

We were so sad to learn of the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. His quiet and assured toughness of spirit has served us all so positively for longer than most of us are able to remember. May he rest in the peace that he so deserves

Minutes of the MS Teams Meeting at 6pm on Monday 12th April 2021

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Nigel Ashton, Ward Cllr & Colin Medus, NSC Liaison Officer attend when possible

There are 2 Councillor vacancies - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton (NSC), Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on the sad passing but positive contribution of Prince Phillip to all our lives. Members observed a one minute silence in respect for his memory.

031/21 APOLOGIES - none

032/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

033/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES - March 8th - were agreed, and reserved for signature.

034/21 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE - none

035/21 PLANNING - Visit the NSC website for fuller details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered.

New: 20/P/3047/FUL Home Farm Gateway Widening. Notwithstanding this application being retrospective there are very cogent road safety arguments in its favour and Members felt unanimously that they they would not raise any objections to it. **Clerk to so inform NSC planners.**

Decisions Due: 21/P/0487/FUH & 21/P/0488/LBC The Manor - replacement windows.

036/21 PARISH MATTERS

Gullies in Walton Street: Emptying due, but may be delayed.

Street Light - 6 responses (two from non-residents) to the April Cross Tree Chronicle piece have been received, all in favour of retaining a light. Clerk awaiting NSC response re an enquiry as to what, if any, planning permission will be needed. There appear to be two options to placing a new light: either on a pole in a location far enough away from the barn to allow for the barn's maintenance (the basis of the current replacement quote), or fixing the new light to either the Moor Lane or the B3124 face of the barn itself. **Clerk to seek advice from NSC (Planning & Conservation)/Western Power on feasibility of options.**

20mph Speed Zone Extension: Cllr Ashton reported that new NSC 20 mph schemes are going ahead, with policy being changed to increase the area covered. He has a question going to NSC on 20th April asking for clarification of terms - i.e. who pays for the schemes and any physical restrictions needed to make drivers comply. Key concerns are that if a 20mph zone is too long, people will ignore it and if it is too expensive then smaller parishes couldn't afford it.

Walton Street: Flooding at gateway from the field coming off Walton Down - NSC report awaited. The suspected water leak outside Arodene - Cllr Dickinson remains in contact with Bristol Water.

Buses: The 88 service ceased at the beginning of April. NSC are expected to provide a Walton Bay to Clevedon service - details are still awaited at the time of this meeting. **Clerk to chase.**

037/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Ralston

Walton Bay: Cllr Ralston complained strongly to Hunters about their Sales Board attached to the Walton Bay Parish Notice Board and felt that their response was one of apparent indifference.

Walton Street: Drainage Related Hole at Springhead path junction with Walton Street. **Clerk to report to NSC.**

Golf Club Fence: Cllr Ashton emailed the Clerk with a report that NSC lawyers, having studied the executed 1956 agreement between the Miles Estate and Somerset County Council, and acknowledge that NSC are responsible for the maintenance of the fence running between the golf course and Walton Street from Taggart House to Arodene. Cllr Ralston received the same information from the golf club. The meeting felt thanks are due to Cllrs Ralston and Ashton for their diligence in resolving what has been a long standing issue.

Cllr Dickinson

Footpaths on Common: The issue of the fallen trees on the footpath between Plum Tree Cottage and the Common where it passes the side of Hackswood House was raised. Cllr Dickinson noted that there were additional trees which were catching on the power line due to lack of maintenance by Western Power Distribution (WPD). This is putting the line at risk and is a potential safety hazard for the public walking along the footpath. Avon wildlife, who manage the woodland for the Estate, are attempting to get WPD to remove the trees as it is unsafe for their contractors to carry out the work. If this issue is not resolved, and to the extent that the public footpath system is involved, **the Clerk will contact NSC Tree and Footpath officers to see if they can progress any action that may be needed.**

Cllr Cannell

Moor Lane: Fly Tipping in the Ash Track gateway. **Clerk to report.**

038/21 FINANCE

2020-21 Final Accounts: pre-circulated and signed off ready for internal audit.

2021-22 Opening Accounts: pre-circulated, reviewed and noted.

Cheques: 798 ALCA Annual Subscription £70.66 approved.

039/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to evolving Covid-19 regulations it currently appears that it will not be possible to hold parish council meetings - electronic or in person - from 7th May until July. **There will, therefore, be no Parish Council meeting in June.**

To comply with legal requirements for the May meetings, Members therefore agreed to meet via Microsoft Teams on May 5th, as under:

The Parish Council Annual Meeting will be on Wednesday May 5th via Microsoft Teams 6pm.

It will be followed at 6.30m by the Annual Resident's Meeting, which will have a single item agenda - Open Discussion.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm

Post Meeting Note:

This meeting went ahead on the basis of guidance received this morning. While the meeting was under way new guidance emerged, relating to S243 of the Local Government Act 1972, advising that meetings should be postponed during the period of mourning. As S243 refers to the holding Elections, and as the meeting had actually taken place there was some confusion about the guidance and it was decided to publish these minutes rather than to declare them void.

Minutes of the MS Teams Meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 5th May 2021

Meetings are held at 7.30pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Nigel Ashton, Ward Cllr & Colin Medus, NSC Liaison Officer attend when possible

There are 2 Councillor vacancies - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

Before the meeting started, Colin Medus told us that he will be leaving NSC and, therefore, his role as our liaison link with them: he came along this evening to say goodbye and to say thank-you for what he described as a happy and positive experience with us. In wishing Colin well, there was an unanimous disappointment at our losing him. Mike Ralston pointed to the huge contribution Colin's expertise and communicating skills have given to so much of what we have been working to achieve over recent years: we would not have been in the same place without his quiet, confident and competent support and advice. Colin left - with our warmest wishes for his future - before the formal start of the meeting at 7.05pm.

040/21 APOLOGIES - none

ANNUAL MEETING

041/21 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Members agreed, without a vote, to continue with Cllr Ralston as Chair and Cllr Cannell as Vice-Chair of the Council. **Cllr Ralston will complete the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chair.**

042/21 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Village Hall Committee - Cllr Dickinson agreed to continue in this role

Gordano Greenway - with no contact or activity over a long time it was agreed that representation on this body would be discontinued at least for now.

NSC Standards Sub-Committee - Cllr Cannell agreed to be our representative in this role.

Clerk to adjust the website record on these appointments accordingly.

043/21 CHAIR'S REPORT

This had been read by all present, was agreed to, and is **appended to these minutes.**

ORDINARY MEETING

044/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

045/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES - April 12th 2021 - were agreed, and reserved for signature.

046/21 MATTERS ARISING NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE - none

047/21 GOVERNANCE

Annual Governance Statement Approval: In relation to the Annual Review of Governance documents (Minute 016/21 of the February 2021 meeting), Section 1 of the 2020-21 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - The Annual Governance Statement was circulated with the meeting

papers. It was reviewed and agreed, **for signature by the Chair and Clerk** as a true representation of the Council's internal governance controls.

- 048/21 PLANNING** - Visit the NSC website for fuller details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered.
New: 21/P/1048/FUH Plumtree Cottage - Single story rear extension to kitchen. No objections. **Clerk to so inform NSC Planning.**
Decisions Due: 20/P/3047/FUL Home Farm Gateway Widening.
Approved: 21/P/0487/FUH & 21/P/0488/LBC The Manor - replacement windows.
- 049/21 PARISH MATTERS** (these will be updated via email as needed and be reviewed at the July meeting)
Gullies in Walton Street: Emptying due, but may be delayed.
Street Light - 7 responses (5 from residents) to the April Cross Tree Chronicle piece have been received, all in favour of retaining a light. Clerk awaiting NSC response re an enquiry as to what, if any, planning permission will be needed. There appear to be two options to placing a new light: either on a pole in a location far enough away from the barn to allow for the barn's maintenance (the basis of the current replacement quote), or fixing the new light to either the Moor Lane or the B3124 face of the barn itself. Cllr Cannell registered thanks to those who have already responded to the options for the future of the light. The consultation remains open.
20mph Speed Zone Extension: Updates from NSC are expected.
Walton Street: Flooding at gateway from the field coming off Walton Down - NSC report awaited. The suspected water leak outside Arodene - Cllr Dickinson remains in contact with Bristol Water.
Buses: Details of a new 56 service from Clevedon Triangle to Walton Bay are in the Walton Bay noticeboard. The service runs four times a day on every working weekday. Timetable distributed via Cross Tree Chronicle.
Footpath From Plumtree to Common: Trees are reportedly overgrowing on some sections and has been reported to NSC footpaths officer: a response is awaited.
Walton Street: Drainage Related Hole at Springhead path junction with Walton Street - reported
Moor Lane: Fly Tipping in the Ash Track gateway. Reported.
NSC Footpaths Initiative: It was agreed that **Cllr Ralston and the Clerk will progress this with NSC.**
- 050/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**
No specific reports were entered.
- 051/21 FINANCE**
i) 2020-21 Accounts: Internal audit complete and with no adverse auditor's comments.
ii) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21 (AGAR): Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2020/21 Part 2 & Section 2 - Accounting Statements 2020-21: were reviewed, agreed, **for signature by the Chair and Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.**
iii) 2021-22 Accounts: pre-circulated with meeting papers reviewed and noted.
iv) Cheques: 799 Phil Smith - Internal Audit £45.00. **Payment agreed.**
- 052/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday July 12th in the Village Hall * - this presumes that physical meetings will be allowed and the Hall will be available - **time to be confirmed.****
- * June Meeting Date:** Due to evolving Covid-19 regulations it currently appears that it will not be possible to hold parish council meetings - electronic or in person - from 7th May until June 21st: therefore **there will be no Parish Council meeting in June.**

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council Annual Meeting - via Zoom - 5th May 2021 at 6pm

Report of the Chair

2020-21 was certainly a year not to be repeated. There was no April meeting in 2020 and a meeting towards the end of May, to deal with needed ratification of audit papers and signatures (which the auditors briefed could not be supplied electronically), was basically to ratify pre-agreed positions.

