

Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 9th September 2024, 7.00pm at
The Beaumont Room in the Church, Haselbury Plucknett

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

Members of the Public: Two

Open Session: The publication dates of the Village News are going to be amended. The May Fair will become the 'June' Fair next year due to other events around that time.

1. **Apologies for absence:** S CLLRS O Patrick and Cllr A Scott
2. **Record of business of last Month 08/07/2024:** 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:** As circulated.
MH reported that Somerset Councils financial position at the end of the last year was not as bad as was feared. There are, however, huge inflationary pressures that will still apply going forward. Assets being disposed of will be sold at full market value. Redundancy consultations are still underway. The Council is working hard towards achieving a sustainable future.
Details of the Enhanced Highway Maintenance (EHM) Pilot and Volunteer Training scheme have been circulated. Parish Councils can buy in additional services, over and above the statutory services requirements, the cost will be £684.71 per day (for two workers, hand tools and a large vehicle).

b) LCN: MW attended the recent meetings. Information has been circulated.

c) Items for escalation to our District/County Councillors: The access road to the park is still in need of Gully clearance, to avoid further incidences of flooding to the adjoining property. MH asked LG to send him further details of this.

HW asked if there was any choice regarding the frequency of bin collection, once we start paying for this service. MH to investigate.

The A30 junction was flooded again in the heavy rain at the end of August. MW will contact L Norman to advise him of this and ask for drain clearance to be carried out as a matter of urgency.
7. **Planning:**
 - a) Planning Applications:** None received
 - b) Planning Applications received after publication of agenda:** None
 - c) Planning applications considered prior to this meeting:** None.
 - d) Decisions received:** 24/01392/HOU – Montford House, Frog lane, Demolition of an existing rear conservatory/sunroom and the erection of a larger replacement conservatory – Cllrs support this application – Application permitted with conditions.
8. **Finance:**
 - a) Invoices for payment:** All payments were agreed:

H Williams	Cake for 100th birthday	£45.00
H Williams	Bulbs for school planting	£39.98
L Gibbons- Clerk	Salary/expenses	£333.20
SALC	Annual Affiliation Fee	£220.73
The Play Inspection Co Ltd	Annual Inspection	£90.00

K M Dike	Grounds Maintenance	384.00
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b) Reporting of Invoices paid prior to meeting:

Stag and Apple Ltd	Hedge Trimming in park	£240.00
L Gibbons- Clerk	Salary/expenses	£333.20
K M Dike	Grounds Maintenance	£780.00

c) Bank Reconciliation: Was agreed

9. The Park:

Safety checks: WH advised there are no critical safety issues. Four-foot grips on the arial runway will be replaced in due course.

The eight inspection reports for the previous period have been circulated to councillors.

The Annual Inspection Report has been reviewed and does not highlight any urgent issues or previously unknown concerns. However, a strategy needs to be developed for the treatment of the wooden benches and the painting of certain park equipment, with plans to implement it in the spring.

10. Road and Footpaths:

a) Roads and Highways:

A Site visit by L Norman (Highways) and I Case (Flood Team) was carried out in July to inspect the gully system on North Street at the junction with Brook Farmhouse/Tamarisk which has been the scene of repeated flooding in the last two years. Further to this, L Norman has informed us that a second visit is proposed “to inspect the sections of drainage on the other side of North Street that leads up to Swan Hill”.

High-growing grass at the junction of A30/Puddletown

Overgrown/damaged roadside warning signs on NP Road and in Puddletown

Our thanks once again to L Norman for dealing so quickly with both highway issues. The grass at this difficult junction is now included in the rotas “to be cut twice a year on the A and B cut”. A second cut was promised for August.

Blocked gullies – NP Road and near Fairview House (Puddletown)

“No updates at the moment but works are slowly starting to happen”.

Proposed new gully near Fairview House.

No further news until roadworks in South Street are completed.

Blocked gully outside Baytree Farm

Reflective edge markers near Baytree Farm along Claycastle/Smallbrook

These items have been passed on by Highways to the Contractors. Replacement as well as additional edge markers along the side of Smallbrook have been requested.

b) Footpath Working Group Update: We have six gates still to be installed. 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.

11. Village Matters:

a) Village Maintenance: HW has bought bulbs which will be planted by pupils of Perrott Hill School on their volunteering day later this month.

A number of pavements around the village have weeds and overhanging vegetation. HW will put a notice in the Village News asking if there is any interest in forming a group of volunteers to undertake some general maintenance work. If we do not get sufficient interest, we will look for a contractor to undertake some of this work.

b) Somerset Council provision of services: There are a number of drains/gullies that are currently blocked. MW to report the gully off the A30 as a safety issue. MW will then draw up a list of other blocked drains, so

that we can consider if we need to buy in the services that will be offered through Kier.

c) SID and Speedwatch: WH advised that the SID is currently located on the NP road and is operational. Vegetation has to be trimmed at fortnightly intervals around the SID to avoid obscuration.

Speedwatch Stats for July 2024. Number of watches – 14, Vehicles monitored – 2203, Speeders Reported – 149, Highest speeder – 41, Percentage of drivers exceeding the reportable limit – 6.8%.

Speedwatch Stats for August 2024. Number of watches – 13, Vehicles monitored – 1421, Speeders Reported – 142, Highest speeder – 33, Percentage of drivers exceeding the reportable limit – 10%.

The volume of traffic has reduced after the cessation of the Crewkerne diversion, but the percentage of speeders has increased.

ASP SEU conducted one speed check in the village during July. The outcome is unknown.

ASP did not attend any community speed watches during July or August. They have only attended one watch in the past 11 months.

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 carried out a session to remove vegetation from the oak and beech trees along Claycastle Lane and within the Recreational Park. Additionally, dead vegetation was cut back and cleared from the wildflower area.

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, raising funds for future projects.

e) The Phone Box refurbishment: The refurbishment process has commenced, beginning with the sanding and surface preparation including masking of the exterior, followed by the application of two coats of primer. Once dry, two or more topcoats will be necessary to complete the finish. 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: Councillors agreed that we would order a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day at a cost of £20.

A Dance, our new MP has asked for an opinion on whether he should campaign for funding to re-open the Chinnock Hollow (at a cost of £2.7m). The view of Councilors is that this is an important route for residents, that would ideally not be lost. LG to respond.

WH has a new CNC router, he has produced a sign for each of the PC noticeboards and is willing to create other useful signs if we identify them.

100 Club – JF has purchased the Defibrillator cabinet for the school. He will contact the school to find out where the additional funding towards training needs to be paid to.

13. Notices for Village News: Village maintenance volunteer requests.

14. Items for next meeting:

15. Next Meeting Date: 14/10/2024 at the Beaumont Room in the Church at 7:00pm.