

# MUDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Julie Ferguson

Tel: 07365 293954 E-mail: [clerk@mudfordpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@mudfordpc.co.uk)

## Minutes of a Meeting of Mudford Parish Council held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 19:00hrs

**Present** – Councillors (Cllrs): Philip Edgeworth (Chair), Stephen Bartlett, Peter Blackwood, Robin Bowring, David Brown, Jo Dalton-Leggett (Acting Parish Clerk).

**In attendance:** SCLlr Kevin Messenger and 12 members of the public.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no further public comments as this meeting followed the Annual Parish Meeting, the proceedings of which are recorded separately.

### OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- Somerset Councillors (SCLlrs)

SCLlr Messenger offered the apologies of SCLlr Henry Hobhouse and gave a brief verbal report

- Outside bodies/groups

None

### 19:17 – Meeting started

**23/203 To receive apologies for absence and approve the reasons** (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

None.

**23/204 Declarations of interests.** Council members to declare any interests, including any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

None.

**23/205 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting** (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1)).

**RESOLVED:** to **APPROVE** and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024 as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

### 23/206 Matters to report from a previous meeting.

- a. New noticeboard delivery and installation (Cllr Brown) Ongoing – Abri have refused the request for the board to be located at Milton House. Cllr Brown will now investigate siting it by the entrance to the recreation ground.
- b. All Cllrs to attend Code of Conduct Training. (All Cllrs) Ongoing
- c. Gate installation progress at Withy Bed. (Cllr Bartlett) Completed

### 23/207 Planning decisions report.

None.

### 23/208 Planning applications.

None

**23/209 Finance** – To **APPROVE** the payment schedule for April 2024.

Mudford Parish Council April 24 Payment Schedule			
Invoice	Payee	Particulars	Amount
1	SOMERSET COUNCIL	RANGER (MARCH) & LEGAL FEES (BUS SHELTER)	£ 1,145.02
2	MUDFORD VILLAGE HALL	ANNUAL HALL HIRE FEE 04/24 - 03/25	£ 2,500.00
3	J FERGUSON	REIMBURSE MICROSOFT 365	£ 59.99
4	P SARGENT	CEMETERY MAINTENANCE	£ 122.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 3,827.01</b>

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**RESOLVED:** to **APPROVE** the April payment schedule and for 2 councillors to approve the payments at the bank.

**ACTION: Cllrs Blackwood and Brown**

**23/210 To consider any actions regarding cars being repaired on the kerbside.**

SCLlr Hobhouse has undertaken to investigate possible actions. In his absence the matter was deferred.

**23/211 To provide an update on potential conservation project at the Withy Bed (Cllr Bartlett).**

Cllr Bartlett confirmed that progress on this has been made. A local resident is involved and a funding application is to be made to Wessex Water. The importance of the site was underlined; it is home to a very rare perry cider tree. There is potential for bird and reptile nest boxes, shrub planting, the restoration of pollards and the creation of a walkway.

**23/212 To provide an update on the footpath diversion and understand the reasons for objections (Cllr Brown).**

Cllr Brown reported that an email had been received that day from Rachel Pearce (SC Rights of Way) explaining the basis for the objections and her response to them.

**23/213 To report on the actions of the Flood Working Group (FWG).**

Cllrs Bartlett and Bowring have arranged a date, 17<sup>th</sup> May, for a public meeting. The aim will be to listen to the concerns of the villagers. Cllr Bowring will be in the chair.

SCLlr Messenger stated that funds may be available and suggested that SCLlr Hobhouse be kept in the loop.

**ACTION: Cllrs Bartlett and Bowring**

**23/214 To provide an update on the Parish Clerk recruitment campaign.**

Cllr Dalton-Leggett reported that an application has been received and that the HR Committee has sought guidance from SALC on the interview process. Once the closing date has passed, this could be put in train.

**RESOLVED:** to delegate to the HR Committee the responsibility for recruiting a Parish Clerk/RFO.

**ACTION: H R Committee**

**23/215 To receive Councillor reports<sup>1</sup>.**

Cllr Bartlett reported that although there may be grounds for challenging the grant of outline permission for Sockhill development, the advice is that the chances of success are slim and time is limited. It would be wise to be ready to respond when Full Planning permission is sought. In the meantime, the Parish Council should continue to concentrate on the Primrose Lane application. FOMAG is also working on this. It is considered important that a hydrologist is engaged, as flooding is already an issue and the community fears that these developments will make matters worse.

**23/216 To receive the Parish Clerk's report and any correspondence.**

All correspondence had been circulated.

**23/217 Items for the next agenda.**

- To report back on the Flood Working Group Meeting
- To determine the next steps in response to the Sockhill and Primrose Lane Planning Applications

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<sup>1</sup> *N.B Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that is not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119).*

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- To consider what further measures could be taken to reduce speeding through the village

**23/218 Date of next meeting** – 30 May 2024. (Cllrs to note – all agenda items to be notified to the Parish Clerk by Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024).

**20:26 - Meeting closed**