

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF CHAPEL ALLERTON  
PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2020**

**Meeting commenced:** 7.30p.m.

**Meeting concluded:** 9.18pm.

**Present:** Councillors Duggan-Rees(Chair), Williams, Torrens-Spence, Blakemore and Wallach.

**Also in attendance:** Miss Caroline Harris, Parish Clerk and County Councillor Filmer and District Councillor Goodwin-Pearson joined the meeting at 8pm, and one members of the public joined for section **54.20** at 8.15pm.

**49.20 Apologies for Absence:**

None.

**50.20 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th October 2020 be approved as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman as soon as it is safe to do so under the Coronavirus restrictions.

**51.20 Updates and actions since last meeting – for reference only**

**52.20 Declarations of Interest and Applications for Dispensations**

County Councillor Filmer declared an interest in the planning applications to avoid predetermination.

Councillor Wallach declared an interest in planning application 15/20/2023

**RESOLVED:** That these be approved and that both Councillors move to the virtual waiting room during these items.

**53.20 Reports**

<b>ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>REPORTS</b>
<b>Police</b>	The Police report had been forwarded to the clerk. This had included information on crime statistics and contact details for the beat officers. This was summarised by the clerk for the meeting.
<b>County Councillor Filmer</b>	County Councillor Filmer advised that Somerset County Council would shortly be considering whether to write to the Minister to request that the 2021 elections be postponed for one year as they will cost around £1,000,000 and this could be considered a poor use of money if the One Somerset outcome means that all members need to be re-considered for future posts. If this

	<p>was approved, and the Minister did decide to postpone the elections, members would then be campaigning for election to whichever new authority had been determined.</p> <p>There was a concern that there had been more positive COVID-19 outbreaks across the district but that the "R" value had fallen from 1.3-1.6 to 1.2 -1.4. In Somerset it was still under the 5 year average for deaths as a whole. Care should still be taken to follow all guidance and be sensible however.</p> <p>The Climate emergency strategy is progressing with plans for a joint strategy covering five areas. The final plan should be ready to present to County Council for approval by the end of November 2020, and then it is anticipated that the strategy will be in place for the beginning of 2021.</p> <p>One Somerset still has two plans in contention and the secretary of State is expected to make a decision by the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020.</p> <p>Councillor Filmer has been liaising with the relevant people to try to progress the Flooding issue on Top Road. The original remedy agreed of 'pan busting' was now not going to be implemented and more talks with Liam Gill, Vicky Mundy from FWAG and the land owners are ongoing.</p>
<p><b>District Councillor Godwin-Pearson</b></p>	<p>Report later in the meeting</p>
<p><b>Outside Bodies</b></p>	
<p><b>The Windmill</b></p>	<p>Cllr Blakemore and the Chair advised that there have been some surface improvements to the 'car park' area although it is not known how durable these will be.</p> <p>There is a paving stone which is a potential trip hazard which has been reported. The litter problem persists although regular clearance is being undertaken. The Windmill sign needs re-enforcing, and there has been a new lock fitted after a break in.</p>

## 54.20 Planning

### a) VDS group update

Members received an update from Cllr Torrens Spence. The group is meeting by Zoom once a fortnight which Cllr Wallach and Cllr Torrens-Spence attend. It was agreed that one of the group, Tracey Crosby be set up as a host in order that she can set up meetings on the Council's Zoom account.

### b) Planning List

Members received the list up to 10/11/20 on recent applications and decisions. County Councillor Filmer confirmed that there have been some delays with decisions recently as a knock-on effect of the Covid-19 difficulties with registering new applications.

County Councillor Filmer entered the waiting room.  
District Councillor Godwin-Pearson joined the meeting.

### c) Planning Applications

Members considered the following applications: -

<b>Application No</b>	<b>15/20/00024 JAB</b>
<b>Comments by</b>	26/11/2020
<b>Type</b>	Works to
<b>Applicant</b>	Mr Frost
<b>Location</b>	The Grange, Front Street, Stone Allerton, Somerset, BS26 2NN
<b>Proposal</b>	Pine tree, fell
<b>Case Officer</b>	Janette Burton

**RESOLVED:** that Sedgemoor District Council be advised that Chapel Allerton Parish Council has no objections to this application subject to the usual conditions for works to trees.

Councillor Wallach entered the waiting room.

<b>Application No</b>	<b>15/20/00023</b>
<b>Comments by</b>	3/12/20
<b>Type</b>	Works to trees
<b>Applicant</b>	Mrs OConnell
<b>Location</b>	Stone Orchard House, Copsewood Lane, Stone Allerton, BS26 2NS
<b>Proposal</b>	Various tree pruning works
<b>Case Officer</b>	Janette Burton

**RESOLVED:** that Sedgemoor District Council be advised that Chapel Allerton Parish Council has no objections to this application subject to the usual conditions for works to trees.

County Councillor Filmer and Councillor Wallach returned to the meeting.