With a need for virtual meetings, all Councillors had problems with maintaining consistent broadband signals. One of our number - Nigel Wyliman, a former Chair of the Council in years past - resigned during the summer and has been much missed. The rest of us had to make new broadband arrangements to secure lines that could operate reliably in a public-facing environment. We therefore started holding Microsoft Teams meetings in July, on our usual 2nd Monday of each month except August: the meetings started at 6pm.

As I write, the system of virtual meetings comes to an end on May 6th and physical meetings will not be allowed until June 21st. This effectively means that no meetings can be held between May 7th and the end of June. Our next meeting will therefore be on July 12th 2021, *hopefully* in the Village Hall.

Councillors

With Nigel Wyliman's departure we now have vacancies for two Councillors. I would encourage anyone interested in joining the Council to contact our Clerk, or one of the existing Councillors. The work is voluntary and can be very rewarding, despite the stock image of Councils at all levels being somewhat ineffective.

Planning

There have been fewer planning applications coming through during this Covid year and nothing particularly contentious.

Highways

We have not, thus far, been able to resolve the conflict between NSC's need to apply government criteria to the relocation of our speed limits on the B3124 and our wish to install village gates. We soldier on and are hopeful that NSC's planned expansion of 20mph speed limits in rural areas may also lead to an expansion beyond the limit up Walton Street which, together with the recent introduction of a 7.5 ton weight limit, should slow speeds and reduce vehicle sizes using the Coast Road. We are still watching this, and will appreciate any feedback people can offer on their perception of how it is working. You can contact us on traffic issues by visiting the bottom of any of our website pages and clicking on the brown 'Report a Traffic Incident' box.

After studying a copy of an original agreement between the Miles Estate and Somerset County Council, NSC recognise their responsibility for the maintenance of the Golf Club fence up Walton Street between Arodene and Taggart House. They are organising that restoration work with the Golf Club and we will certainly be looking forward to the outcome.

We had hoped to become involved in work on the public footpaths, but found the work to have been done before our commitment could be fulfilled. We were, however, alerted to NSC Highways responsibility for public footpaths and discovered that supporting footpath work other than via them was fraught with potential liability issues.

Finance

With regular payments going out on Bank Standing Orders, and with an NSC year stretched in many other ways than our highway projects, we have no significant expenditure to report. We have, however, provided for the costs of replacing the public light on the B3124-Moor Lane junction when it ultimately needs replacing during the next couple of years.

We are a small band here at the Parish Council and working virtually has proved more demanding than one might expect. Luckily we all know and respect each other, which has proved hugely helpful in getting us through this difficult year. I must thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for their unstinting dedication to their duties during the ever-changing sea of regulations that has been washing over us all of late. I would also like to thank Cllr Nigel Ashton, our Gordano Ward Councillor and Colin Medus, our NSC liaison officer, who have provided invaluable guidance and support to us throughout the year.

MINUTES OF WALTON-IN-GORDANO ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM AT 6.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021

Present: Mike Ralston (Chair), Don Hill (Minute Taker), and 5 other residents

ARM21/01 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received

ARM21/02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF MAY 13TH 2019

These were circulated to attendees and approved in June 2019 and were therefore not a formal agenda item for this meeting. There was no meeting held in May 2020 due to Covid-19.

ARM21/03 REPORTS TO THE MEETING

Due to the restrictive circumstances prevailing during the past year there were no reports from local organisations called for this meeting, which of regulatory necessity, had to be held via Zoom.

ARM21/04 DISCUSSION

Resident Involvement in the Parish Council:

Walton-in-Gordano has long been a socially vibrant parish, with a wide range of active interest groups that have been able to keep a monthly newsletter functioning over many years. There was an eloquently developed proposal that the Parish Council could do much to involve the community in *its* affairs by developing a strategic vision of where it wants to go and how it plans to get there. Many larger parishes are developing Neighbourhood Plans that are probably beyond the scope of very small parishes such as ours. However, a community consists of landowners and of residents, who will all have a sense of why they are part of the parish and how they would like to see it progress. Hopefully the Parish Council will be expanding its number of Councillors to its maximum of five over the coming months and this will provide much needed people-power for the development of some of these ideas.

The 56 Bus Service from Clevedon to Walton Bay:

There is apparently disappointment at Walton Bay that the new 56 bus service runs to Clevedon rather than to Portishead. The meeting asked that the Parish Council be asked to find out, more widely, the views of Walton Bay residents and to see what further plans North Somerset Council have - or might be persuaded to - to service the needs of this isolated population. **Don Hill noted this for action, in his role as Parish Clerk.**

The Parish Street Light at Moor Lane:

5 residents responded to the Cross Tree Chronicle piece about the light, which was phrased in a way calculated to draw responses. All respondents were strongly in favour of the light being replaced by a new light rather than it not being replaced. The Parish Council report that the necessary budget provision will be made in January 2022, so there is plenty more time for people to respond with their thoughts.

Fibre Broadband:

Truespeed is still the only company currently planning to offer a service through the Gordano Valley. They report, however, that it will be another 10 months before the service can be in operation. There is a new service from Starlink.com, currently in Beta form. This has the potential to be a significant improvement on currently available satellite broadband systems but is expensive to install (some £500).

There were no further topics raised and the Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for taking part.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm

Cancellation of the June 2021 Parish Council Meeting

The government regulation that permitted Virtual meetings of parish councils ceased to be effective on May 7th 2021.

Although various activities are permitted within the lock-down easements announced on May 17th, the easing of lock-down restrictions to a point where parish council meetings can start again in the Village Hall is not expected before June 21st 2021.

The Council will not, therefore, be holding a meeting on June 14th 2021

If the easing of lock-down restrictions goes to plan, the Council's July meeting is expected to go ahead in the Village Hall at 7pm on July 12th 2021 - the second Monday of the month.

As usual, there will be no meeting in August.

Donald Hill

Clerk to the Council

These minutes have been agreed by Members electronically, but will remain draft until ratified at our September 13th meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of The Council in the Village Hall Garden

(Because Hall closed during pandemic)

at 7pm on Monday 12th July 2021

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

There are 2 Councillor vacancies - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton, Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 0

053/21 APOLOGIES - none

054/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

055/21 MAY 5TH PC & ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

Were agreed, and signed.

056/21 PLANNING *(Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered)*

New: 21/P/1836/PIP Breezeland Walton Bay - redevelopment of rear garden to provide a single dwelling. This backfill development, on what appears to be a tight piece of land, does not comply with any of the conditions of CS33 and members all felt uncomfortable in supporting it, dependant as it is on a planning framework that has yet to receive the force of law. **Clerk to so report to NSC planning.**

Approved: 20/P/3047/FUL Home Farm Gateway (street name position under review)

057/21 PARISH MATTERS

(several items have not progressed while NSC staff are still working from home)

Gullies in Walton Street: Emptying due. NSC are not responding to requests for updates.

Cross Tree-B3124 Junction: The white lines need repainting. Timetable awaited.

B3124 Litter Picking: A resident has to be commended for collecting 8 bags of litter recently. He also reported fly-tipping, which was promptly removed by NSC.

Street Light: Clerk awaiting NSC response re need for planning permission for and positioning of new light.

20mph Speed Limits: NSC plans to extend 20mph zones in both towns and villages have been delayed, but are expected. As soon as the criteria are published, their application to our parish will be scrutinised. It is possible that parish councils may be expected to make a financial contribution to any limits introduced. Cllr Ashton pointed out that in small rural parishes, where the imperative is primarily safety, the finances may not be available for a parish contribution, but implementing the speed limit is likely be of crucial importance to community wellbeing.

