

- 23/24/ 112      **PRESENT** - Cllrs Heale (in the Chair), Gilbert, Welch and Gowing.
- 23/24/ 113      **APOLOGIES** - were received and approved from SCllr Martin.
- 23/24/ 114      **ALSO PRESENT** - 8 members of the public and SCllr Munt.
- 23/24/ 115      **IN ATTENDANCE** - The Clerk to the Council.
- 23/24/ 116      **CO-OPTION TO FILL THE VACANCY LEFT BY CLLR TILBURY'S DEATH AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** - The only candidate in attendance, Simon Vine, was proposed by Cllr Heale and seconded by Cllr Welch. He was unanimously elected and signed his declaration of acceptance of office which was witnessed by the Clerk.
- 23/24/ 117      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - none declared.
- 23/24/ 118      **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - were confirmed and signed.
- 23/24/ 119      **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - there had been some movement regarding bringing fibre broadband to the village and this would be put on the next agenda.
- 23/24/ 120      **PILLAR BARN IF MARK LIDSTER ATTENDS** - In spite of several emails inviting him to attend no response has been received. A member of the public made some observations and following discussion it was agreed that they should write privately and also that SCllr Munt would chase up Mr Lidster. The member of the public advised councillors to look at the BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) principles.
- 23/24/ 121      **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** - SCllr Munt reported that last month Somerset Recycling had achieved 100% of plastic recycled. Other green initiatives are also taking place. Gritters are ready for operation when required. The firm which had previously held the contract for highway maintenance had not had its contract renewed and a new firm had been granted the contract as from April 2024. There is a serious financial situation in Somerset Council largely as a result of the doubling of costs of adult social care. A letter regarding asset and service devolution was discussed but it was noted that for a small council there is not much more that Edington can do. Somerset's shortfall is in the region of £140m per annum.
- 23/24/ 122      **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS** - With regard to the Asset and Services Devolution letter it was noted that this will be discussed at all of the next LCN meetings.
- 23/24/ 123      **COMMEMORATIVE BENCH - BRIAN TILBURY** - Cllr Gilbert would look further into the choices as there is such a large range. It was felt that recycled plastic, which would be environmentally friendly might be a good choice. Gwilliams charity Make a difference could be approached for a donation towards this.
- 23/24/ 124      **HIGHWAYS**
- a.      Any updates -
- i.      SID poles, Broadway signage, Broadmead Lane unsuitable for HGVs and outstanding issues - responses to all these had been received. The SID poles would be replaced shortly and because of the problems we would not be charged. Unsuitable for HGVs signs will be erected at each end of Broadmead Lane. The original proposals for improvements to safety along Broadway had not included anything covering the length between the two sections of the village. The Clerk had complained and some no footway signs would be erected at each end with slow written on the road. The Clerk to mention to Highways that stating that there is no footway for 400 yards is misleading as there are no footways in Edington.
- ii.     Pothole outside Holywell House - This has deteriorated. The Clerk had taken photos which had been sent to SCllr Martin.
- iii.    Burtle signpost at junction of chandlers Lane and Holywell Road - no update.
- b.      Safety of horse riders - no update

- c. Holywell Road/Chandlers Lane water problems - Cllr Gilbert updated the meeting. She had put blue dye in as required and it failed to show at the problem area. Following testing the water Wessex Water confirmed that it is not sewage. Wessex Water will be adding dye to the manhole and carrying out further camera investigations. An application has been made by the authorities for Highways to put in a soakaway. The Clerk would also request this.
- d. Grit bins - siting of existing and possible additional bin - It was agreed to purchase two small grit bins with grit to go in them for placement at the Burtle sign at the Holy Well bend and at the crossroads.
- e. Problems arising and any other highway matters - the Clerk would write to Highways regarding the collapsed drain outside Belmont Cottage.

23/24/ 125

**PLANNING -**

- a. 26/22/00003 & 26/22/00005 - Full application and listed building application - erection of dwelling with works to existing gardener's hut at the Walled Garden, Broadmead Lane - no update
- b. 26/23/00007 - Cert of Lawfulness at Hampden, Broadway - the Council knew of no reason to refuse this application and felt that anything that helped children's social care should generally be encouraged. The Parish Council therefore supported this application.
- c. Any other planning matters - none.

23/24/ 126

**RIGHTS OF WAY, FOOTPATHS** - Martin Olive has agreed to continue as footpath Liaison Officer until May 2024.

23/24/ 127

**DEFIBRILLATOR** - Cllr Gilbert is still doing research regarding the monitoring of the device.

23/24/ 128

**SALC AGM** - Edgar Hall, Somerton 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 10.00-15.00. Nobody was available to attend.

23/24/ 129

**NIDON LAND** - The Clerk would send a copy of the 'Letter of Intent' to all councillors. Re-naming the land was discussed. It was agreed that formal re-naming was not necessary but that it should be granted a local name, hopefully commemorating Brian Tilbury. The Clerk would contact Mrs Tilbury regarding this.

23/24/ 130

**FINANCE**

- a. Accounts - statements had arrived today but there had not been time to update the accounts.
- b. Cheques for signature - were approved as follows:- Chq999 Somerset Council (dog bin emptying) £167.23; Chq.1000 J Marshall (salary & expenses Sep) £377.05; Chq.1003 ESR (room hire Nov 22-Mar 23) £75.00; Chq.1004 Cancelled; Chq.1005 SALC (subscription) £112.77; Chq.1006 Stepping Out (village maintenance) £150.00; Chq.1007 Edington School Room (room hire Apr 23-Mar 24 less Sept) £150.00; Chq.1008 J Marshall (Salary & expenses Nov) £381.20.
- c. Any other finance matters - incl. bank signatories could now be updated; VAT refund has been received; £40 has been received for footpath booklets.

23/24/ 131

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION - C&CD.**

23/24/ 132

**URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.

23/24/ 133

**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING(S)** - Village cleanup (for Jan agenda); Dec/Jan Precept.

23/24/ 134

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 in Edington School Room at 7.15pm to include festive refreshments for all attendees following the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed by Cllr Heale on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023