

- 24/25/ 154 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth (in the Chair), Gowing, Heale, Welch and Vine.
- 24/25/ 155 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - none received.
- 24/25/ 156 **ALSO PRESENT** - 0 members of the public.
- 24/25/ 157 **IN ATTENDANCE** - The Clerk to the Council.
- 24/25/ 158 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - Cllrs Charlesworth and Gowing declared an interest in finance relating to Catcott School as both had children there.
- 24/25/ 159 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - confirmed and signed.
- 24/25/ 160 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - Cllr Vine had attended an online tree management course. The only trees which the parish council is responsible for are at the Holy Well and the Brian Tilbury Memorial Ground.
- 24/25/ 161 **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** - Neither Somerset Councillor was present.
- 24/25/ 162 **SOMERSET PARISHES CONFERENCE AND SALC AGM** - the Clerk had attended and gave a brief report.
- 24/25/ 163 **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN)** - Cllr Welch reported on the latest meeting. Health and Wellbeing, including transport, is the current focus. It was, however, very unclear how funds from a new health and wellbeing initiative are to be spent and Pop Up Sport would not qualify. The Somerset Rivers Authority will work with parish councils. Cllr Heale reported on the LCN Highways meeting he had attended. There had been a lot of discussion regarding drain clearance and flooding. The Clerk would contact Nathan Turnbull and ask him to telephone Cllr Heale.
- 24/25/ 164 **BRIAN TILBURY MEMORIAL GROUND (BTMG)** - Cllr Welch reported that she had met with Mr Kennedy again. He and his agent would attend a meeting but at present there was too much uncertainty regarding grants because of the change of government. There is currently no clear criteria. He told Cllr Welch that the trees are growing well and there should be some income for the council in three years.
- 24/25/ 165 **HIGHWAYS**
- a. SID - Cllr Charlesworth reported that the moving of the SID to the second site is now imminent.
 - b. Jetting and any problems still existing - this had been covered under LCNs.
 - c. Flooding and possible meeting - the Clerk had collected a lot of leaflets from the Somerset Conference and passed these to Cllr Charlesworth who is arranging a meeting for local residents of Edington and nearby villages on 30 November in Edington Village Hall. Leaflets would be distributed and posters displayed.
 - d. Nidon Lane - no update.
 - e. Enhanced Highway Maintenance (EHM) - Cllr Heale had reported under LCNs. No other update.
 - f. Problems arising and any other highway matters -
 - i. Puriton Hill - the scheduled closures were noted.
 - ii. Chandlers Lane/Holywell Road corner - Cllr Charlesworth had discussed this with Mr Gill and the problem was definitely BT's responsibility. Mr Gill said that Streetworks have to authorise and instigate the soakaway which is required.
- 24/25/ 166 **PLANNING** -
- a. 26/23/00007 - Hampden, Broadway - parking problems - a friendly get together had been agreed between the management of the facility and the clerk. Cllr Charlesworth had attended and met the staff and the young person. The management explained that they were currently getting quotes to double the size of the parking area within the confines of the property which should resolve the problems.
 - b. Somerset Local Plan - having looked at it none of the councillors were concerned about this.
 - c. Boundary Review - to be discussed at the next meeting.
 - d. Any other planning matters - none.
- 24/25/ 167 **FOOTPATHS** - no updates.
- 24/25/ 168 **POLDEN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK (PEN)** - no update.

- 24/25/ 169 **DEFIBRILLATOR/CRITICAL BLEED KIT** - the situation is ongoing. Cllr Charlesworth would chase the matter up.
- 24/25/ 170 **WILLING HELPERS** - no update other than it was confirmed that Willing Helpers would undertake the instillation of the Christmas tree.
- 24/25/ 171 **HOLY WELL AND COMMEMORATIVE SEAT** - Cllr Vine proposed that the bench project be initiated by the Council ordering and paying for the bench in this financial year, using ring-fenced funds of £98.77 from Environment and £100 from the Holy Well. This would result in a shortfall of approx £800. A grant application to Making a Difference Locally to be made to cover the shortfall. The remaining funds required to be allowed for in the budget/precept in order to complete the project. The visual enhancement of the monument to be addressed in the 2025/2026 fiscal year as well. Cllr Charlesworth seconded. Carried. Quotes for both carved and engraved plaque memorial on the seat to be obtained.
- 24/25/ 172 **WEBSITE** - The Clerk provided information from three companies regarding a .gov.uk website. It was agreed to postpone this until the next financial year with allowance being made for it in the precept.
- 24/25/ 173 **WORKING PARTIES - TO CONSIDER IF ANY NEED SETTING UP AT PRESENT AND THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE** - It was agreed to set up a Finance working party to look at the precept and report back to the next meeting. Membership to be Cllrs Charlesworth, Vine and Welch. To be reviewed in say 6 months. Working parties to cover the memorial ground and the Holy Well would be considered at a later meeting.
- 24/25/ 174 **REVIEW STANDING ORDERS AND DISPENSATIONS** - Cllr Gowing had not yet made the changes to her register of interests. Cllr Charlesworth had sorted hers.
- 24/25/ 175 **FINANCE**
- a. Accounts - The Clerk provided accounts up to date. Approved.
 - b. Clerk's salary increase - the nationally agreed wage increase was considered. It was agreed that the Clerk be paid at the new rate and for this to be back dated to April 2024.
- PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth and Gowing left the room.
- c. Catcott School funding request - Cllr Vine proposed that no funds be awarded in this financial year but that a grant of £500 be made as early as possible in the next financial year by making allowance for this in the precept. Carried.
- PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth and Gowing returned to the room.
- d. Cheques for signature - Chq.1046 SALC (training) £78.00; Chq.1047 SLCC (½ subscription) £75.00; Chq.1048 Clerk (back dated pay rise) £87.99; Chq.1049 Clerk (pay and expenses) £453.35. The Clerk had also prepared a cheque to Somerset Council for emptying dog waste bins but drew the attention of the Council to the fact that it covered the period October 2024 to March 2025. It was agreed that this service should not be paid for in advance and the Clerk would advise Somerset of this and request a new invoice.
 - e. Bank mandate - this had not gone through as it had hit two snags. The Clerk had written to the bank to try and get the problems sorted but had heard nothing back. If she had still heard nothing in the near future she would start the process again.
 - f. Budget/precept setting - to await a report from the newly set up working party.
 - g. Any other finance matters - The Clerk asked if the Council wanted a Christmas tree the same as last year. This was agreed and the Clerk would arrange.
- 24/25/ 176 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION** - C&CD & CPRE. It was noted that Cllr Charlesworth had laid the wreath at the war memorial. Notification had been received that the village was not in line to get improved broadband in the near future.
- 24/25/ 177 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.
- 24/25/ 178 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING(S)** - Jan - Gardening competitions; Dec - Precept; Chandlers Lane/Holywell Road corner
- 24/25/ 179 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Thursday 12th December 2024 in Edington School Room at 7.15pm to be followed by festive refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chairman

Date