Buses: The 56 service started as a limited service between Clevedon Triangle and Walton Bay. It has since been trialed from Clevedon to Portishead. **The 56 service has not been publicised at the bus stops (except by local initiative), nor has information about it, in either of it's as yet brief formats, been available via the NSC website or TravelWest.** As a consequence, the service has not been well used because people have not known about it: they have, rather, discovered it by accident. It will take good publicity and strategic (ie long term) financial support from NSC to encourage an operator to run the service on a permanent basis. It is the security of the service in the long term that will

influence the mindsets of residents away from reliance on cars and lifts, and towards reliance on a reliable, thoughtfully timetabled and usefully routed public transport alternative.

Plumtree to Common Footpath: Unstable trees reported to NSC footpaths officer: chased 29th June.

NSC Footpaths Initiative: NSC are committing funds for footpath improvements such as stiles being replaced by gates, bridge repairs, vegetation clearance and surface repairs. July Cross Tree Chronicle piece deferred to August. Feedback from this will come before the September meeting.

Governance: A new '**Vexatious Behaviour Policy**' and an updated '**Code of Conduct Policy**' were both circulated and agreed since the May meeting. Members ratified their agreement to both policies at this meeting and confirmed the inclusion of each within the Council's Governance documentation.

Moor Lane: Mains water leak on highway outside Walton Brook Cottage: reported by Clerk on behalf of the resident and repaired by Bristol Water.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022: Cllr Cannell recalled a beacon lighting ceremony on the Common for an earlier Jubilee celebration. [He undertook to investigate with the Estate/Avon Wildlife Trust, the possibility of a similar event taking place on June 2nd 2022.](#)

2023 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review: This periodic review of boundaries does not affect the boundaries of the *North Somerset local government area*. What it does do, is to divide the nation into areas containing similar numbers of population that can be represented in parliament. The object of this is to ensure that the voice of each representative in parliament carries 'the same weight'. North Somerset, at least for the period covered by this review, is likely to need more than two MPs, but less than three MP's. This initial proposal suggests adjusting constituency boundaries so that Weston -Super-Mare become more urban, that some areas between Weston and Clevedon become part of the Wells constituency - renamed Wells and Mendip Hills - and that the remainder continues as the North Somerset Constituency. Walton-in-Gordano will remain in the constituency of North Somerset. Maps illustrating these proposals are attached to and form a part of these minutes.

Overgrown Hedge at Cross Tree Farm: the hedge is currently in good order as observed from use in accessing the Hall this evening and by viewing it from the Hall garden.

058/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Ralston: There was an informal get-together, off the Coast Road at the Keeper's Cottage in Weston-in-Gordano, which included members of Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council (WIG). Many of Weston's seven Council members have joined more recently and, in noting areas of common concern, it was agreed that the Chair and Clerk of our Council would attend the WIG June meeting. This proved to be an illuminating experience that boded well for possible cooperation on future areas of common interest.

Cllr Dickinson: The Village Hall remains closed - witness our meeting in the garden. It is sad to report that the huge - and largely 'invisible' - contribution, over many years, of Bob and Val Baldwin in looking after the day-to-day running of the hall and it's garden has come to an end with their recent retirement from this dedicated task. They lived so close to the hall, and covered so many of the duties essential to its successful operation and maintenance, that reliable replacements for them and all of those duties will prove a challenge that the Committee is diligently working to resolve.

B3124 Signage: Entry signage at the Portishead end is, again, becoming hidden by overgrowth. Although this will be dealt with by the landowners from August, it renders the signage ineffective for now. *(Clerk's note - and 'invisible' signs also mean the police and SpeedWatch cannot operate 'legally')*

059/21 FINANCE

2021-22 Accounts: these were pre-circulated with the meeting papers, were reviewed and noted.

Cheques ratified: three cheques had to be raised during the May to July period and were ratified here: **800** HMRC re PAYE for Apr/May/Jun - £133.02. **801** Zurich Insurance £247.89. **802** D Hill refund re LCN web-hosting charge £88.17

060/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday September 13th *(as usual, there will be no meeting in August)*

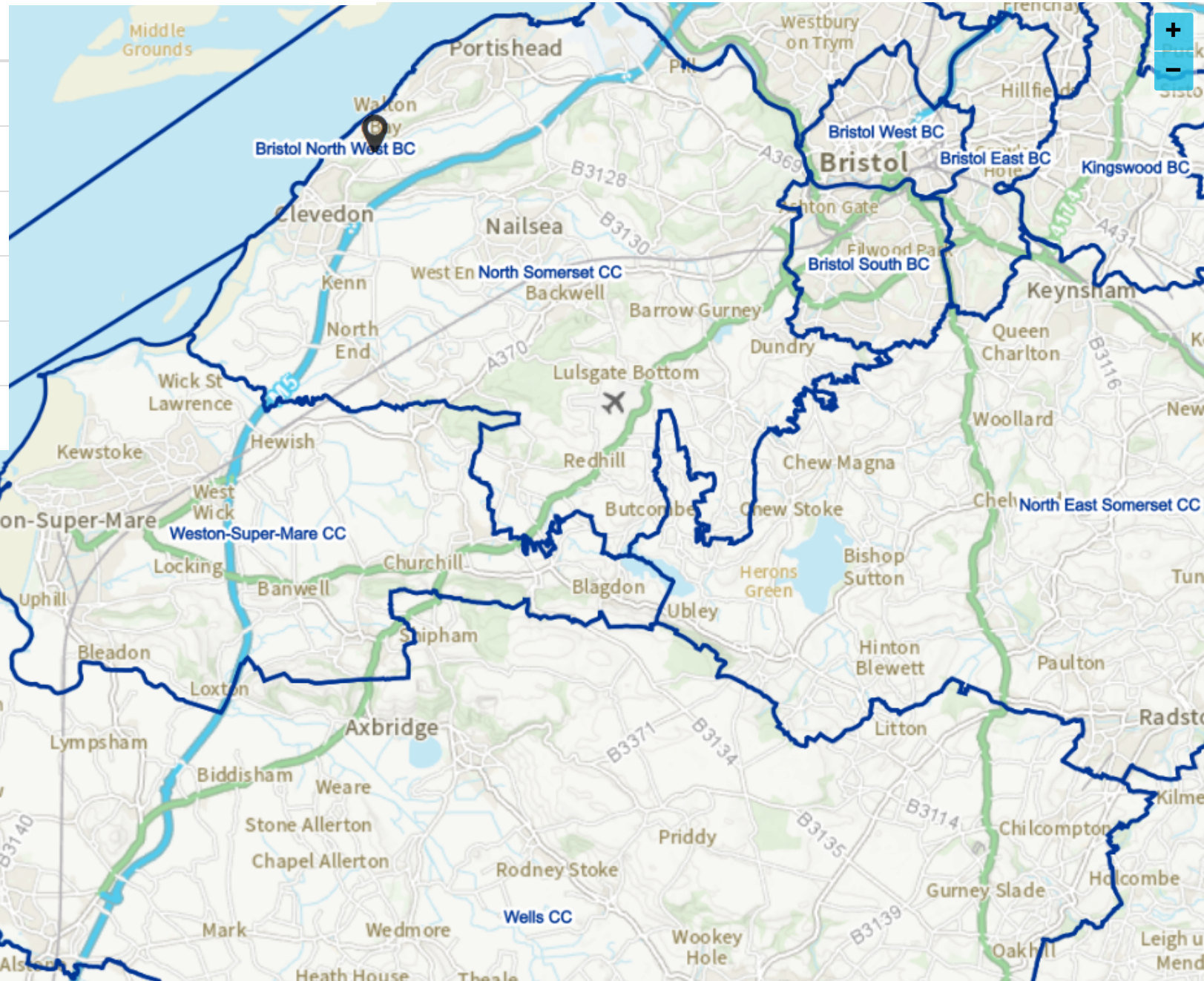
The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Boundaries



Labels: ON

- Wards
- Existing constituencies
- Initial proposals
- Local authorities
- Regions

