

LUCCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 27th November 2024 in Luccombe Village Hall, Luccombe

Present: Cllr Harington (Chair) (HH) Cllr Gande (RG) Cllr Stapleford (JS) Cllr Dascombe (JD), Cllr Harding (MH) and Somerset Cllr Pugsley (SP) from 20:11, Dr Flind (Clerk)

SP Left at 20:35

The meeting commenced at 19:35

1. Apologies	Somerset Cllr Nicholson	
2. Minutes	It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 th August 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record.	
3 Matters Arising	Nothing to report	
4. Somerset Council Reports	SP had 3 points to share with the Council: 1. He has spoken to Amanda Williams, Senior Economic Development Officer at Somerset Council, regarding the possibility of connecting the fibre optic cable from the emergency mast at Chapel Cross to homes in the village and that this would be unlikely as it would need to be connected to individual properties. 2. Somerset Council are cutting 500 staff and the Highways department will be reduced significantly with fewer staff covering much a much wider area. The Council should be prepared for this and ensure that reported issues are followed up. 3. A boundary review is being conducted for the whole county and some dual member wards such as Exmoor could be reduced to single member wards. A consultation is being conducted until 20th January and Councillors are parishioners are advised to participate by providing their views via the website at: Somerset LGBCE	
5. Members Reports	JS has made no progress with having the stone wall repaired at the bottom of the village. The National Trust are not responding. RG raised concerns over the Stoney Street Repairs, sandbags have been dumped in the Coombe and further repairs are needed as the road continues to subside. The Clerk reported that the finger post at the North end of Church Walks has been put on the list for repair by ENP. She also gave an update on the proposed turning area at the top of Stoney Street. Councillors requested that a site visit be arranged with the National Trust in order to progress things further.	Clerk
6. Wychanger Orchard and Children's Play Area	The Clerk has spoken to Stephanie Wilson at the National Trust and received the following update on progress with the play area: 1. The area is not yet open to the public as not all works have been completed. The fencing contractor has been delayed and they won't be completing the planting until the new year. They will contact the Council to let them know when public access is formally allowed 2. They are still looking into the best location for accessing the site. They can see that people have been going in from the back of Staddons and they have put a gate in that corner of the field but they need to sort access because at present it is not a proper path.	

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	3. The National Trust do not have funding for play equipment but would be supportive of some natural equipment going in. 4. No dogs are allowed on the site Councillors suggested that they would not like to install play equipment at the site but perhaps some benches and places for people to sit once it is open. Dogs have been spotted in the fields and it was suggested that the Trust put up no dog signs if they are not allowed.	
7. Defib update	The Clerk has now registered the defib on the circuit but is concerned that the cabinet has been tampered with. The alarm is not working and some equipment may be missing. Clerk to inspect equipment and ensure that it is fit for purpose. Councillors reviewed the emergency contacts on the website and established that these need to be updated. T was also agreed that a sign be placed on the door of the porch so that members of the public know there is a defib available inside.	Clerk
8. Members of the public at	No members of the public were present at the meeting	
9. Finance	a) Bank reconciliation - Statements signed and dated by HH Councillors approved the Clerk's expenses totalling £41.10 for stamps and mileage to the Parish Conference. b) NJC Payscale adjustment - The NJC has now agreed it's new salary rate from April 2024. The previous Clerk is owed £38.62 in back pay and the Current Clerk's pay will rise by 63p per hour. Councillors approved both. At present the Clerk is paid once every 3 months by cheque. HH suggested that it would be better to pay monthly by standing order if possible and Councillors agreed. Clerk to implement new payment system in the next payment period. c) Grass cutting tender - The clerk has received one quote for grass cutting and requested two further quotes. Decision to be taken at February meeting. d) Budget - Councillors approved a budget of £5,800 for 2025/26. Cllrs agreed that this year's charity donation will be made to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.	Clerk
10. Items for information or future agendas	The Chairman announced that he would be standing down from his role with immediate effect as he is preparing to move overseas. The Councillors recorded their thanks for his efforts over the last few years. Cllr Parker has left the area without notifying the Council and Cllr Tisbury has decided to stand down from the Council, meaning that there are now 3 positions available. Clerk to advertise a Casual Vacancy throughout the parish with a view to co-opting 3 new Councillors at the next meeting in February.	Clerk
11. Date and venue of next meeting	To be held at Luccombe Village Hall in Luccombe on Wednesday 26th February 2024. Meeting closed at 21:11	

Signed.....

Date.....

Signed.....

Date.....