

Haselbury Plucknett Monthly Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.00pm on Monday 10th January 2022 at the Bible Christian Centre in Haselbury Plucknett

Present - Cllrs, C Simmonds (Chair), M Bryant (Vice-Chair), M Rendall, B Atherton, H Williams, J Farrant, R Bourne, J Prunty and D Whitmarsh and L Gibbons (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public present: Two

The 100 Club Draw took place; the winners are:

December draw 1st prize – 100 2nd prize – 51 3rd prize – 54

January draw 1st prize – 1 2nd prize – 25 3rd prize – 39

Open session: No matters were raised.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** D Cllr O Patrick and C Cllr M Keating
- 2. Record of business of last Month 08/11/2021:** Approved and will be signed as a true and proper record.
- 3. Matters Arising -** The bridge over the Parrett is now completely re-built. The bridge at Frog Lane is on the list to be replaced.
- 4. Declaration of Interest:** None
- 5. D Cllr O Patrick's Report:** As circulated

C Cllr M Keating's Report: None received.

All help and information is now available in a single place on the SCC website <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/>

6. Planning:

a) Planning Applications: None

b) Planning Applications received after publication of agenda: None

c) Planning applications considered prior to this meeting:

21/03490/FUL Land OS 8791 (Haselbury Mill) – Change of use of land and siting of mobile homes for holiday let – retrospective – 'HPPC supports this application'

21/03126/HOU Fairview House, Swan Hill - Add timber cladding and a garage door to an existing carport.

'For your records, please note that the postal address of the property is in Puddletown, not Swan Hill.

The Related Cases information for this application, as noted on the SSDC Planning Portal, refers to the Outline Application, 17/04626/OUT, and the Reserved Matters Application, 20/00915/REM, when the site was known as 'Land Adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage'. In regard of the earlier applications, we would draw your attention to the comments made by the Council's own retained Highways Engineer in respect of the vehicle manoeuvring and parking arrangements on the site. In particular, the forward, [west facing], visibility splay should be checked against the as-built arrangements of the new stone wall.

The existing car port, [as shown on the photograph 18452.jpeg], is not the same as the 'Proposed Car Port Plans and Elevations' drawing PL004 which has been submitted as the 'Existing' arrangement under this application. The true as built arrangement, represented by the Cahill Structural Steelwork drawing 01 rev. C02, and the footprint of the proposed garage, both have a larger front to back length than the original car port layout, so the ability to achieve on-site turning of a vehicle, [and hence forward access onto the highway], should be checked.

The proposal for timber cladding to the garage is at variance with other garages in the area which are all of painted rendered masonry, painted sectional concrete or stonework appearance.

Although it is principally a Building Regulations matter rather than a Planning issue, the structural design of the existing car port structure should be checked for its ability to resist the larger lateral wind forces that will occur when the open sides are infilled with cladding material.

Other than these observations, the Parish Council do not have any objections to the proposal. ‘

d) Decisions received: 21/03274/HOU The Smithy Farmhouse, North Street – Single storey extension to rear – Application permitted with conditions.

7. Finance:

a) Invoices for payment: All payments were approved:

SSDC	Ranger Oct	£559.44
L Gibbons	Clerk salary/expenses	£253.35
Stag and Apple Ltd	Hedge trimming in park	£204.00

Receipt - Western Power wayleave £12.49

b) Reporting of invoices made prior to meeting:

L Gibbons	Clerk salary/expenses	£248.85
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c) Bank reconciliation: Was agreed.

d) Budget 2022/2023 - The budget has been circulated for approval. It was agreed that we would increase the precept by 3% to £14167 for 2022/23. The document was signed and will be sent to SSDC.

8. The Park: Safety checks: BA has circulated the safety checklist.

There is nothing new to report currently.

Potential Park Project - Advance Information from the Haselbury Wildlife & Habitats Group

The group provided us with advance information, a broad outline, of a potential project that they are currently developing.

As a result of our Autumn surveys, they have concluded that the Recreational Park would benefit from some improvements, specifically:

- The planting of five mature trees to fill gaps or replace trees that have been lost to storms and disease.
- The creation of a small copse, to provide some shade, which currently does not exist.
- The creation of an extensive area of wildflowers and shrubs along part of the north border.

These improvements would be beneficial with carbon capture, pollinators as well as improvement to the park making it more attractive amenity to the community.

The potential wildflower area is large, some 360 sq/m and therefore ambitious in terms of ground preparation, sowing and maintenance. We believe a wave-shape may be more natural looking as long as it does not interfere with grass cutting. The area should also incorporate some small shrubs, and some buddleia to break up the shape of the area.