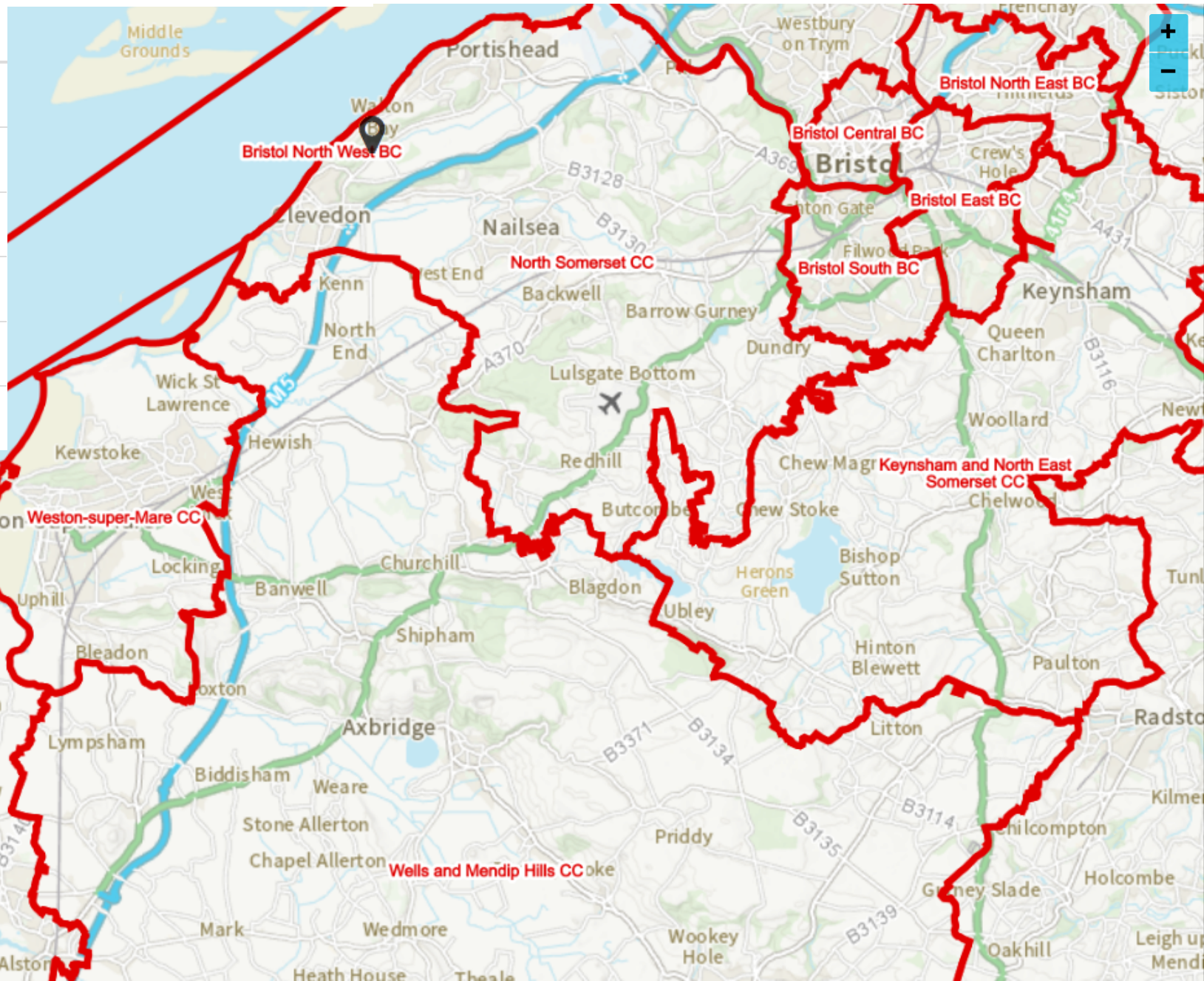


Boundaries



Labels: ON

- Wards
- Existing constituencies
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- Local authorities
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Minutes of the Meeting of The Council on Monday 15th September 2021

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise

Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

There are 2 Councillor vacancies - please contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton, Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 2

061/21 APOLOGIES - none

062/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

063/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING (July 12th) were agreed, and signed.

064/21 PLANNING (*Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered*)

New: 21/P/2402/FUH Springhead replacement glasshouse. Cllr Ralston reported that the applicant asked him about two trees that will need to be removed before this project can go ahead: he advised that the NSC tree officer will need to be consulted as the property is in a conservation area: NSC highways may also be responsible for one of the trees as it originates from close to the road and out side of the applicants land. This is likely to delay the decision process, but is an essential element of achieving a robust decision. Two members were concerned that the Victorian ridge cresting would not be in keeping with the surrounding area. Otherwise, Members were unanimous that the project raised no objections from them. **Clerk to so report to NSC planning.**

Decision Due: Ratified - 21/P/1021/FUL Conygar Quarry to Climbing Centre - the Council's response of 27/7/21 (*attached to these minutes*), which had to be made against an unusually tight early August deadline for receipt of comments (*of which 505 are recorded on the NSC website*).

Refused: 21/P/1836/PIP Breezeland Walton Bay - dwelling in rear garden.

065/21 PARISH MATTERS

Communication Problems with NSC

The four items below have not progressed while NSC staff are still working from home. Emails have not been responded to or followed through. Cllr Ashton reported a problem much wider than this parish, with a circular problem of contacts via 'the system' being unanswered, resulting in referral to ward or parish councillors, whose emails to 'their contacts' also remaining unanswered or get re-directed to 'the system' which, itself, seems persistently disinclined to respond:

Gullies in Walton Street: Emptying due. NSC are not responding to requests for updates.

Cross Tree-B3124 Junction: The white lines need repainting. NSC response awaited.

Street Light: Clerk awaiting NSC response re planning permission for and positioning of new light.

Plumtree to Common Footpath: Unstable trees reported to NSC footpaths officer: chased 29th June.

Clerk to refer these four issues to Cllr Ashton for follow-up.

NSC Footpaths Initiative: Feedback from August Cross Tree Chronicle - one idea received:

'To replace the 3 stiles with gates, on the footpath that leaves the B3124 next to Plumtree Cottage and goes up to Walton Common. There may be complications with it as the 2 fields have different tenants and the fence between them is electrified. Also one of the tenants wants the path rerouted.'

This idea, with its expressed doubts, was placed in the context of our 14th December 2020 meeting at Minute 086/20. Within that context, and the admitted concerns of the proposer, Members all agreed that the idea should not be pursued.

Speedwatch: The report in August Cross Tree Chronicle has been brought to Clerk's attention:

'Did you Know? Each month we receive a report showing the statistics for all Speedwatch groups covering the Avon and Somerset force area. Of the 13 groups in North Somerset, Walton in Gordano Speedwatch group has resulted in the most warning letters sent to motorists – a total of 80 in the last year which is eight times more than Yatton. Clearly Walton has a speeding problem!'

The Clerk lives adjacent to the only road in Yatton where SpeedWatch can effectively be operated (the B3133 link road from the A370 at Congresbury to Clevedon. The SpeedWatch team locate themselves some tens of metres from a flashing 30mph speed sign. The SpeedWatch report data is interesting, but not comparative.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022: Cllr Cannell reported that the idea of a Beacon on the Common would be at the call of Avon Wildlife Trust: [Cllr Dickinson will follow up possibilities on The Common via her contact there.](#)

B3124 Signage: Entry signage at the Portishead end has been cut back.

Walton Street: Overgrown hedge opposite Chapel. This has been cut back.

Solar Together West of England: A group-buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. It is being promoted via local authorities, but anyone can register to join via <https://solartogether.co.uk/north-somerset/home>. Members were circulated with email details of the scheme sent to the Clerk by NSC. The power of group buying depends on how many properties within the area sign up, so there is no front information about cost savings. It was agreed that Members would welcome more information about such schemes and will remain alert to the progress of this scheme. **Details will be circulated to residents via our October Cross Tree Chronicle entry.**

Pedestrian Crossing and pavements at Walton Bay? Members were pre-circulated with an email from a resident suggesting a walkway, on the seaward side of the Coast road, between the Two Acres junction and Coast Caravan Park, to significantly increase safe social mobility within the Walton Bay community. If regulations permit, then a pedestrian Crossing at the 'to Clevedon' bus stop would be useful to aid the older Bay residents. Notwithstanding concerns about urbanisation, it was argued that the Coast Road is becoming increasingly busy - and dangerous - for non-motorised users. *(Note: of some 156 properties in the parish, some 115 (74%) are in Walton Bay and mostly 'hidden' off only 3 entry points).* **Residents views will be sought via Cross Tree Chronicle.**

Parish Maintenance: It was discussed and agreed that a parish maintenance schedule should be drawn up by the Clerk, developing the idea trialed with Adrians Project Services (APS) in November 2017. If a sustainable and affordable programme of work can be programmed with the contractor, it will come forward within the draft budget options to be considered at the December meeting.

Hall Hire Arrangements: Unusually for a village hall, this council's hiring of the Hall has historically been on the basis of paying for time used, rather than slot booked. The new booking secretary has produced a standard booking form which asks how many hours you are booking for and how much per hour you have agreed to pay. Given that standing orders stipulate a maximum of two hours for a meeting, the Clerk entered that on the booking form with the usual 'locals' rate of £6.00 per hour hiring fee - result, a hire fee of £12.00 per session. We have 11 parish council meetings per year, plus an Annual Resident's Meeting in May - 12 meeting in all, so that equates to an annual hiring budget of £144.00. When we moved to payment by standing order, we calculated our average meeting to last 1.5 hours: our payments for this financial year are and will remain £9.00 per month. Logic indicates that this will translate into £12.00 per month for the financial year beginning in April 2022 on an hours booked times £ per hour basis. With a Member concerned about what effectively appears to be a 33% cost rise to the Council for an unchanged service, Cllr Dickinson, our representative on the Hall's Committee of Management, undertook to establish the Hall view on what charge the Council should budget for from April 2022.

