approved to submit the Certificate of Exemption and send the documents for internal audit. She also presented the Annual Assessment of Risks and Controls and Annual Summary of Receipts and Payments vs Budget and reported on Insurance to the Council, for which she had requested three quotes. It was agreed to renew with Zurich for three years at a cost of £377.13. Clerk to action and raise a cheque upon receipt of the invoice.

14. Agenda Items for next meeting

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Mr Wright for an update on the painting of signposts and an update would be added to the agenda for the next meeting. It was also agreed to discuss the disbanding of the Covid volunteers group at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

5th May 2021

Signed: Dated.....

To be signed by the Chair at the next meeting (Wednesday, 14th July 2021):

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

5th May 2021

Signed: Dated.....