

- 25/26 /24 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth (in the Chair), Heale, Gowing, Vine and Welch.
- 25/26 /25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATIONS REQUIRED** - none declared.
- 25/26 /26 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMING YEAR AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** - Cllr Vine proposed Cllr Charlesworth, seconded by Cllr Welch. Carried.
- 25/26 /27 **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN** - Cllr Heale proposed Cllr Welch. Cllr Welch proposed Cllr Vine, seconded by Cllr Gowing. Carried.
- 25/26 /28 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR COMING YEAR** - Footpaths - Martin Olive; Village Hall - Cllr Charlesworth; Edington School Room - Cllr Welch; SID device - Cllr Charlesworth.
- 25/26 /29 **REVIEW STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL** - previously circulated to all councillors. Approved and signed by Chairman.
- 25/26 /30 **REVIEW RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT** - previously circulated to all councillors. Approved and signed by Chairman.
- 25/26 /31 **ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** - none.
- 25/26 /32 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - were approved and signed. The date of the March meeting minutes was amended and signed by the Chairman.
- 25/26 /33 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - none.
- 25/26 /34 **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** - neither Somerset Councillor was present.
- 25/26 /35 **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCNS) AND ENHANCED HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE (EHM)** - Cllr Welch reported on the last LCN meeting. The main subject discussed was devolution from County to local level. This is not really applicable to small parish councils however it was confirmed that any responsibilities taken on would need insurance cover provided by the local council. There is a possibility of a subgroup being set up in July. Health and Wellbeing's Ride and thrive scheme is proving popular. Catcott School has enrolled to have an event at the School. Other subjects were Highways communications and parent parking at schools. The AGM is on 9th July at Keinton Mandeville. Cllr Heale and the Clerk reported on the latest EHM meeting where it was apparent that the communication system set up at County level is totally useless in many respects with reported items being described to complainants as 'complete' by the person receiving the complaint as soon as it is passed on to a technician. Keir are nearing the end of their one year contract (unclear whether that was in total or simply for the EHM). There have been about 100 enquiries re EHM; 10 quotes are currently out for consideration; 1 job is completed. The Police were also at this meeting and spoke on road safety and Driver Community Intervention Days.
- 25/26 /36 **BTMG (BRIAN TILBURY MEMORIAL GROUND ON THE NIDON)** - updated in parish meeting. Cllr Welch will arrange a meeting with councillors and Mr Kennedy on site to discuss and clarify various matters.
- 25/26 /37 **HIGHWAYS**
- a Speed Indicator Device (SID) - Cllr Charlesworth reported that the SID had been vandalised but appeared to still be in working order. However a tamper alarm, a tracker, a bracket and a special padlock needed to be purchased in order to get the device back on the pole. These expenses were approved.
 - b Chandlers Lane/Holywell Road bend - no update.
 - c Nidon Lane - no update.
 - d Broadmead Lane and Pillar Barn - it is believed we now know the new owner of the Pillar Barn. The Clerk will write to him.
 - e Problems arising and any other highway matters - none.
- 25/26 /38 **PLANNING** -
- a 26/25/00002 - Outline application - White House, Broadway - 1 detached dwelling house - no update at 08/05/25.

Chairman

Date

b 26/25/00003 - change of use - Unit on Suprema Estate - no update at 08/05/25.

c Any other planning matters - none.

25/26 /39 **FOOTPATHS** - Mr Olive will trim the grass on the path passed Edington Manor. There were also complaints about the footing on another path where the gate is not going to be replaced.

25/26 /40 **POLDEN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK (PEN)** - no update.

25/26 /41 **DEFIBRILLATOR/CRITICAL BLEED KIT** - Cllr Charlesworth is trying to arrange a training session in the use of the defibrillator and the critical bleed kit. She will try to arrange an evening session.

25/26 /42 **HOLY WELL AND COMMEMORATIVE SEAT** - Cllr Charlesworth will contact our expert advisor next week in an effort to progress the matter of the restoration of the Holy Well. The seat could be put in place temporarily in the mean time.

25/26 /43 **GARDEN COMPETITIONS** - there had been a sorry lack of response. Mr & Mrs Andrews volunteered to judge the competitions and suggested a meeting to arrange alternative methods of running the events in the future.

25/26 /44 **VE 80TH ANNIVERSARY - 9TH MAY 2025** - the Village Hall Committee and CVA have arranged a picnic on 10th May to run from 2-5pm.

25/26 /45 **FINANCE**

a i) Accounts check; ii) Ring fenced funds; iii) village newsletter - Accounts for the previous financial year were approved. The finance working party would meet and bring forward suggestions regarding ring fenced funds to a future meeting. It is understood that an on-line Polden villages newsletter is likely to come about. It was agreed that a quarterly Edington printed newsletter should also be produced and could be distributed via Spokes or Willing Helpers.

b Cheques for signature - were approved as follows:- Chq.1070 R Young (internal audit) £20.00; Chq.1071 Axe Brue Internal Drainage Board (drainage rates on BTMG) £3.92; Chq.1072 Clerk (salary and expenses) £442.38.

c Internal Audit - The internal audit report that there were no matters to bring to the council's attention was read to the meeting.

d External Audit -

i. Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 - circulated in advance, agreed all matters satisfactory and completed and signed.

ii. Accounting Statements for 2024/2025 - circulated in advance. Already signed by the Clerk/RFO. Agreed and signed.

e Bank mandate and possible change to Unity Trust Bank - The Clerk had started another mandate change with the NatWest. Everyone who needed to sign had now done so. The Unity Trust Bank make charges on their accounts but otherwise seem to be good as far as parish councils are concerned. There is a possibility that the Clerk might be able to get a bank card from the Nat West. Cllr Vine would try speaking with NatWest.

f Any other finance matters including MADL grant - the Clerk had heard that the Making a Difference Locally grant had been paid but as the bank statements had not yet been received she couldn't yet verify that.

25/26 /46 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION** - CPRE literature.

25/26 /47 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.

25/26 /48 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING(S)** - Flooding to be put on the agenda again; Website; Newsletter; ring fenced funds.

25/26 /49 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Thursday 12th June at 7.30 in the Committee Room at the Village Hall
The meeting closed at 8.45pm