066/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Dickinson:

1. **Police cars** continue speeding through the village at irresponsible speeds in the name of driver training. This problem has existed since Police HQ moved to Portishead. **Cllr Ashton undertook to bring the problem to the Chief Constable's attention.**
2. **Traffic Accident** outside Village Hall: details to be emailed to Clerk for addition to Traffic Incident File against evidential pressure for a 20mph speed limit on the B3124 through the Village.
3. In her role as Parish Council Representative on the Village Hall Committee of Management, Cllr Dickinson reported that the Hall was currently seeking more Committee members.

Cllr Ralston:

1. **Central Village Ambience** - At the heart of this green belt-conservation area village of listed buildings are two attractive and domineeringly large barn-and-yard complexes that appear not to have been presented in a way that is sensitive to their Community surroundings. Whilst the management and community compatibility of these buildings is essentially one between those managing them and the Miles Estate, who own them, Members noted that a careful start of improvements to their visual impact on the immediate community was very much welcome.
2. **The two members of the public** in attendance, were introduced. They had contributed to some interesting off-agenda thoughts relating to our community. One attended, having submitted a formal application for co-option to this Council. The second attended to highlight potential improvements, specific to Walton Bay, that he was hoping to progress: Cllr Ralston suggested he consider applying for co-option to fill a much-needed lack of council representation from Walton Bay. He agreed, and **the clerk was asked to send the appropriate application documentation to him.**

It was agreed that both applications, upon confirmation that paperwork relating to the second one was received, would be presented to the October 11th meeting of the council for formal consideration and decision.

3. **Walton Street** - Mobile toilet in lay-by opposite Golf Course is presumed to be in place for the commencement of work on the Golf Course fence. This presumption to be monitored.

Additional Matters Discussed

1. **Sewage Problem:** Persistent and significant odours point to a significant sewage problem at Sandbanks. If correct, it will be a matter for NSC Environmental Health to deal with. **Cllr Ashton undertook to progress the matter with NSC once the Clerk has investigated the problem at the site.**
2. **SpeedWatch:** Community Speedwatch UK (<https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Home.php>) is a not-for-profit organisation that operates nationally on behalf of police and communities to organise and join up Speedwatch to give it the priority it needs. The organisation operates electronically rather than via paper, and coordinates responses based on the collated data from all groups involved. Avon & Somerset Police are not members of this organisation, which may offer a more effective service. Weston-in-Gordano are re-starting their SpeedWatch and, prompted in part by liaison difficulties with Avon & Somerset Police, are investigating setting up via Community Speedwatch UK as an alternative. They have undertaken to share their investigations with Walton-in-Gordano SpeedWatch and **Cllr Ashton undertook to talk with Avon and Somerset Police, both about the liaison issue and to better understand their not being involved with Community Speedwatch UK.**

067/21 FINANCE

2021-22 Accounts: pre-circulated with the meeting papers: noted.

Village Hall: Their bank account was closed for some reason; the £9 pm SO to be cancelled. July & August SOs were not paid so, with September, £27.00 is due. Details of a new account awaited.

Cheques: 803 D Hill refund re LCN 2 yr renewal for email address £26.39 (inc £4.40 vat). **804** HMRC re PAYE Jul/Aug/Sep £133.00. **805** WaIG Village Hall £27.00. All agreed for payment and cheques signed.

068/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday October 11th 2021

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Planning Application 21/P/1021/FUL

(Clevedon Town Council)

Change of use from dis-used Quarry to Indoor and Outdoor Climbing Activity Centre.

Note - Details of this application were released with very little time for formal comment. As the next Walton-in-Gordano parish council meeting is in September, members have prepared this commentary with a view to it being ratified at that September meeting.

It is rare that a parish council has access to such immediate and urgent public comment, in the 'due process' of it coming before the council for review. Such is the case with this application.

A Hypothesis:

Rural working life tends to be lived in an essentially active mode. Urban working life tends to be more static. Rural workers look for relaxation after work. Urban workers look for activity after work.

A Reality for North Somerset:

Over the past half century, population movements have meant that areas immediately adjacent to Bristol have increasingly become 'home' to commuters. The rural environments that many longer-term residents have been the essence of for a lifetime, are thus becoming the semi-rural environments that provide, for modern populations, an 'ideal balance' between the sense of 'being in the country' whilst still being able to access the activities that urban lifestyles provide. This dichotomy frames the dilemma of what, for a parish council, has to be an objective consideration of any planning application - be it within its parish or in some significant way affecting its parish - that comes before it.

The Subject Planning Application

The application falls within the area and responsibility of Clevedon Town Council. Conygar quarry is a brownfield site immediately adjacent to an urban area. It is perhaps natural that the people of Clevedon will want to see it developed for some form of health-supporting activity such as the one proposed.

It has immediately attracted comment to the NSC planning website - although GDPR does prevent analysis of the contributor profile.

It is fair to say that comments against the proposal-in-principal are relatively few.

Comments in support of the proposal tend to be simply that they are delighted with the idea, without reference to its proposed location and access to that location. In "urban" terms it is a no-brainer good idea.

Comments against the proposal tend not to analyse or dwell on the proposal itself, but to simply emphasise, in 'rural' terms, the ways in which it intrudes on the traditional activities that have always predominated around the area in which it is proposed to be sited.

There are many on-site issues within the proposal that need addressing, and on which Clevedon Town Council will be developing detailed comments. There are also several issues, both on-site and in the immediately surrounding area - visual amenity, light noise and air pollution - that will also be subject to tightly applied environmental planning regulations, as witness the Environmental commentary already lodged.

Most particularly, for Walton-in-Gordano, the proposals for resolving the traffic and access issues are the ones of particular concern.

The Traffic Plan Summary relies on information from similar existing sites elsewhere. The type, the amount, the flow of traffic generated by the scheme seems to be based on gung-ho enthusiasm rather than on a detailed understanding of the road system immediately surrounding the site. The maximum car park capacity will be

154. There is uncertainty as to how much of this traffic will be cars, and how much will be mini buses and coaches. Additionally there will be regular service vehicles visiting the site that will be of unspecified size - and almost certainly at a greater frequency than that claimed in the Travel Plan Summary.

The one-way system for entering and leaving the site will not be legally enforced, but rather will rely on publicity that will tend to be overruled by sat-navs.

Were the one-way system to be legally enforceable it would create justifiable wrath amongst all other users of the network lanes involved, who would have to travel extra miles on a regular basis to serve the needs of an enterprise completely unrelated to them or their activities.

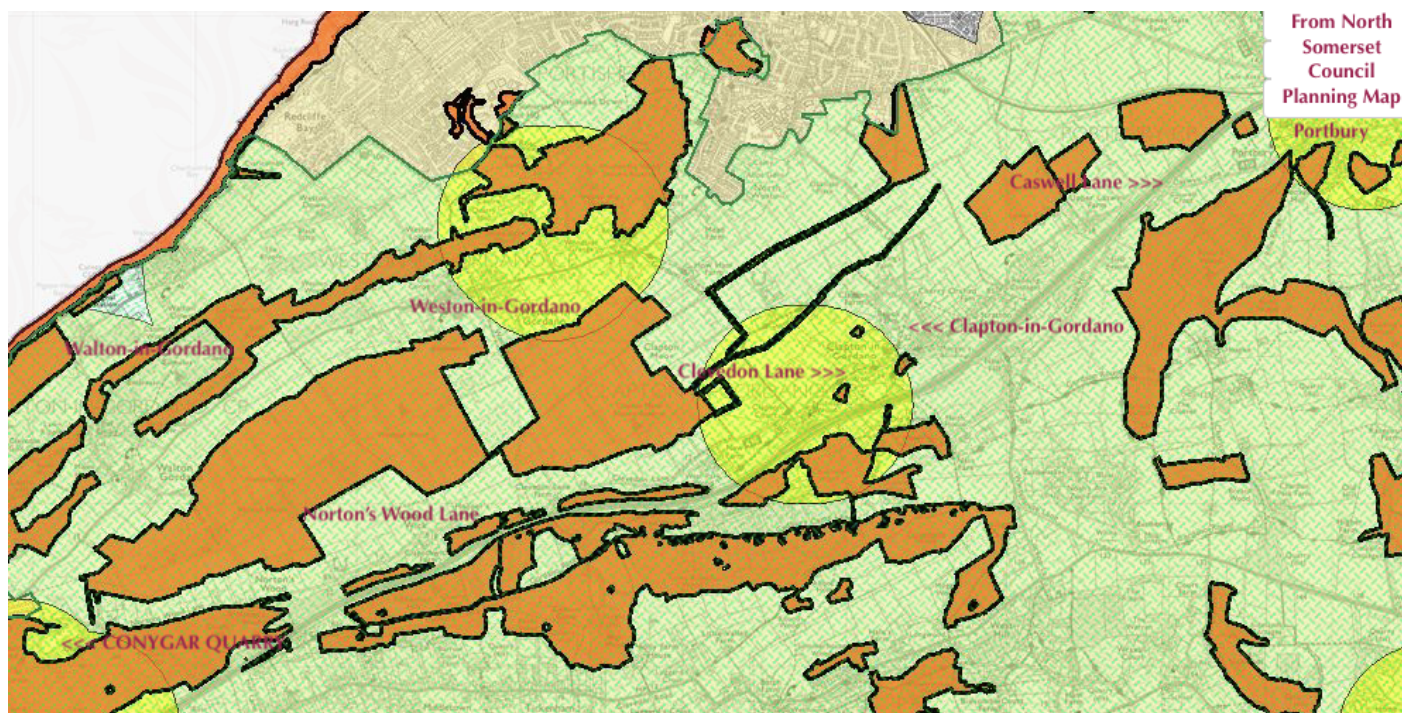
The obvious road access to the site is off the B3124 via its junction with Nortons Wood Lane at Swiss Valley. Depending on where people are coming from, sat-navs will also direct them along Moor Lane/Harley Hill, from the virtually blind junction off the B3124 in Walton-in-Gordano; or off Clapton Lane/Naish Hill at Clapton-in-Gordano for the tortuous route along Clevedon Lane/Nortons Wood Lane. Bristol and M5 traffic might also be directed through Portbury, along Caswell lane to join Clevedon Lane at Clapton-in-Gordano. Much of Caswell Lane is somewhat wider, but all the other access routes to the site are along single lane highways with relatively few passing spaces. They are all in the Green Belt. They are also either in, or running close to Sites of Nature Conservation Interest. None of these circumstances lead one to believe that they will provide viable access and exiting routes for the proposed site at Conygar Quarry if it is going to operate at commercially viable capacities during a reasonable range of opening hours.

