

## Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillors in attendance: Cllrs Jonathan Marshall (Chairman), Deborah Telling (Vice Chair), Charles Cox, Mary Harding and Maeve Vickery

Also in attendance: Lorna Thorne, Parish Clerk, Village Agent Cat Sweatman and one member of the public.

Questions from members of the Public:

None

There were no reports received from County and District Councillors.

21/75 **Apologies** were received from Cllrs Don Hobson, Mark Peters and Tony Weir and SWT Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew

21/76 **Declarations of interest** –

Cllr Harding declared an Interest in items 7 Tolland Trees as a PCC member

21/77 The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

21/78 **Matters Arising**

- *(Questions from members of the Public 1/11/21)*

*Mr and Mr Smith requested the assistance of the Parish Council and Cllr Trollope-Bellew to write to Somerset Highways to support a proposal to install cattle grids to the road near his farm in Nethercott Lane. Cllrs agreed to have a discussion with Somerset Highways on what was required as the proposal is part of a flood relief project.*

Cllr Marshall has spoken to Somerset Highways, who have suggested an alternative flood relief scheme that would eliminate the need to access private land.

*(21/74) **Any other Business***

- *The Parish Clerk reported that Liz McConnell has requested 8 trees from SW&T free trees project. The trees have now been collected and planted next to the trees from last year on the main B3324 road between Stoney Cross and Handy Cross. Thanks to Liz McConnell, Cllrs Hobson and Marshall for planting the trees.*
- *The Parish Clerk reported that the Airband project to bring broadband into the areas of the Parish with low-speed broadband has encountered some design challenges that have impacted the original build start date.*

Cllr Weir reported that the poles in Pyleigh and Fitzhead area have been wired and thought that connections to broadband were imminent, further details can be found on the Airband website and newsletters.

21/79 **Playing Field Play Equipment**

The annual inspection has taken place of the play equipment with a poor outcome. Simon Broad has stood down from his role on the Cricket Club committee, so Cllr Telling agreed to liaise with the Cricket Club to discuss the requirements of the play equipment, and the way ahead with replacing the equipment. Cllr Cox offered to help on a working party to remove the equipment.

21/80 **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. None Received.*

### 21/81 **Tolland Church Tree Management Works**

*(21/71)Tolland church's Quinquennial Survey 2020 identified the need to raise the crowns and thin the trees bordering the churchyard to improve the air circulation to both the building and the listed monuments. 4 quotations have been gained with the PCC agreeing to move forward with Brendon Hill Tree Services who have quoted £450 to complete the works in phase 1. Members of the PCC would be very grateful for any support the Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council could give towards this first phase of the work.*

Cllr Marshall proposed that the Parish Council support the project by contributing half the accepted quotation amount of £225 from the CBF.

This was seconded by Cllr Vickery. All agreed.

### 21/82 **Precept and Budget**

82.1 Budget. The Clerk presented Cllrs with a draft Budget for the next financial year. Cllrs agreed to adopt the Budget, with the exception of the Precept.

82.2 Precept. The Clerk presented the current figures.

This year's Tax base is 216.94, down from last year at 218.64.

To keep the Precept the same rate for a Band D equivalent at £19.286 we would be asking for £4183.91. This is less than we received last year, going on the budget this would be running at a loss with current increases in wages and other expenditures in line with current inflation. Current members of the Parish Council have always kept the Precept the same, and none currently serving can remember an increase for many years.

Cllrs agreed to increase the Precept by 5%, the Band D equivalent would be £20.250 this would be asking for £4393 in precept. Vote 5:0:0

### 21/83 **Financial**

83.1 The Accounts Statement was noted by the Council.

83.2 Cllrs agreed to Pay the Clerks Salary of £463.32 and Expenses £6.76

Proposed by Cllr Telling Seconded by Cllr Harding

### 21/84 **Councillor resignation and Casual Vacancy**

Cllr Marshall had approached a couple of suggested candidates, both of whom have declined to become a new Councillor. No one has come forward from the appeal in the Parish Newsletter. Cllrs are encouraged to keep asking around and the appeal will continue in the newsletter.

### 21/85 **Crime Report**

The Crime Report was noted by the Council.

### 21/86 **Correspondence and items for information**

The following items were noted by the Council:

Recycling Newsletter

Weekly Updates from SWT & SCC and workstream

SWT Newsletters

### 21/87 **Proposed Dates for Next Year's Meetings**

Cllrs agreed to the following dates for 2022

28 Feb, 4 Apr, 16 May AGM/APM, 11 Jul, 12 Sep, 31 Oct, 5 Dec & 16 Jan 2023

21/88 **Any other Business**

- Village Agent Cat Sweatman spoke to the Council, she gave an update on what and how they are currently supporting the community, including if anyone who is in need of Winter Fuel allowance support should be directed to them. Tolland Village Agent Chrissie Brewer has been promoted and a new village agent has been appointed in her old role.
- Cllr Cox reported some missing footpath signs along the footpath from Knights Farm, this has already been reported by someone on the SCC website.
- Cllr Marshall, the Chairman, thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work and support over the past year, and wished them and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 8.05pm

The proposed Date of Next Meeting is on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 subject to Covid-19 guidelines.