

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council

Minutes of the virtual meeting held by Zoom on 30th November 2020 at 7.30pm.

Councillors in virtual attendance: Jonathan Marshall (Chairman), Deborah Telling (Vice Chair), Don Hobson, Maeve Vickery, Andrew Venner and Tony Weir.

Also, in attendance: Lorna Thorne, Parish Clerk. SCC & SWT Cllr Mike Rigby and 1 member of the Public.

20/53 **Apologies** were received from Cllr Mary Harding, PCSO Louise Fyne and SWT Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew.

20/54 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Marshall declared a personal interest in item 6.3 on the Agenda.

20/55 The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 19th October agreed as an accurate record and will be signed at the first face to face meeting of the Parish Council.

20/56 **Matters Arising**

Councillors Training (DH) (20/43.2) Cllr Hobson has circulated his feedback.

Dog Waste Bin (20/47.2)

Cllr Marshall has not had a response on costings for the installation of a Dog Waste Bin, but has been able to gain a price for emptying a bin. For a twice weekly empty would be £627, or a once weekly would be £313. Cllrs felt a once weekly empty would be good start to see how the bin works. Until a price is given, no further action can be taken at this time. To add to next Agenda.

'Free' Trees (SW&T free trees for open spaces) (20/48.2)

Liz McConnell, Cllr Hobson and Cllr Peter's have planted 3 oaks, 3 beech and 2 lime trees along the verge on B3224 between Handy Cross and Stoney Cross. A fairly central and well traversed place between the two villages which also allowed the replacement of some of the ash trees we have recently lost.

Cllr Marshall thanked Liz, Cllr Hobson and Cllr Peters on behalf of the Parish Council for gaining and planting the trees, and also to Cllr Peters for the removal of the Ash die back trees.

20/57 **Planning - Applications received for comment from Somerset West and Taunton Council:**

Planning applications have been sent to the planning committee for comment and displayed on the Parish Council's website

22/20/0011/T - Notification to fell one Sycamore tree, to carry out management works to one Beech tree and to dead-wood one Lime and one Sweet Chestnut (permission not required for dead-wooding) within Lydeard St. Lawrence

22/20/0012/T - Application to carry out management works to a line of Oak, Chestnut, Beech, Alder and Ash trees included in Taunton Deane Borough (Combe Florey No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1997 along the eastern edges of the woodland to the south of Nethercott Lane, south east of Lydeard St Lawrence (TD714)

The above 2 planning applications have been referred to the Planning Committee, with no objections to the tree works.

22/20/0010 - Erection of a single storey extension with alterations to roof to include the formation of gable on rear elevation and installation of dormer windows and roof lights at Hurley View, Raleighs Cross Road, Lydeard St Lawrence

This planning application is still under review by the planning committee who will give their comments before the 11th December.

20/58 Financial

58.1 The Accounts Statement was noted by the Council.

58.2 Cllrs agreed to pay the Clerks Salary £453.50 and Expenses £6.25 £459.75

Proposed by Cllr Vickery seconded by Cllr Hobson

58.3 Cllrs agreed to pay Jonathan Marshall for Remembrance Wreath £21.98

Proposed by Cllr Telling seconded by Cllr Venner

58.4 Cllrs agreed to pay SALC for Councillors Training £25

Proposed by Cllr Venner seconded by Cllr Vickery

All cheques will be posted to two Councillors and then returned to the Clerk for distribution.

20/59 Budget and Precept

59.1 The PC reviewed and approved the Budget for 2021/22. Proposed by Cllr Hobson and Seconded by Cllr Telling.

59.2 Cllrs agreed to keep the precept at the same amount as last year. The tax base has gone down this year from 219.73 to 213.57. This means asking for the same amount as last year per house at £19.286, the PC will be asking for £4118.91. Cllrs agreed to keep the Precept at £19.286 per band D house equivalent.