- d) District Councillor Godwin Pearson advised that there was a proposal to make Cross Lane permanently one way as the recent temporary one way restrictions highlighted an opportunity to just have one lane of traffic, and to have one lane as a pedestrian route suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs and cyclists. Currently the access is exclusively across the grassed fields which is not suitable for these wheeled means of transport. The landowners are not currently amenable to changes to the field path that would make it more suitable for these groups of users. Axbridge Town Council is drafting a formal response to this proposal, but it is not thought to be supportive of it. Local people will be consulted on this too.
- In response to a question about One Somerset, District Cllr Godwin-Pearson confirmed that his position was personally in favour of the 2 Somerset system. A link to the County and District collaboration strategy will be sent to all Councillors.

**A member of the public Steve Howell who was invited to attend the meeting joined at 8.15pm.**

### **55.20 Climate Emergency**

- a) Mr Howell summarised the request that he had previously made to the Parish Council on behalf of the Eco-Centre. He advised that the organisation was newly set up as a Charitable Community Benefit Society. They aim to ultimately be self-funding with schools and other organisations paying for use of their facilities. They initially hope to fund an outreach worker, a mobile unit and eventually an Eco Centre with the help of a 'set up' grant from the Climate Emergency Fund. They hope that there can be a group application with a number of local Parish and Town Councils. They would like Chapel Allerton Parish Council to agree to ask for a bid of around £5000 on behalf of the Eco-Centre. In response to a question regarding any limits on applications, Mr Howell stated that Chapel Allerton could put in a single bid and also a group bid/bids.

**It was agreed that this matter should be put onto the December meeting agenda to be decided then.**

**Mr Howell left the meeting.**

- b) Cllr Torrens-Spence advised that the Old School Room would also like a bid put in on their behalf to fund solar panels on the roof and associated works. They have had a quote of £5230 for this.

**RESOLVED: It was agreed that the Council could claim a grant on behalf of the Old School Room for this purpose.**

- c) Cllr Torrens-Spence advised that the recent Climate Emergency Workshop could be an agenda item for the December meeting.

### **56.20 Administration and Finance**

#### **i) Accounts payable:**

Clerk's wages at standard hours for the period, paid by Sedgemoor payroll dept.	£224.72
Clerk's expenses	£68.65

Including Zoom payment, 6 month's office costs (Sept to March inclusive) and postage.

Dale Plowman Village Maintenance	£6.50
VDSU expenses for their Zoom meeting	£14.39

**RESOLVED:** To pay these amounts

- ii) **Draft budget** – the draft budget was discussed along with the proposal to keep the precept the same (£4500). It was agreed to increase the precept to £5000 to reflect the anticipated increases in expenditure over the next year.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the draft budget and to set the precept at £5000 for the 2021/2022 year.

### **57.20 Highways & Footpaths**

- i) Highways – report by the Chair
  - a) The blocks that have been placed at either end of Ashton Drove which is a restricted byway were discussed and these are thought to be lawful as the landowners are responsible for maintenance of the byway. They have been placed to deter anti-social behavior which could potentially cause damage to the land.
  - b) A resident was thanked for maintaining the length of hedge in Hooks Mead Lane
- ii) Footpaths – report by the Chair
  - a) Email from resident reporting that a style was broken on AX/12/17, and other issues. The Chair will inspect this.
  - c) Additional footpath signs are to be placed around the villages
  - d) Councillor Torrens-Spence informed the meeting that she has recently discovered that the Parish Footpath Liaison Officer does not have to be a Parish Councillor and could be done by a member of the public. This person would attend council meetings but would not have a vote. This was noted as a potential way to provide help to the Chair who is now combining the roles of Chair and Parish Footpath Liaison Officer.

### **58.20 Ornamental Cherry Tree**

Cllr Wallach advised that she would undertake to draft the planning request for felling of the tree when the supporting evidence had been received to back this up.

Cllr Torrens-Spence undertook to draft an item for Allerton News asking for suggestions to replace the tree.

### **59.20 Chair's report**

Cllr Duggen-Rees re-capped the ongoing issues with flooding and speeding that he has been working on and expressed exasperation at the lack of responses from the contacts at District and County Council.

Count Councillor Filmer had previously updated on these matters also and is working to progress them.

The Chair is planning to contact the other neighbouring local Councils at Weare and Wedmore to propose joint working on the issues that span the parishes.

**60.20 Clerk's report**

Meeting dates for the forthcoming year were proposed:

January 11

February 22

March 29

April 12 Annual Parish Meeting

May 17 (Annual Parish Council Meeting and Full Council meeting)

June 28

July -

August 3

September 20

October -

November 1

December 13

**RESOLVED:** To agree these dates.

**61.20 Future agenda items and matters of report**

The Chair advised that the newly refurbished notice boards are not water-tight and that the contractor needs to look at these again.

Cllr Torrens-Spence undertook to contact the gentleman who did the work.

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Chairman

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Date

Date of next meeting: 14 December 2020, at 7.30pm held by Zoom.