

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April 2024 at Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Councillors in attendance: Cllrs Jonathan Marshall (Chairman), Deborah Telling, (Vice-Chair), Don Hobson, Mary Harding, Mark Peter's, and Maeve Vickery.

Also in attendance Lorna Thorne, Parish Clerk and SCC Mike Rigby.

No Questions from members of the Public

County Councillor Mike Rigby gave his Report. The budget has been set but it is felt that 70% will go on adult social care. If the current predictions are correct within the next couple of years the whole of the County's budget will be for social care costs. A reform is needed, and this has been requested. Only statutory items must be fulfilled, but some others will also be honoured if funds allow.

23.024. **Appointment of Parish Council Chairman**

Cllr Peters proposed that Jonathan Marshall be re-appointed as Chairman to the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Telling. With no other proposals Cllr Marshall was appointed as Chairman.

Cllr Hobson then proposed that Debbie Telling to be re-appointed as Vice-Chairman to the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Harding. With no other proposals Cllr Telling was appointed Vice-Chairman.

24.025. **Apologies** from Cllrs David Oxley and Guy Sturgess

24.026. **Declarations of interest** – Cllr Marshall declared a personal interest items 8.9 on the Agenda

24.027. The **Minutes** of the meeting held on 4th March 2024 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

24.028. **Matters Arising** – None

24.029. **Co-option of New Councillor**

No one has come forward to be co-opted onto the Council. Cllrs to approach possible candidates to ask if they would consider the roll.

24.030. **Planning - Applications received for comment from Somerset Council:** *Planning applications have been sent to Councillors for comment.*

22/24/0002 - Replacement of window on ground floor with uPVC double glazed front door at Brooklyn, Chapel Leigh Road, Lydeard St Lawrence

22/24/0003/CQ - Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Barn East of Tarr, Lydeard St Lawrence

No objections to the above planning applications.

24.031. **Financial**

31.1 The Accounts Statement was noted by the Council.

31.2 Accounts Audit and Financial year Report

The Parish Council Accounts for 2023/24 show a healthy balance.

The Parish Council originally had £25,000 in the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and requests of funds from local organisations continue to be made. £1400 was spent on the

Tolland Community Groups Equipment of table and chairs to go with the village Marquee. This fund now stands at £12,452.66.

During this financial year the Parish Council have spent £432 of the CIL money to support the Outreach Post Office service to the Lydeard Village Hall, the total in the CIL fund is now £761.71. The Footpaths grants from SC of £300 was added to the fund which now stands at £3500. The annual grants from SC were forwarded to the Churches and to the Cricket Club for the playing field and the Parish Council made Grants of £500 to the Village Hall Committee and Playing field.

The grants will no longer be provided by SC.

The Social club also added £1200 to the Play Area fund. At the end of the year the ring-fenced budget for the Play Area fund stood at £7700, with another £500 due to be added in April 2024.

The Council have £3797.52 in unrestricted reserves. All other Parish Council's expenses were in line with the Parish Council's budget for Clerks Salary, Insurance, SALC affiliation fee, hall hire, maintenance at playing field, newsletter and website.

31.3 Certificate of Exemption

Cllrs agreed to Certify the Council as Exempt from full Audit on the – AGAR 2023/24 Form 2 as its total income is less than £25000.

Proposed Cllr Peters Seconded Cllr Vickery,

31.4 Cllrs agreed to approve the 2023/24 Audit Report Governance Statement Proposed Cllr Peters, Seconded Cllr Vickery

31.5 Cllrs agreed to approve the Accounting Statement 2023/24 Proposed Cllr Peters, Seconded Cllr Vickery

31.6 The CIL Report was noted by the Council

31.7 Cllrs agreed to Pay Zurich Insurance for renewal £226.69 Proposed Cllr Hobson, Seconded Cllr Vickery

31.8 Cllrs agreed to approve and pay a donation to Wivey Link, suggestion £50 Proposed Cllr Hobson, Seconded Cllr Vickery

31.9 Cllrs agreed to Pay Jonathan Marshall for the west Somerset Free Press Advert £210 Proposed Cllr Telling, Seconded Cllr Vickery

31.10 Cllrs agreed to Pay Clerks Salary and Expenses £205.09 Proposed Cllr Harding Seconded Cllr Peters

24.032. **Crime Report Newsletter and Blog from New PCSO Brianna Whelan** was noted by the Council.

24.033. **Correspondence and items for information**
The following items were noted by the Council:
Road Closures

24.034. **Clerk and RFO**
There have been no suitable candidates applying for the advertised Parish Clerk and RFO role. It has been resubmitted for advertisement on the SALC website and in the Fiveways magazine. It has also been placed in the WSFP. Other ideas were suggested to approach other local Parish Council Clerks to see if they can help, also the Primary School. Also to include in the Wivey and the Hills Magazine.

24.035. **Any other Business**

- The road near Dyers Barn is still flooded.
- Potholes are abundant around the Parishes, to be reported online.
- Tolland are to host its Summer Solstice party again on 22nd June. Tickets available and are cheaper if purchased before the end of April.
- Cllrs Thanked and said goodbye to our Parish Clerk, Lorna Thorne for all her hard work over the past 8 years and presented her with a gift, Cllrs wished her well for the future.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 8.15pm

The Date of the Next Meeting is on Monday 3rd June 2024