

MEETING HELD ON 11th JULY 2024 AT BROMPTON RALPH VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

Attendees: Councillors J Elliott (Chairman), P Heard, D Holmes, C Mowat, A Sellick P Bainbridge (Clerk)
Also in Attendance: Somerset Council Councillor F Nicholson

Members of the Public: 4

Public Question Time: 0

1. **Apologies Accepted:** S Baker and S Merritt. **Apologies Received:** SC Councillor S Pugsley
2. **Declarations of Interest** – D Holmes Item 5.b.ii personal interest as event organised by a relative.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd of July 2024 are a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman at the meeting.
4. **Planning**
Planning Applications Received - none
Planning Applications Awaiting Decision
 - a. **3/02/24/001** Erection of agricultural storage shed with formation of access to highway, land to the west of Cordings Ball and Bowden Farm to the north, Brompton Ralph.
 - b. **3/02/21/001** Erection of 1 No. agricultural workers dwelling and garage Sandpit Meadows, Brompton Ralph to Gandstone Cross, Brompton Ralph, TA4 2RT – **update** – following reports of possible work being undertaken, at the request of the Council the Clerk contacted Somerset Council. Somerset Council will report back in due course following further investigation.
5. **Finance**
 - a. **Payments Already Made** - HugoFox Ltd June & July @ £9.99 (+VAT) via Direct Debit £23.98
 - b. **Payments for Approval**
 - i. Clerk's Wages July & August @ £166.66 p/m (includes payments to HMRC PAYE)
 - ii. Brompton Ralph Village Hall D Day Commemoration Event - £250
 - iii. Clerk's Expenses – Mileage Wheddon Cross @ 45p/mile 36 miles = £16.20 (May)
C Mowatt proposed and P Heard seconded and payments approved (D Holmes excused from the approval of payments as previously declared interest see Item 2 on the agenda).
 - c. **Bank Reconciliations**
 - i. 31st May 2024 was presented and a balance of £ 14,897.98 recorded and checked against the bank statement and signed by P Heard.
 - ii. 30th June 2024 was presented and a balance of £ 14,619.33 recorded and checked against the bank statement and signed by D Holmes.
 - d. **Financial Regulations** – A detailed run through was made of the new National Association of Local Councils Model Document with changes being made where appropriate which was then formally adopted.

Agenda Interrupted to take **Item 7 Somerset Councillor Reports** – Cllr Nicholson reported that there is no update yet of the proposed closures of the Williton and Dulverton Recycling Centres for which there had been strong public opposition. The one swipe of verge/hedge cutting starting to take place. The lanes will not be finished until August. It was reported that at the recent Exmoor LCN the focus in the coming year will be on highways, housing and the economy. A speaker from Magna Housing had attended the last LCN meeting. It can be difficult for local people to remain local as housing could be offered anywhere in Somerset. Grit bins will be filled again by Somerset Council this winter. Cllr Nicholson left the meeting.
 - e. **Brompton Ralph Churchyard Maintenance Grant** – D Holmes proposed and C Mowatt seconded, and it was agreed to provide £200.00 to support the churchyard grass cutting. A cheque was written at the meeting.
6. **Matters Outstanding**
 - a. **SALC Wellbeing Grant** – Cllr Mowat provided an outline of the expected cost of the project which would be covered by the sale of the book in conjunction with a grant of £2,500.00 being awarded to help cover the overall cost. As the power required to undertake the project is LGA

1972 S137, it was thought appropriate to ask for other community groups to be involved. All agreed to submit the application for grant funding to enable the project to proceed.

- b. **Parish Council Noticeboard** – It was unanimously approved to proceed with the refurbishment of the current noticeboard by a community volunteer for a cost of approximately £100.00 for the materials. Notices will be put on the telephone box while the work is being undertaken. A discussion on noticeboards took place, including correspondence on the matter which had been received. Further discussion on noticeboard requirements will be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- c. **War Memorial** – It was unanimously agreed to submit a Grants Pre-application form to the War Memorials Trust for support for maintenance of the memorial. Clerk to proceed.
- d. **Grass Cutting** – The Triangle is being cut by a contractor. Cllr Mowatt has been cutting areas of The Green with some areas being left natural to help with biodiversity. There have been some comments on the untidiness of the uncut areas. The Clerk will seek a quote to have The Green cut in the autumn.
- e. **Emergency Planning** – yet to receive feedback from the Village Hall on designating a place of community safety. Members from the Village Hall who were present at the meeting said this would be discussed at their forthcoming meeting.
- f. **Roads & Traffic Issues** – Request to report pothole at junction of Oak Tree/main road. Concerns over previous uncut hedges last winter making travel through parts of the village difficult. A Councillor offered to speak to the landowners.

7. Somerset Councillor Reports – see above.

8. LCN Exmoor – Cllr Baker attended meeting in June. See item 7 on comments from Cllr Nicholson. Expected date of next meeting 5th September.

9. Clerk's Report & Correspondence – Email received from resident about the noticeboard. This correspondence formed part of the discussion of agenda item 6b. VAT reclaim of £68.36 for the financial year 2023/24 submitted by Clerk.

14. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas – noticeboard on the next agenda.

15. Date of next meeting - Thursday 26th September 2024 at 7.30pm at Brompton Ralph Village Hall.

Chair Cllr J Elliott declared the meeting closed at 21.18 pm.

Chair:

Signed as a true and correct record

Date: