

MUDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Thursday 27th February 2020, Mudford Village Hall at 7pm.

Councillors Present:

Stephen Bartlett (Chairman)

Nick Lanigan

June Lydon

Mark Rowlands

Phil Sargent

In attendance: Leader of SSDC Cllr. Val Keitch, County Cllr. Mike Lewis, District Cllr. Tony Capozzoli, District Cllr. Paul Rowsell, the clerk and 13 members of the public.

20/17. To receive any apologies for absence. There were no apologies.

20/18. Public Open Session – to consider any matters raised by members of the public, to include the PCSO, Village Hall, County and District Councillor reports. To be attended by Councillor Val Keitch, Leader of SSDC.

A resident spoke out about speeding and road surface problems. Cllr Sargent provided a report on the progress with Somerset Highways and proposed improvements to the pedestrian crossing.

A number of comments were put to Cllr Keitch regarding the Primrose Lane planning process and decision:

- SSDC planning department not fit for purpose.
- Expert reports instructed by MPC relating to landscape, flooding, transport, highways, anthrax for the Primrose Lane development were ignored by SSDC planning department in their determination of the decision.
- Untrained and substituted Cllrs sitting on the Regulation Committee for the final decision.
- No consultation or notification of the adjustment of the ward boundaries.
- No CIL on the new properties, not enough affordable housing, not enough facilities for the number of properties.
- Mudford Cemetery only has capacity for the next 40yrs, money must be provided to purchase further land.
- Flooding concerns in Mudford when the top of the escarpment is heavily built on, causing water run-off down the hillside.
- Very one-sided meeting, SSDC experts very poor, it was a 'done-deal' before the meeting started.

Cllr Keitch responded on many of the points providing clarification on the replacement of Cllrs on the Regulation Committee explaining that the SSDC Regulations state that Cllrs SHOULD have Regulation Committee training, but the legal position is that this is not compulsory. The District Council did not make the ultimate decision regarding the NIST ward, the Boundaries Commission decided. The decision to not impose CIL for the towns of Yeovil, Crewkerne and Chard was made at the time of the Urban Extension Local Plan. She objected to the accusation levelled at the District Council of a 'done-deal'.

She further explained the management structure of the planning department and spoke of a national shortage of planners. She said all staff were closely monitored and well supervised with process in place to ensure decision making is carried out correctly.

Other topics covered included climate change, new government direction on building on floodplains, regeneration (and despairing) of Yeovil town.

Cllr Bartlett reported that raw sewage had been amongst flood water around the pumping station, Wessex Water had been in attendance to pump it away and limit the amount that entered the drains.

A resident handed the chairman a letter signed by a number of residents requesting that the parish council install a footpath around the playing field. It was agreed that this would be on a future agenda.

Representatives from the village hall committee reported that the village hall flat roof was leaking badly, causing much damage to the newly decorated areas beneath. D.Cllr Capozzoli offered to help apply for a grant from SSDC to assist with funding the repairs.

C.Cllr Lewis suggested to ask Marcus Fysh MP to invite Sir James Bevan (CEO Environment Agency) to comment on the Primrose Lane development in light of his recent advice against building on floodplains. He reported that Somerset County Council were to plant a tree for every child that is born.

8:45pm – Meeting opened

20/19. To receive any declarations of interest. Cllr Lanigan declared an interest in the planning application 20/000023/FUL.

20/20. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2020.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

20/21. Planning

- a) To note decisions on earlier applications. None
- b) To consider new applications

20/000023/FUL – Land OS 7067 Primrose Lane, Mudford, the erection of side extension to an existing farm building. Cllr Lanigan left the room. The parish council had no objections to the application but would like a condition stating trees and shrubs should be planted on the North and West elevations to provide shielding for Manor House and Manor Barn, with further conditions on replanting for those that die.

ACTION: Clerk

- c) Other planning matters of report. There were no other planning matters.

20/22. Council Matters

- a) To receive Cllr Cavaliers resignation from Mudford Parish Council.

Cllr Bartlett spoke with much regret that Cllr Tony Cavalier was resigning from the parish council due to ill health. All Cllrs expressed thanks for his efforts leading the (ongoing) fight against the Primrose Lane development amongst many other village projects that he championed.

- b) To consider the co-option of a Councillor.

There was no-one to co-opt at this time.

- c) To agree to adopt updated Mudford Parish Council Standing Orders.

The clerk had circulated the updated Standing Orders via email, prior to the meeting, for comment.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to adopt the Mudford Parish Council Standing Orders.

- d) To agree to adopt updated Mudford Parish Council Financial Regulations.

The clerk had circulated the updated Financial Regulations via email, prior to the meeting, for comment.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to adopt the Mudford Parish Council Financial Regulations.

- e) To review Mudford Parish Council Register of Fixed Assets.

Cllr Sargent queried the cost/value of the gym/play equipment for the purposes of insurance. The clerk agreed to check this when the insurance renewal was due. The clerk noted that the new bench would need to be added once it had been received.

RESOLVED: The Register of Fixed Assets was signed as being correct at the current time.

20/23. Finance

- a) The following payments were presented for approval and signature.

Clerks salary & expenses	£471.33
HMRC	£108.00
J Ferguson (Reimburse bench for playing field)	£552.00
Westcotec (Bluetooth retrofit)	£600.00
LQM Primrose Lane advice	£289.02
Ash Parish Council (Reimburse for ¼ share clerks training)	£21.25

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed for the payments presented to be approved and signed.

- b) To approve the cashbook & bank account reconciliation for 13th Jan 2020 – 13th Feb 2020.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the cashbook and bank reconciliation as presented.

- c) To agree the financial risk assessment.

The Chairman presented the financial risk assessment to the parish council and explained the measures that the clerk employs to ensure proper practice.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the financial risk assessment for submission to internal audit.

20/24. Cemetery

- a) Cemetery headstone risk assessment.

There was no change to report.

- b) To review Mudford Burial Ground Table of Fees, Payments & Sums.

The current table of fees was reviewed in the past year and was considered to be acceptable for the next year.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to adopt the Mudford Burial Ground Table of Fees, Payments and Sums.

c) To consider quotes for the Cemetery footpath.

Cllr Sargent reported that 3 quotes had been obtained as follows:

Quote 1 £7049.70

Quote 2 £7500.00

Quote 3 £9371.25

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to instruct Somerset Landscapes Limited (Quote 1) to carry out the work required on the Cemetery footpath.

ACTION: Clerk

20/25. Playing Field and Play Area

a) To receive playing field inspection reports.

There was nothing significant to report. The clerk would circulate an updated rota before the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

20/26. Highways and Parish Paths

Cllr Bartlett asked the clerk to request that the drains and gully around West Mudford and Hinton be jetted. Cllr Sargent asked for the drain in the layby at Mudford Cemetery also be jetted.

ACTION: Clerk

20/27. Items of report, future business and for the Newsletter

Cllr Sargent provided a report on the Speedwatch progress. He further advised the parish council of an application for a grant of £4850 from the Road Safety Fund, for the purchase of highway gates and planters. A number of ideas and items were discussed for the newsletter, the clerk requested that all information be emailed for inclusion.

20/28. Reports on development at Up Mudford

To resolve to exclude the press and public under s1 (2) Admissions to Public Meetings Act 1960 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

There was nothing to report at this time.

20/29. Date of next meeting – 26th March 2020

9.30pm – Meeting closed