They propose that the seed-sowing is done as a large, well-publicised community event, where we would provide some of the seeds and the dispersant, and the community would provide the rest via seed or cash donations.

This proposed project could be community effort towards the Queens Canopy Project, marking Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The project design is in its infancy at this stage but will need to be fully developed and approved by the PC.

Concern was raised about the area of the park that floods and the potential for further play equipment in the park might mean that the proposed coppice might be too close to the equipment. BA would like to be involved in the discussions on behalf of the PC.

9. Road and Footpaths:

a) Roads and Highways Working Group: The drain in New Close is still blocked. This is due to the collapsed drain outside the BCC. We are still waiting for the major repairs due by SCC. LG to chase MK for any updates.

d) Footpath Working Group Feedback: The finger post at the far end of Claycastle has fallen over. HW will fix this, possibly by replacing the post.

10. Village Maintenance:

a) Village Ranger: The Ranger has not been able to attend on all the dates he was due, due to various issues. On the 19th we will ask him to replace one of the footpath gates.

b) SID and Speedwatch: This is working well currently. W Hunt confirmed that all members of the Speedwatch team are now trained. There have been three watches already this month and a further two are planned. The group are concentrating their efforts on the centre of the village. Between 11% & 15% are speeding during the week, however 42% were recorded as speeding during the weekend session. The PCSO's have been very helpful and are happy to attend sessions when requested.

c) Tree planting in Claycastle Lane: A Scott gave us the following report:-

A lot has happened since the last Council meeting in November.

Firstly, we showcased the Avenue of Trees project at a Wildlife and Habitats Group open afternoon in the Church. The weather was terrible – cold, windy and wet but a lot of brave souls came along and we were a little overwhelmed by the enthusiasm showed by the community, as sponsors came forward for the trees. This response galvanised William Hunt and the rest of the Group (including me) into action ! Some excellent trees were found and ordered – thanks to Hugh Williams and John Lewis of Martock. The first two were planted on 2nd December, after the Group and some volunteers had planted a hedge at the East end of the Community Orchard.

We then planted out another 14 oaks on the 19th December and 2nd of January – and 15 beeches yesterday ! Again, yesterday, we were helped by some volunteers who braved the weather and the mud – oh, the mud – but they have said they'd like to help again !

William has organised us all with military precision and his positive outlook ! We now have four trees left to go in and are waiting for a meeting with Neil Baker to arrange for the removal of a large heap of clay which is in the way ! There are only three trees left to be sponsored, which is great !

As the Council's Environmental Champion, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to put this plan forward and for the support you have given – also to Neil Baker for his support and constructive suggestions.

The Wildlife and Habitats Group has also given huge support both before and during the implementation of the plan and I can't thank them enough for their positive "can do" attitude.

When I first put this idea to the Council, I hoped that both they and the community would respond well to it – and it has been **so** good to see the community support. It has shown that the people of Haselbury would like to be involved in more environmentally enhancing projects – and the Wildlife and Habitats Group is more than happy to implement them.

Thank you for your support.

The PC agreed to sponsor two of the remaining trees at a cost of £160.

d) Wildlife and Habitat Group Report: Following on from the success of the tree planting project, the group is going to produce a quarterly journal giving information on what has been done and proposed activities. The first document has been well read. Composting is a very current topic. It can save money on green bin disposal and is beneficial to the environment as well as providing a valuable habitat. The group are looking at ways of helping the community assets such as the church and the Glebe field to dispose of their organic waste. There are a number of bird boxes that will be placed around the village. A camera will be placed in one to view the activity. Dormice boxes are being built and will be placed soon.

e) Wildlife flower giveaway: SSDC have offered to supply free wildflower seeds to parish councils. There is an application form that needs to be completed. A Scott will complete the application form and confirm that the PC has given permission for the seeds to be planted on land that it owns. We will finalise the planting locations in the spring.

- 11. Haselbury in Bloom:** The entry fee for 2022 has been paid. A kick-off meeting will be held in the spring. The award ceremony for this year's event is going to be held at Haselbury Mill.
The next village spring clean will take place on Sunday 3rd April.
- 12. Correspondence:** None
- 13. Matters to report:** None
- 14. Notices Parish News:** BA will send a report on our behalf.
- 15. Items for next meeting:** New play park equipment / tree planting in playpark
- 16. Next Meeting Date:** 14/02/2022 at the Bible Christian Centre at 7:00pm.