The quarry lorries of 60 years ago bear no relation, either in size, or in the number of traffic movements or traffic densities around these lanes, with those of 2021: it makes the introduction of this as a justification within the Traffic Plan Summary somewhat specious.

In summary, no Councillor is actively against the proposal per se. However, there were differences of view as to how intractable the traffic issues it raises will prove to be.

There has certainly been a significant voice of protest within the parish, which cannot be ignored.

Map showing the area of Green Belt in green and The Sites of Nature Conservation Interest in Brown



Minutes of the Meeting of The Council on Monday 11th October 2021

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Rachel Dickinson.

After Minute 072/21 two new Members were welcomed: Cllrs Daveran Baulch and Dave Wherrett.

Cllr Dickinson left the meeting at 8pm after contributing points to several of the remaining agenda items.

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton, Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

069/21 APOLOGIES - none

070/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

071/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING (September 15th) were agreed, and signed.

072/21 CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Following the September meeting, two applications were received and circulated to Members, who discussed them before the meeting. The decision to approve both applications was made, by unanimous agreement, at this Minute. Both applicants completed Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Register of Members' Interest forms. They then formally joined the meeting. In welcoming them, it was noted that the Parish Council now had its full compliment of five councillors and that one of them was a resident of Walton Bay.

073/21 PLANNING (*Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered*)

Decision Due: 21/P/1021/FUL Conygar Quarry. **21/P/2402/FUH** Springhead glasshouse. The Victorian ridge cresting members expressed concern about at the September meeting was not intended, and the suppliers have re-submitted plans without it.

074/21 PARISH MATTERS

- i. Communication Problems with NSC:** The first four items below had not progressed via NSC. Cllr Ashton reported in September that this was a problem that went beyond our parish. He consulted at top officer levels within NSC and the results at sub-minutes ii - v below are the immediate result.
- ii. Gullies Emptying in Walton Street: NSC Response:** 'The gullies in Walton Street were inspected during the last week of September 2021 and a few gullies have been identified as requiring cleaning. However, this is a difficult road for us to work on as it is so narrow and requires us to close the road to do so. We are not aware of any flooding reports in the area and as such we would treat this as a lower priority.' This response was interpreted as 'NSC will not empty the reported blocked gullies unless there is a flood.' - In view of the flooding history on this road, and the huge engineering project undertaken in 2010 to cure the issue, this NSC response in relation to blocked gullies was deemed unsatisfactory. Cllr Ashton noted the Council's concern for follow up and the **Clerk to follow up with NSC** also.
- iii. Cross Tree-B3124 Junction: The white lines need repainting.** NSC area officer to visit the site and report her view of the need to the Clerk.
- iv. Street Light:** Planning permission is not required. NSC propose that the existing light and pole be removed, and a new lighting column installed in front of the building on the footpath - as per the picture below. Due to the narrowness of the footpath at this point, Members felt this would create an unacceptable and dangerous narrowing of an already narrow path, making it an unacceptable location. The outside cost is estimated at £2,500. Members propose that the light be sited adjacent to its existing position, away from the barn wall so that barn maintenance

can be carried out, or - and preferably - attached to the wall of the grade two listed (List Entry Number:1129133) barn. **Clerk to seek NSC views on these two alternatives.**

- v. **Plumtree to Common Footpath Unstable Trees:** The NSC Footpath officer reports that the matter is sub-surface, therefore a matter for the managers of the land over which the footpath passes. Cllr Dickinson reported that some trees have been removed by Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT), who recognise their responsibility. However, some trees - possibly with ash-die-back - are wrapped around Western Power Distribution (WPD) cables, such that only WPD can deal with them. So; the land managers (AWT) view some trees along the footpath to be a danger to the public: the utility company (WPD) does not regard their intervention as necessary in the context of their remit to keep the power lines clear and safe. **Clerk to consult NSC tree officer for guidance with the prime objective of securing a user-safe footpath.**
- vi. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022:** Cllr Dickinson contacting Avon Wildlife Trust to see what might be possible by way of a Beacon or other event on Walton Common.
- vii. **Solar Together West of England:** Residents and small businesses in North Somerset wanting to install solar PV systems, can register for the Solar Together group-buying scheme, which obtains discounts based on the number of customers registered - the more registrants, the bigger the discount. To get full information on the scheme, interested parties should visit www.solartogether.co.uk/west-of-england.
- viii. **Walton Bay - Pedestrian crossing at bus stops and pavement from Two Acres to Coast Caravan Park?** A Walton Bay resident emailed the Clerk with these suggestions and then presented them at the Council's September meeting. Resident responses were sought via the October Cross Tree Chronicle entry. None were received. *(However, as a result of this entry, a resident did contact the Clerk per sub-minute ix below.)*. The current pavement, on which the to-Portishead bus stop stands, links the Two Acres, Sandbanks/The Bay and Walton Bay Park sites. The pavement extension would link to Seascapes (Lorraine Field), with a maximum of 15 pitches licensed, and Coast Caravan Park, with 4 off road residential pitches and any properties on that route that front the Coast Road *(see photo below)*. The meeting consensus was that, with the associated highway engineering works to ensure that both the highway and the new pavement were fit for purpose, NSC is likely to deem the project too costly to be feasible. However, they also agreed with Cllr Baulch's point that, if the idea is supported by Walton Bay residents who comprise some 66% of the parish population, we will positively consult with NSC about what would be possible. *(Clerk's note: would the frontage properties from Two Acres junction to Squires Cottage also seek a pavement?)*. **Clerk to pursue with NSC.**
- ix. **Highway signage at Walton Bay:** One resident comment was received after the Oct Cross Tree Chronicle entry re sub minute viii above:

Coast Road traffic has increased significantly over recent years. The Two Acre junction at Walton Bay is an accident waiting to happen. Vehicles approaching from the Portishead direction are unaware of the junction as it cannot be seen due to the bend in the road and the junction sign cannot be seen due to the hedgerow overgrowth. Emerging drivers rely on an inadequate mirror to aid their access onto the Coast Road, and cyclists cannot be seen in that mirror until they are right on the junction. To view traffic coming from the Clevedon direction, vehicles have to pull out almost to the middle of the Coast Road, which once again, is an accident waiting to happen. Signage in this area is appalling and the speed limit is far too high. A larger direction mirror could replace the current one. (Google 'mirrors on the public highway to see what different highway authorities allow).

Four queries arise from this:

Is the junction sign in the most ideal position on the highway?

Can it be cleared of undergrowth and be kept clear in future?

When will it be possible to implement a 30 mph speed limit through Walton Bay?

Are there any other highway engineering solutions that could be implemented to improve road safety?

Actions:

Cllr Baulch undertook to talk with the farmer who's hedge is causing the sign obstruction to see if it can be cleared.

Clerk to include regular clearance around the sign in the Parish Maintenance proposals.

Clerk to consult with NSC Highways on the other issues and report back.

