

Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 14th October 2024, 7.00pm at
The Beaumont Room in the Church, Haselbury Plucknett

Present: Cllrs H Williams (Chair), W Hunt (Vice-Chair), J Farrant, M Rendall, L Deer, M Wroe, R Bourne, A Scott and L Gibbons (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: None

Open Session: No matters were raised.

1. **Apologies for absence:** S CLLRS O Patrick and M Hewittson and Cllr M Bryant
2. **Record of business of last Month 09/09/2024:** Approved and were signed as a true and proper record.
3. **Matters Arising** – None
4. **Declaration of Interest:** None
5. **Police Update:** No-one was available to attend.
6. **a) County/District Councillors Report:** None received.

b) LCN: No updates.

c) Items for escalation to our District/County Councillors: HW will contact our Somerset Councillors to discuss the rationale and our disappointment with recent Planning decisions.
7. **Planning:**
 - a) **Planning Applications:** 23/02772/FUL – Land adjacent Hazelwood, Claycastle – Erection of a detached self-build dwelling with Carport/Garage – Amended Plans/Additional information. Councillors are happy with the changes to the application and have no additional comments.

24/01609/FUL – Half Pennyfield, Stonage Lane – Erection of a replacement bungalow. Councillors will join the North Perrott meeting on 22/11/2024, so we can submit a combined response.
 - b) **Planning Applications received after publication of agenda:** None
 - c) **Planning applications considered prior to this meeting:** None.
 - d) **Decisions received:** 23/02876/LBC – Brook Farmhouse, North Street – Conversion of an existing Cart Shed and part of Stable Building with Link Extension to form a new two bed dwelling house – Application permitted with conditions.
24/01813/PAMB – Land at Os 0660 Barn at Moultons - Prior approval notification for the proposed change of use and conversion of an agricultural building into six dwellinghouses - Application permitted with conditions
8. **Finance:**
 - a) **Invoices for payment:** All payments were agreed:

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Remembrance Wreath

£20.00

L Gibbons- Clerk	Salary/expenses	£337.70
K M Dike	Grounds Maintenance	£624.00

b) Reporting of Invoices paid prior to meeting: None

c) Bank Reconciliation: Was agreed

9. The Park:

Safety checks: WH advised there are no critical safety issues.

The five inspection reports for the previous period have been circulated to councillors. The park is looking very smart currently.

10. Road and Footpaths:

a) Roads and Highways:

There was significant flooding at A30/A3006 (North Street) junction on both 26th September and 8th October. These two episodes following heavy rain were reported to Somerset Council's Highways department: 0300 123 2224 and flooding@somerset.gov.uk. The location has been assessed again by the Highways Team and the problem will be included in the team's planned maintenance schedule. As a result of the flooding episodes L Norman (Highways) has requested that the gully round from North Street, right the way through to North Perrott should now be changed to yearly.

It is always helpful to be able to quote the Postcode when reporting the flooding. The most likely locations and relevant Postcodes for future reference are: A30/A3066/Globe Farm - TA18 7RS, Brook Farm House (North Street) - TA18 7RJ, North Perrott Road - TA18 7PQ, Swan Hill - TA18 7QT, Bible Christian Centre - TA18 7QX, The Park - TA18 7DY, Fairview House (Puddletown) - TA18 7NZ, Bay tree Farm, Claycastle - TA18 7PE.

North Street and Virtual Pavement Re-surfacing / Reinstatement.

We have been advised that this is very unlikely to be completed in this financial year. The most cost-effective way will be to carry out the two items of work at the same time, there is currently no budget for this work.

General survey of gullies in the village.

A check was carried out of all the gullies in the village. MW has mapped and labelled all the gullies. A binder with laminated copies has been made. A list of blocked and dried-up gullies has been drawn up. A system has been devised for checking and reporting on the state of all the gullies (132 in total). This will be used to ensure that problems are identified and acted upon quickly and efficiently. Thanks were offered to MW and JF for all their work in this area. JF/MW will contact contractors to obtain an indication of the cost for gully clearance from both Kier and S & D services.

Second site visit at Brook Farm House / Tamarisk.

We are still waiting for the report from I Case (Flood team).

New gully system near Fairview House (Puddletown).

We have been informed that the job has been raised and is with the contractor. We await an update.

Reflective Edge markers near Baytree Farm along Claycastle/Smallbrook – One of the markers was found in the grass and has now been replaced.

b) Footpath Working Group Update: The fallen tree at footpath Y11/42 has been cleared, but it is still blocked by a horse box. This has been reported repeatedly on the ROAM system, we have had no further news on this.

11. Village Matters:

a) Village Maintenance: There was very little interest in our request for volunteers for general maintenance work. We will look for a contractor to undertake some of this work.

b) Somerset Council provision of services: As 10a, we will try to get an indication of costs to allow us to compile our budget next month.

c) SID and Speed watch: The volume of traffic has reduced after the cessation of the Crewkerne diversion, but the percentage of speeders has increased.

ASP SEU are not known to have conducted any speed checks in the village during September.

A small number of members of the community have approached the SpeedWatch teams complaining of fast-moving agricultural vehicles. Our records indicate that no agricultural vehicles have been reported since we reformed after COVID. Typically, they move through the village at around 16-18mph, but because of their size, noise and weight, appear to move significantly faster.

The size of the Team and frequency of watches are reducing due to age and ill health. With no new volunteers for several years, the long-term future of the team is in doubt. More volunteers are needed.

Speed watch Stats for September 2024. Number of watches – 10, Vehicles monitored – 1262, Speeders Reported – 73, Highest speeder – 34, Percentage of drivers exceeding the reportable limit – 5.8%.

d) Wildlife and Habitat Group Report: The WHG conducted additional sessions at Small Brook and Rebecca's Well to clear overgrown vegetation. The Group also erected flags to mark the locations of the oak and beech trees along Claycastle Lane and within the Recreational Park prior to hedge cutting. The Wildflower area is to cut as close to ground as practicable to remove couch grass.

More sessions are planned at Small Brook on Claycastle and Rebecca's Well to remove overgrown vegetation.

The Group, along with some external volunteered supported Yesterdays Farming over the period of 17th-18th August, raised £1,000 to support future activities.

In response to local views, the wildflower area has been mowed and native flowering bulbs and shrubs will be planted.

e) The Phone Box refurbishment: A further coat of primer was applied during September. The dome will be tackled on an opportunity basis during gaps in the wet weather. It has been observed that the doorframe is in a significantly more deteriorated condition than initially assessed, necessitating its replacement in due course.

12. Matters to report: The CPRE have sent an invite to all Parish Councils, to attend a 'Building Better Houses' event on the 28th November. It is open for anyone interested to attend, but places must be

booked.

13. Notices for Village News: None

14. Items for next meeting: Budget 25/26

15. Next Meeting Date: 11/11/2024 at the **Beaumont Room in the Church** at 7:00pm.