



## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting

held on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

Please note that these are DRAFT minutes and will be considered for possible amendment and subsequent approval at the next meeting.

### [A] Apologies and attendance

All councillors were in attendance. County Councillor Mansell and three parishioners were welcomed by the chairman.

### [B] Issues raised by members of the public

A local resident had raised the issue of grass cutting along Briscoe Lane verges with the landowner, and outlined some opposition to its taking place. The similarity between this work and that of maintaining the “Green” by the telephone box which had been carried out for many years was commented on by the parish councillors. There followed much discussion and it was noted that much support from other residents was clear, including the improvement for walkers and cyclists in addition to other road users. There had been accompanying wildflower seeding and additional tree planting was planned for the future. The clerk, speaking as a resident, acknowledged the greater safety personally experienced as a cyclist and the accompanying improvement for pedestrians was also mentioned by others, especially when considering the increase in quiet electric propulsion for cars in what is technically a 60mph speed limit. The chair acknowledged the landowner’s right to carry out the work, and reiterated that many local residents had expressed their support. The question of whether the accompanying signage was appropriate was raised. The landowners offered to reconsider these and whether they should remain.

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**Item 1:** There were no disclosures of interest by members on agenda items

**Item 2:** Minutes of the previous meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record

**Item 3:** There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

**Item 4:** Police Liaison. There was no police report.

**Item 5:** Planning, Infrastructure and Development

[a] The routine planning information forwarded to the clerk had lately ceased, and Councillor Mansell agreed to follow this up, in addition to the clerk pursuing the matter.

**ACTION:** The clerk and Councillor Mansell will follow-up on this lack of information

**DONE:** Councillor Mansell arranged the redirection on June 12th

[b] Planning application 44/24/0008 at Fairmile, Sampford Moor Road, received approval on the 10<sup>th</sup> June.

[c] Application 44/24/0004 has been withdrawn.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting

Date

## Wellington Without Parish Council

[d] 44/24/0009 The Bungalow, Nowers Lane. Councillors Lane and Frear who visited the site expressed no issues.

**ACTION:** Submission of “No comment” to be made  
**DONE:** June 10<sup>th</sup> with submission number SWT621813671

### **Item 6:** Financial Issues

[a] There were no items of expenditure during May over £100 excluding salary payments. The balance stands at £22775.26

[b] The period for parishioners to view the accounts is June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact the clerk should you wish to do so.

### **Item 7:** County, District and Unitary Authority Councillors

[a] Councillor Mansell outlined the suggested issues with reference to the changes at the Beambridge crossroads, with an agreement to consider for example the issues of one-way working and appropriate signage. “Average Speed” cameras will be installed and some issues with the road surface remain. Councillor Hill, supported by Councillor Olive, commented that in view of the issues the initial research could have been more thorough. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Mansell for his comments and hard work around this issue.

[b] Councillor Mansell mentioned that there was a new contractor for rural broadband although it is likely that due to some communication issues the work may be delayed.

[c] The County Council is progressing through the planned unitary authority transformation process. Many staff will or have been made redundant and the voluntary process has run its course. It is a difficult period at the county level and the significant gap in the next budget funding of £100 million may increase to £200 million. Shedding staff is the only real solution and these are very difficult, indeed “desperate” times, with perhaps 25%, or approximately one thousand of the workforce, leaving employment; additionally these staff may be the more experienced. Protection of statutory services may have a significant negative impact on others, but services remain where possible. It is possible that a section 114 bankruptcy notice may be issued during this next year

[d] Planning response times by Parish Councils have been reduced from 28 to 21 days, although extensions may be considered. Planning training is provided by the Somerset Association of Local Councils.

**ACTION:** The clerk to investigate this provision and report to council

### **Item 8:**

[a] Questions were raised regarding maps of the parish.

**ACTION:** The clerk to investigate the archive and report to council

**ACTION:** Councillor Olive to investigate a map redesign

[b] Councillor Hasell mentioned that the hedge at Thorne St Margaret/Ivy Cross is in need of trimming. Hedges are the responsibility of the landowner although there is an annual “visibility cut” at appropriate places.

Fingerposts however are not maintained but the local council may choose to do so.

**ACTION:** Councillor Hasell to investigate this and report to council

**Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting**

**Date**

## **Wellington Without Parish Council**

It was requested that minutes and other important documents are forwarded both in Word and as PDFs. This was agreed.

Potholes are a present issue and could be the subject of insurance claims. There appears to be no process in place to deal with such, and it is believed this is needed urgently.

**ACTION:** Councillor Hasell to report any issues online

[c] Councillor Olive raised the question of “how to be a councillor” training and that of planning

**ACTION:** The clerk to investigate this provision or lack of it and report to council

There was no other urgent business and the chair thanked the councillors and County Councillor Mansell for their input.

The next meeting will be on July 8th at the Beambridge Inn starting at 7.00pm  
Please note that there will be no meeting in August

**Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting**

**Date**