- x. **Parish Maintenance:** Parish maintenance schedule to be drawn up by the Clerk/APS, shared with Members for development, and then presented for consideration at December meeting as draft budget item.
- xi. **The B3124 right hand 30mph entry sign from Portishead:** Members censured the First paragraph of the SpeedWatch entry in the October issue of the Cross Tree Chronicle as being inaccurate - in that no emails have been received on this topic - and offensive in the wording with which the genuine concern re the signage was expressed. Unlike other groups, the Parish Council is accountable to the whole electorate and operates with public funds. As such we have to be transparent in demonstrating that we operate - and spend - with integrity, and within the strict codes of conduct expected of public bodies. Publishing inaccuracies that imply that the Parish Council are not properly serving the community may be construed as libellous and can hardly be perceived of as constructive. The Clerk was briefed to explain the realities as below:

The first paragraph of the October Cross Tree Chronicle SpeedWatch entry states "I have also emailed the Parish Council Clerk about the issues but the emails appear to fall on deaf ears and nothing is done." The Clerk has, in fact, never received emails from the SpeedWatch coordinator: however, the recurring problem of signage overgrowth did come to his attention during the holiday period and was put on the September agenda. September Minute 065/21 states that the overgrowth around the subject sign has been cut back. The Clerk, having cleared the sign himself in the past, and being aware of particular problems with it, checked again and noted that it was still only partially visible at a distance. The hedge around the sign needs cutting back for some metres towards Portishead for the sign to be fully visible at a distance - a task normally performed during the annual autumn cut.

Farmers are responsible for the hedges, NSC are responsible for safe passage along the highways: years of experience indicate that neither group, for various reasons, are able to ensure that all signage is kept clear at all times - a fact of which the police are well aware. If a situation arises where overgrowth is causing a highway danger, NSC will contact the land manager to request it be cut back. If the cut back is not done, NSC will do it and charge the land manager for the work. The invisibility of the subject sign, given the very clear visibility of its left hand relation, appears not to be deemed critical to the point of needing Highways intervention.

RSPB point out that:

It is an offence under Section 1 of the [Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981](#) to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built, or to intentionally kill, injure or take chicks or adults, or intentionally take or destroy any eggs. The Police have the responsibility for enforcing this legislation...

This legislation has led to no-cutting throughout March to August, except in the context of Highway safety. As a result, everyone is aware that, for a few critical weeks, many rural highway signs are going to be obscured: the subject sign, being particularly inaccessible, and not seemingly being deemed a safety danger by NSC, is one of those.

To resolve this issue, and make the hedge something that can be managed by a Parish Maintenance team, that hedge will need re-profiling by the land manager. Then, with the land manager's agreement, the hedge must be capable of:

- i. controlling by a Parish Maintenance team within the context of the law,*
- ii. supporting the vital and successful SpeedWatch team we have,*
- iii. fulfilling our aspiration of providing some form of 'Village Gateway' to be proud of.*

- xii. **Hall Hire Arrangements:** Cllr Dickinson reports that the current monthly payment can continue through 2022-23 and that there will be no fee increases during that time.
- xiii. **Traffic Matters:** The police were contacted about three matters raised at the September meeting: (this was shared with SpeedWatch Coordinator, John Jackson).

1. SpeedWatch

Q SpeedWatch operates along the B3124, and has gone some way to tempering speeds. Two questions were raised in September **i.** is the use of private dash cam evidence in progressing speeding

offences valid? **ii.** *There is a national speed watch organisation which apparently offers some significant operational benefits to the roadside teams: is it A&SP's intention to join?*

A CSW Online (<https://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Home.php>)– this is group based in Sussex who have a couple of other forces on-board, but it is not a national group. I regularly speak with them and have looked at their product but it does not enhance what we have in A&S. We are actually more advanced in how we operate.

As a rule speeding prosecutions from evidence reported through our dashcam portal are reserved for serious incidents. To report and driving offences with supporting dashcam footage visit: - <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/accident-on-the-road/#/>. (A visit to <https://www.nextbase.com/en-gb/national-dash-cam-safety-portal/> in relation to the dash cam query explains all, and answers a wide range of faqs).

2. 20mph Speed Limit on the B3124

Q *The parish council goal is the achievement of a 20mph speed limit through this tortuous bit of road with its dog-leg cross roads, working agricultural entrances, horses, cyclists and elderly walkers - for reasons particularly highlighted at point 3. below that relate, in fact, to any driver using this stretch of road. Whilst we understand from NSC that a 20mph limit is not indicated by current regulations, we confess to being motivated by road safety rather than a strict adherence to 'regulations'. We will continue to pursue NSC for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit on the B3124 through our village and will hopefully receive the backing of police in that endeavour.*

A This is something that will be down to the council to decide on which you appear to be working towards. I have spoken to Shane from our speed enforcement unit, he has been unable to operate in WIG recently because of an issue with signs being obscured by foliage which has been raised with the council. He has been in Weston-IG recently and detected 15 offences with a top speed of 30 mph.

3. Speeding Police Cars

Q *Police cars continue to speed along the B3124 through the village, for both training and operational reasons. Public perception is that police drivers will give priority to driving safely, for their own sakes, for the sake of the pursued and for the sake of the public. Their training paperwork does not appear, overtly, to refer to 'driving in a way that is appropriate to the prevailing conditions' - even when in pursuit mode. During years of complaining, the parish council has never received a a robust explanation as to why such evidently dangerous driving practices are allowed: it has simply continued. Given the speeds involved, no driver could possibly react in time to bring their vehicle to a safe halt. A loaded tractor and trailer cannot react to a siren fast enough, even if it can be heard above the noise of the machinery: an un-nerved horse will not necessarily act in a way that a speeding driver can reliably respond to. So, yet again, those who live, work and use our village seek re-assurance from the police that they will moderate their driving standards to recognise the surrounding circumstance in which they find themselves.*

A Police driver training courses demand high standards of both driving performance and of concentration. The need to train on public roads is essential to ensure that officers are able to deal with real life situations. The training is rigorous and plenty of people are not up. To completing the course. A basic driving course (driving on blue lights is a 3 week course, with only 1 week spent on using the blue lights, the rest is around standards of driving and doing so safely. The point of the training on public roads is to ensure that officers are trained to look ahead for the potential danger as well as the obvious dangers, (i.e if you see a farm yard it is reasonable to expect a tractor to be around), the instructors are well aware of the local issues and where dangers may lie. This is especially prevalent during pursuit training where we are not only driving but also conducting a dynamic risk assessment if the pursuit is safe to continue and verbalising that as we drive. The speeds driven at are always dependent on the conditions, so in wet weather speeds would be lower etc. Unfortunately we cannot get away from the requirement for officers to be trained to the required level and that requires practice on a variety of roads, locations and at varying speeds.

Cllr Dickinson understood the *expected* driving conduct explained by the police: she felt though, that the root of our complaint was that this *expected* driving conduct was not adhered

to on all occasions. Clerk will share this concern with the police and look for a further response.

- xiv. **Walton Street - Mobile toilet in lay-by opposite Golf Course:** This has gone now. A Member reported that 'pop-up toilets' are sometimes provided in the context of pre-planned school excursions and this may have been one such.
- xv. **Sewage Odour Problem at Sandbanks:** The Clerk visited on a 'good' day. One resident comment was received post the October CTC entry. The levels of the system exhaust pipes are a recipe for a problem, especially for properties immediately above them. For the past four years the site has been owned by EMM Property Ltd of Burnham-on-Sea, who have apparently recognised the problem and sought ways - albeit without satisfactory success - to alleviate it. NSC Environmental Health are reported to have had an involvement in the problem over several years, but have been unable to resolve it. Cllr Ralston is in contact with a responsible member of the Environment Agency in Bridgwater and undertook to progress this issue with them. *(Clerk's post meeting note: Complainant's needed to register a complaint with the Environment Agency to take the case forward. October 12th saw site owner's equipment in place to resolve the issue once-and-for-all. Cllr Wherrett to update at November meeting).*

075/21

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Cannell

- i. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** This may be suffering from ash die-back. Clerk to report to NSC tree officer.
- ii. **Effluent discharge into Brook at Old Rectory Farm:** This is being followed up by Cllr Ralston, who is in direct contact with the Environment Agency in Bridgwater.
- iii. **Black sandbanks in channel:** If people notice that the sandbanks in the channel seem to have turned black, it is because soil spoil from the Hinckley C project is being dumped in the channel here. The theory is that the power of the tides will provide enough momentum to then wash it out to sea.

Cllr Baulch

- i. **SpeedWatch:** As Chair of Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council, Dav is keen to coordinate SpeedWatch efforts in Walton and Weston where that makes sense.
- ii. **Parish Pump:** Dav produces Weston's quarterly magazine Parish Pump - next issue due during the first week of November. Relevant submissions from Walton will certainly be most welcome.
- iii. **The White Hart:** This has, again, become a Community Asset. There is a major fundraising job to be done, so that the property can undergo renovation and re-purposing to offer a range of locally useful facilities alongside the pub. This is a Community led effort and anyone who is looking forward to The White Hart reopening is welcome to join in to the huge effort that will be involved.

Cllr Wherrett

Dave is keen to help with the Walton SpeedWatch. He is also aware that he is the only Parish Council member living in Walton Bay and is keen to do what he can to further the needs and interests of the residents in that key part of our Parish.

