

WOOLAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Woolavington Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Higher Road, Woolavington on Monday, 30th October 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:- A. Sharp (Chairman), N. Frith, B.J. Galloway, Mrs C Galloway, Mrs J. Knight, E. Marsh, R. Young (Clerk) and 19 members of the public.

Apology for absence received from A.J. Chidgey, R. Darch, A. Edney and S. Smith.

46. Disclosures of Interest

Members had no interests to disclose.

47. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 19th September 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

48. Report of the Somerset Councillors

Neither Member was present.

49. Anti-Social Behaviour

The PCSOs were unable to attend the Meeting but would be requested to supply a report relating to work in Woolavington.

50. Maintenance and Highway Issues

Members considered an update on maintenance and highway issues since the last Meeting.

There had been no direct update from Somerset Council on the long outstanding drainage issue at Crancombe Lane but a number of residents were in attendance at the Meeting and outlined research they had undertaken into the issue. It was understood that the new Flood Team at County Hall had commenced investigations but had not yet taken formal enforcement action against the owners of the land where the blocked culvert was located. Disappointment was expressed that the Ward Members had not taken decisive action to assist in the matter over a long period of time. It was agreed that the Parish Council would now request the Flood Team to expedite formal enforcement action against the landowners and closely monitor the outcome. County Highways would arrange for vegetation at the rear of the school to be cut back and clear the ditch.

Somerset Council had now provided appropriate signs to enable the zig-zag lines outside the school at Higher Road to be enforced.

A list of winter maintenance jobs would be compiled for Gary Bickers which would include cutting back an elder bush in the Lower Playing Field, clearing vegetation on the Newlands Estate and tidying the surrounds of the churchyard and cemetery.

Now that greater use was being made of the pavilion, there was becoming a need for regular cleaning. Rachel Smith had indicated that she would be willing to do so and manage bookings for an appropriate honorarium. A sum was agreed and would be built into the Estimates.

51. Woolavington Playing Field

A progress report was given on current projects relating to the playing field including the proposed drainage work. The Woolavington Community Foundation Trustees had accepted the lowest quotation for the drainage work submitted by Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Limited in the sum of £79,060 + VAT to carry out the specified drainage improvements, it

being considered to represent best value for money. They had also accepted a quotation received from A & H Plant & Construction Limited in the sum of £4,606.56 + VAT to carry out necessary work to the manhole inspection chambers. A grant would be forthcoming from Villages Together. The Trustees had requested the Parish Council to act as “agent” with regard to the financial transactions regarding this project and this request was agreed.

52. Financial Issues

The following payments were authorised

DD	Total Energies	pavilion electricity	£56.62
DD	Telecoms Consortium	pavilion line	£44.99
DD	Total Energies	pavilion electricity	£60.74
DD	Total Energies	pavilion electricity	£45.48
001347	GWB Services	grass cutting & Maintenance	£1,372.68
001348	A1 Gardening	grass cutting	£216.00
001349	J & C Wylde	hedge cutting	£600.00
001350	Parkrun Ltd	junior park run	£4,800.00
001351	SALC	affiliation fee	£630.09
001352	Parish Clerk	payroll & sundry payment reimbursement	£1,460.64

A bank reconciliation as at 30th September 2023 was checked with the original bank statements and signed by the Members who did not sign cheques as part of the Council’s financial controls.

Members were invited to put forward projects for 2024/25 which could be built into the draft Estimates. New play equipment for Newlands and a quote for grass cutting the village greens were suggested. A first draft of the Estimates would be circulated to Members for comment prior to consideration at the next Meeting.

53. Planning Applications

The following new planning applications were considered.

- 011 – Work to horse chestnut tree at 10C Higher Road – J, Earl – confirm recommendation of conditional permission;
- 012 – Retrospective application for use of land as a scaffolding yard and formation of vehicle access track at Hurmans Farm – G. Watts – recommend conditional permission.

Members also received a pre-application consultation from Paul Martin on behalf of Stuart Lilley and Beverly Salt for a self-build house with an annex for family members at Plot A, Reeds Drive.

An update would also be requested on a previously reported planning enforcement issue at Crancombe Lane.

54. Reports from Voluntary Organisations

Mr Marsh reported that Village Hall bookings were increasing in the run up to Christmas. Some low level anti-social behaviour had unfortunately recently taken place in the vicinity of the hall.

The Youth Provision Sub-Committee had met to commence work on compiling a clear development plan for youth activities in the village. A meeting would be held in the near future with Youth Unlimited.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Chairman