Proposed by Cllr Telling and Seconded by Cllr Vickery.

20/60 SWT Consultation notification: Climate Positive Planning Interim Policy Statement
The Consultation was noted by the Council, with comments welcomed from individuals.

20/61 Crime Report

The Crime report was noted by the Council

20/62 Correspondence and items for information

The following items were noted by the Council:

Recycling Newsletter

Temporary road closures

Weekly Updates from SWT & SCC and workstream

SWT Newsletters

20/63 Any other Business

Cllr Marshall raised some concerns to The Parish Council he had been given from a member of the Public present at the meeting.

- After the previous Council meeting, letters from Somerset County Council Highways (SCCH) were issued to several landowners along the Quickbeam, Hoccombe, Chapel Leigh, Pyleigh area asking them to cut back overhanging vegetation. It was felt the letter was not sent considerately or from reviewing the area, just sent to multiple landowners, some of which had already maintained their hedges. Cllrs agreed the letter was well intended but thought that more consideration should have been taken into which households received the letter. Having had the same issue for a number of years, Cllr Marshall would speak to SCCH to see how improvements can be made, and the communication to the landowners.
- No council hedge cutting through Westleigh, Quickbeam Lane and many other areas. Why no cut for 2020?
Cllr Marshall had earlier spoken to SCCH who stated that the hedges have been trimmed. Cllrs commented that this is not the case, and was felt that this had not happened along parts of this section for several years, it was felt this could be due to the size of the vehicles trying to trim the hedges being too large for the job. Cllr Marshall would speak to SCCH and discuss this matter.

- The road surface along Quickbeam Lane, Westleigh, Hoccombe and Pyleigh is in an unsatisfactory state. Members of the public and Cllrs report issues but no action appears to happen. Cllr Venner suggested that a different approach to reporting these problems could be sought as previous reporting has not worked. Cllr Marshall agreed that a generic email address at Somerset County Roads departments wasn't the best reporting option and said that he was now in contact with the Assistant Highway Service Manager who has been more helpful in dealing with local issues.
SW&T Cllr Rigby informed the Parish Council that SCCH were overwhelmed and stretched with workloads and lack of funding along with Covid-19 restrictions, so they are being slow at responding but this can't be helped at present.
- No Winter salt supply for outlying areas. Cllrs agreed that the purchase of some more salt bins could be sought, Cllrs Weir, Telling and Vickery agreed to research suitable locations for some salt bins and to report back to the Parish Council.
- The small hamlets feel they are overlooked and not considered for financial assistance or to be given information such as PC minutes other than online. Cllrs welcomed comments and requests from the outlying hamlets, as requests for help can only be considered if they are brought to the Council's attention. With the lack of facilities and volunteers, delivering paper minutes to the hamlets is not an option at this time but volunteers to assist would be welcomed.
- Cllr Rigby gave his report.
Covid-19 numbers are falling in the area, it was disappointing that SW&T area are going into tier 2 after the current lockdown ends on 2nd December but the decision has been made on 5 consideration factors. This includes some local care homes which have seen small outbreaks and some local large employers too.
Shops will be able to open 24hours during December if they wish and free parking will be available in West Somerset and Wellington, with parking charge reductions in Taunton.
Grants are available to businesses affected by the recent lockdown and restrictions. The bids for one or two Unitary Council(s) in Somerset have been made, the timeline for the completion of the review and new Council starting have been extended to April 2023.
The planning department are still reviewing the implications of the phosphates implications on planning applications, it is hope to be resolved by the end of the year.
The local plan for housing plots has been reviewed and 103 new locations are being looked at with an online review open for comments and thoughts.
- Cllr Marshall, the Chairman, thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work and support over the past, difficult year, and wished them and their families a peaceful Christmas and a Happy, Hopeful New Year.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 8.25pm

The Proposed date of the next meeting is on Monday 18th January 2021 subject to Covid-19 guidelines.