

Odcombe



Parish Council

77 West Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, TA14 6QL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ODCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 18th November 2024 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, ODCOMBE (7.00pm to 8:30pm)

PRESENT:

Cllr D Rennie (Chair)

Cllr F Cumming

Cllr R West

Cllr K Perry

Cllr R Parr

Cllr B Duffy

Cllr C Francis

6 Members of the Public

County Cllr. M Hewitson (left meeting after agenda item 144/24 (b))

Mr T M Heath (Clerk)

137/24 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Ashton and Cllr D Peters.

138/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

No declarations of interest in agenda items were presented.

139/24 CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed colleagues and members of the public to the November 2024 full Council meeting.

140/24 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2024 with one minor amendment. Min. 136/24 to read: 'The next meeting of council is planned for Monday 18th November 2024 starting at 7:00pm'.

141/24 PUBLIC SESSION

Members of the public (MoP) raised their concerns regarding large vehicles driving along Dray Road and the damage they are causing to verges, vegetation and walls and requested the 2t weight restrictions be re-imposed. The Chair explained that having a 2t weight restriction within a 7.5t restriction zone was not possible as advised by Somerset Council.

Council explained their responsibilities regarding highway matters but in this case **AGREED** to contact Somerset County Highways team, raising MoPs concerns. Council requested the Clerk to **ENGAGE** with Highways to ascertain if there is any opportunity for further signage to be erected that would warn drivers of the narrow road ahead.

Council **AGREED**, via its Ranger, to cut back vegetation that overhangs any of the 7.5t signs throughout the village.

The Clerk reported he had written to Highways regarding the Dray Road verge erosion issue. In turn a Somerset Council safety superintendent had inspected the area. A formal response is awaited.

An MoP raised a point relating to Councils response to the Member of Parliaments letter relating to re-opening of Chinnock Hollow. The Chair advised that a snap shot of opinion was taken from across the village that led to Councils reply. The Clerk **AGREED** to provide the MoP with an email contact address for Adam Dance MP so she can express her view directly.

An MoP raised a suggestion for mirrors to be placed on the corners of Lower Odcome and Donne Lane. The Clerk reported he had spoken to Highways regarding this and was told it was not a practicable solution. Other solutions to the problem had previously been reported back to the MoP.

142/24 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr. Hewitson reported Somerset Council are entering a 45-consultation period regarding staff redundancies. A new organisational structure will be in place by 1st April 2025. A brief on the boundary commissions review was provided. The aim is to reduce the number of County Councillors from 110 to 96.

Should Council wish to consider it, there is currently opportunities for grant funding associated with community health and wellbeing.

143/24 CRIME, DISORDER AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

It was reported that the current village PSCO is leaving her role with immediate effect. No replacement has been announced.

144/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- (a) The Clerk reported he has been in further discussion with Yeovil Hydraulics regarding fitting of a new bearing on the roundabout in the play area. The company had visited the site and subsequently provided a fixed price quotation based on the most optimistic and pessimistic outcomes. Council **AGREED** not to move forward with the work at this time and requested options for replacement of the roundabout were explored and reported back.
- (b) The Clerk reported that Somerset Council had advised that the oak tree along Old Road sits on unadopted land and therefore they would not be taking any action. County Councillor Hewitson **AGREED** to look into this matter further with his colleagues and report back.

- (c) A meeting had taken place with the web designer where it was **AGREED** to plan for the new website to go live towards the end of January 2025. Cllr. Peters and the Clerk will undertake a piece of work to map out the site structure and share with colleagues.
- (d) The Clerk reported that a meeting took place on 4th November to discuss the budget and precept demand for financial year 2024/2025. The ground work has now been completed that will allow for a recommendation to be made at the December 2024 Council meeting.

145/24 FINANCE

- (a) The bank reconciliation statement as of 31st October 2024 was **APPROVED**.
- (b) A list of payments, detailed below were **APPROVED**.

£38.53	Mr T M Heath	Expenses
£174.60	Mr T M Heath	Democratic Services
£535.00	Premier Landscaping	Grounds Maintenance
£84.48	Saftysigns4less	BMX Sign
£99.46	Saftysigns4less	Play Area Signs
£148.32	Saftysigns4less	Play Area Sign Poles
£351.48	Wel Medical	Defib Battery and Pads
£8.09	Tesco	Clerks Phone
£475.97	Mr T Heath	Democratic Services
£4.85	Npower	Electricity

Council **NOTED** receipt of £17.69 monthly interest from the NatWest business account.

146/24 REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES

- (a) Environmental Working Party – Hazel, hawthorn and maple trees have been planted.
- (b) Recreational Area Working Party - Nothing reported or discussed.
- (c) Communication Working Party – Cllr. Peters submitted an article for the village newsletter.
- (d) Car Park Working Party – Line marking to be undertaken when weather is suitable.
- (e) Planning Working Party – No new planning applications have been received
- (f) Finance Working Party – No issues raised.
- (g) Local Community Network - Nothing reported or discussed.
- (h) Asset and Service Devolution Working Party - Nothing reported or discussed.
- (i) Village Hall Representative – Cllr. Cumming reported a Village Hall committee are in the process of obtaining their own website.

147/24 RANGER TASKS

Council **AGREED** to action the ranger with the following tasks:

- Cut vegetation back around 7.5t signs
- trim around the phone box in Lower Odcombe
- Clear grass from under the ship in the play area
- Fill and turf the hole by the goal posts in the play area

148/24 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Cllr. Perry reported a rut, around 3 – 4 feet in length has developed along Camp Road.

149/24 CORRESPONDENCE

Following a proposal from Cllr. Rennie, seconded by Cllr. Cumming, Council overwhelmingly **AGREED** to award a grant of £1500.00 to the Church for maintenance of its burial ground, therefore added to the November list of approved payments.

150/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CLERK'S REPORT

Members **NOTED** the Clerks report dated 11th November 2024

151/24 ITEMS OF INTEREST AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Budget/precept demand
Play area roundabout

152/24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of council is planned for Monday 16th December 2024 starting at 7:00pm.

DRAFT