

WOOLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Woolavington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Higher Road, Woolavington on Tuesday, 26th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- A. Sharp (Chairman), A.J. Chidgey, Mrs S. Chidgey, R. Darch, N. Frith, B.J. Galloway, Mrs C. Galloway, Mrs J. Knight, E. Marsh, R. Young (Clerk) and 14 members of the public.

Apology for absence received from A. Edney, District Councillor B. Crow and County/District Councillor M. Healey.

41. Declarations of Interest

Members had no interests to disclose.

42. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th September 2021 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

43. Reports of the County and District Councillors

Neither Member was present.

44. Anti-Social Behaviour

Local residents were in attendance to make representations regarding an increase in anti-social behaviour particularly in the southern part of the village. Reference was made to an incident involving a disabled person being harassed by a teenage youth that afternoon and the conduct of a number of tenants. PCSO Georgia Coles had been invited to this and recent meetings to discuss anti-social behaviour but had not been in attendance. Reference was also made to difficulty in reporting incidents via 101, lack of response to phone calls and e-mails to the PCSOs and lack of knowledge of the new beat officer. It was agreed to contact Chief Inspector Andy Pritchard regarding the Parish Council's concerns regarding local policing and to also seek a meeting with the local housing associations to discuss their allocation policies.

45. Maintenance and Highway issues

Members considered a report on maintenance and highway issues.

The Gravity Link Road opened to traffic on 22nd October. It was agreed to suggest Ordnance Way as a name for this road.

The County Council's Land Drainage Officers were still investigating the long outstanding drainage issue in Crancombe Lane. An inspection cover in the road was dislodged during heavy rainfall. Councillor Healey had agreed to raise the matter with the Leader of the County Council but no update was available. It was understood that the roadside ditch was also blocked in places causing water to run along the carriageway. Blocked culverts at Combe Lane would also be reported.

Several maintenance items had been identified in the Sports field. The Playing Fields Association had requested that three wooden kissing gates and posts be replaced with metal items and these were now on order. Mr Bickers would be renewing the wooden steps near the Highcroft entrance in the autumn and there had also been requests for benches along the southern perimeter path in durable recycled materials. Work was underway on a 28-year extension to the Sports field lease. Some vandalism had taken place to the fascia on the pavilion and repairs were in hand.

Remedial work would take place to the pedestrian entrance to the play area in the Lower Playing Field and Mr Bickers would also cut back the shrubs overhanging from the top of the Higher Road bank. No objection had been received from the nearest residents to the removal of the lower branches of the conifers in the Lower Playing Field to discourage youths from congregating there and it was agreed that this work be carried out.

Mr Bickers had agreed to source some replacement glass or suitable alternative material for the bus shelter outside of the Surgery and also fit the plaque to the mural on the Higher Road bus shelter. With regard to the Newlands Estate, further work would take place to lower the height of the hedge alongside a parking area. Consideration was being given to the replacement of the defective embankment slide with a traditional slide for younger children.

The District Council would provide two free standard oak trees in addition to the five silver birch trees and a free bag of bulbs would also be supplied which would be spilt for planting in the Sports field, Newlands amenity area and along the cemetery wall.

46. Villages Together

Members received a report on Meetings of the Under 5s Play Equipment Task and Finish Group. Two alternative schemes with quotations had been received from Sutcliffe Play. Quotations had been requested from two other providers but they had not been received within the deadline. It was agreed that, subject to clarification on points of detail by the Group, Option 1 from Sutcliffe Play be accepted, it being noted that the Parish Council would meet the cost of the slide at the Newlands Play Area. It was felt that Villages Together should be requested to consider meeting the cost of CCTV to cover the Sports field car park and play area in the first instance to deter anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

The Council also received updates on the work of the Pathway, Community Buildings and Way Forward Task and Finish Groups.

47. Authorisation for Payment

The following payments were authorised:-

DD	Sedgemoor DC	salaries recharge	£3,074.91
DD	Total Energies	pavilion electricity	£77.50
001228	Greenslades	grass cutting	£313.99
001229	GWB Services	grass cutting	£816.60
001230	A1 Gardening	grass cutting	£204.00
001231	Young Somerset	youth club support	£2,425.88
001232	Village Hall	grants	£4,073.00
001233	Road Markings &TMS	car park relining	£750.00

A Bank Reconciliation for the period 1st April to 30th September 2021 was checked against the original bank statements and signed by the Members who do not sign cheques as part of the Council's internal controls.

48. Planning Applications

The following planning application was considered - 015 Erection of side extension, 9 Clark Close – P. Bolger – confirm recommendation of permission;

In addition, it was agreed to request the District Council to carry out a full survey for local housing need in the village to gain a true understanding of any unmet demand. Application 007 – Erection of 14 affordable dwellings to the south of Lavers Close had been withdrawn in the meantime.

49. Reports from Voluntary Organisations

Mr Marsh reported that the Village Hall was now in full use and bookings were strong. A grant of £1,323 had been received from the Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund to enable free coffee mornings to be held for socially isolated people of all ages in the Village Hall twice a month for a year. Other agencies would also be involved.

The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Chairman

Issues during Public Question Time included a discussion on anti-social behaviour and incidents in the southern part of the village.