The Clerk reported via an update briefing that the NSC footpaths officer says there has been a landslip along the Cliff Path under the Two Acre bridge that threatens its stability. The cause is being investigated, but the result is that the bridge supports may now be unstable and the bridge will have to be re-built as a longer structure with suitably strengthened supports. We will be kept informed of progress via the Clerk. *

076/21

FINANCE

2021-22 Accounts: pre-circulated with the meeting papers, members had reviewed and noted them.

Online Banking: Members unanimously agreed that Clerk should apply for online banking.

Cheques: 806 Hall Hire £9.00. Approved.

077/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday November 8th 2021

* *Clerk's Post Meeting Note re Two Acre Bridge on the Cliff Path: due to the risk to users, and the apparent ignoring of current 'Bridge closed' signs, a better means of ensuring the bridge is not used before suitable repairs have been put in place is being investigated as well by the NSC Footpaths officer.*

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

PICTURE ANNEXE



The suggested repositioning of the streetlight per minute 074/21 iv (NSC photo)

The streetscene at Walton Bay per minute 74/21 iiiv (Google Maps screenshot)



Minutes of the Meeting of The Council on Monday 8th November 2021

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Daveran Baulch, Dave Wherrett

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton, Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 2

078/21 APOLOGIES - Cllrs Brian Cannell & Rachel Dickinson

079/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - At minute 082/21xii an open discussion took place: due to the direction it took, Cllr Ralston had to register an interest in its central thesis.

080/21 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING (October 11th) were agreed, and signed.

081/21 PLANNING (*Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the day of the meeting will also be considered*)

New: 21/P/2811/TRCA Hill Cottage, fell 3 elms. No issues: Clerk to so respond to NSC planners

Decision Due: 21/P/1021/FUL Conygar Quarry. 21/P/2402/FUH Springhead glasshouse.

082/21 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Gullies Emptying, Walton Street:** Gullies reported as emptied; also the B3124 gullies.
- ii. **Cross Tree-B3124 Junction White Line Repainting:** An order is in for the work to be done.
- iii. **Street Light:** NSC response to location alternatives is awaited.
- iv. **Plumtree to Common Footpath Unstable Trees:** Guidance from the NSC tree officer is awaited. Cllr Dickinson reports that Avon Wildlife are also consulting with Natural England as Western Power contractors HighLine say they can't touch the trees.
- v. **Queen's Jubilee:** Avon Wildlife Trust are in touch with Natural England about possibilities.
- vi. **Walton Bay - Crossing + pavement extension:** An NSC response to the ideas is awaited.
- vii. **Walton Bay Traffic Issues:** NSC reaction to October minute due. Farmer due to cut the roadside hedges: Clerk trimmed round junction sign as best he could without loppers.
- viii. **Parish Maintenance:** Issues and opportunities - verge-side re-wilding, eco-friendly weed killing etc - indicate a more detailed discussion needs to be on the agenda for December. Clerk to prepare outline discussion notes.
- ix. **Police Blue-light Training Speeds:** Public perception is that these are dangerously excessive. The police maintain that their controls. - including a trainer in the car - make their system work safely during this essential work. Anyone concerned should endeavour to note the car number, time and location and report it to the Clerk. The police have offered to hold an awareness session for our villages to explain their position: this is likely to be in Weston-in-Gordano Village Hall. Cllr Baulch will liaise with the Clerk on timing, details and publicity.
- x. **Sandbanks sewage odours:** The owners are again working on the problem. The Council agreed to test the views of residents via Cross Tree Chronicle and Cllr Wherrett has offered to be the lead on a Council complaint to the Environment Agency if that proves necessary.
- xi. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** may be suffering from ash die-back. Reported to NSC tree officer.
- xii. **Odours in Walton Brook:** two residents report odour problems down Walton Street (opposite School House and on Moor Lane). With residents maintaining that their systems are regularly serviced and operated in accordance with manufacturer specifications, it has as yet not proved possible to reliably establish the source of the problem. Cllr Ashton says our Local MP, Dr Liam Fox, is willing to mediate this issue by writing to the Environment Agency pressing them to become positively engaged in finding a resolution. The meeting agreed

that, alongside Cllr Ralston's continuing observations, Cllr Ashton be asked to elicit the assistance of Dr Fox in getting to the root of a problem that is troubling some residents.

- xiii. **Cliff Path Bridge at Two Acres:** Closed for repairs after landslip. The cause of the water erosion is being investigated by NSC. Cllr Wherrett reported that blocked Coast Road gullies in the area of Highly Sprung, or a pipe fracture on the Two Acres lane below Highly Sprung may have caused overflows into the Two Acres system. There are warning notices and blocking cord on either side of the subject bridge that walkers, in the absence of appropriately placed diversion signage, are ignoring. Cllr Wherrett has put up notices at the points on the path that would, in highway terms, be 'Road Closed Ahead' notices - at the Sandbanks footpath junction and at the Parish Boundary footpath to Coast Road junction to Squires Cottage. Clerk to press NSC for official signage to replace that of Cllr Wherrett.



- xiv. **2 Notice Boards:** At some £1200 each, do replacements represent a cost-effective spend now that the website provides the legally mandated communications route? Are the notice boards used by the local community? Resident's opinions to be sought via Cross Tree Chronicle. The Walton Bay board is on the property of Sandbanks/The Bay Site: Cllr Wherrett will ask the Site owners if a replacement board can be put up and if they would fund a new board. A possible amalgam of the Church/Social Club PC boards into a Community Board was suggested for the Village. Further discussion will follow responses from residents.
- xv. **Soil Dumping in the Bristol Channel:** Background papers were reviewed and noted by Members. A recent report says the bulk of the permitted tonnage has now been deposited. The meeting took the view that the matter should be monitored.

083/21 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Baulch:

- i. Our October minute re the White Hart implied that Weston Parish had bought the pub: what they did was to have it registered as a 'Community Asset'. Now funds to purchase it must be raised if it is to be utilised by local residents in a way they regard as community focused.

An Asset of Community Value is defined as: A building or other land is an asset of community value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future. The Localism Act 2011 states that 'social interests' include cultural, recreational and sporting interests.

Assets of Community Value (ACV) form a part of the Community Right to Bid. It acts as the first stage in identifying and nominating buildings or other assets such as land that have a main use or purpose of furthering the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community, and could do so into the future. Once listed as Assets of Community Value with the local authority, the local community will be informed if they are listed for sale within the five year listing period. The community can then enact the Community Right to Bid, which gives them a moratorium period of six months to determine if they can raise the finance to purchase the asset.

- ii. Cllr Baulch is now running the Weston-in-Gordano SpeedWatch.

084/21 FINANCE

2021-22 Accounts: pre-circulated with the meeting papers, reviewed and noted.

Online Banking: Clerk to apply for online banking.

Bank Mandate: to be updated to include Cllrs Baulch and Wherrett. Clerk to process

Cheques: 807 Hall Hire £9.00.

085/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday December 13th 2021

The Meeting Closed at 8.55pm

**The Parish Council MEETING
scheduled for Monday 13th December
has been CANCELLED**

**This is based on advice from our professional body
arising from the current Covid situation**

**The paperwork relating to the cancelled meeting
will be carried forward and updated for the meeting
due to be held on January 10th 2022.**

**Don Hill
Clerk to the Council
Friday 10th December 2021**

Minutes of the Meeting of The Council on Monday 10th January 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

The meeting due to be held on December 13th 2021 was cancelled due to Covid related concerns

Present: Cllrs Mike Ralston (Chair), Brian Cannell, Daveran Baulch, Dave Wherrett, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Cllr Nigel Ashton, Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 3

001/22 APOLOGIES - none

002/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Cllr Ralston re minute 005/22 xi

003/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING (November 8th) were agreed, and signed.

004/22 PLANNING *(Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

New: 22/P/0004/TRCA St Pauls Church tree works - no issues; Clerk to so comment to NSC.

Withdrawn: 21/P/2402/FUH Springhead glasshouse. 21/P/3075/LDP Severnleigh extension.

Refused: 21/P/3080/CQA (Clevedon TC) Barn Conversion opposite Conygar Quarry.

Granted: 21/P/2811/TRCA Hill Cottage, fell 3 elms.

005/22 PARISH MATTERS

i. **Cross Tree-B3124 Junction: The white line repainting.** Done.

ii. **Street Light:** NSC response to location alternatives is awaited.

iii. **Plumtree-Common Footpath:** Cllr Dickinson said tree felling will be on 21st/22nd February.

iv. **Queen's Jubilee:** Natural England do not want a beacon on the Common as it is an SSSI. Cllr Ashton undertook to use his influences towards urging a change of view at Natural England. We will ascertain a contact point to include in our February Cross Tree Chronicle entry, for residents to lobby for an event directly.

v. **Walton Bay - Crossing + pavement extension:** An NSC response to the ideas is awaited.

vi. **Walton Bay Traffic Issues:** NSC reaction to October minute due. Hedge flailing around junction sign from Portishead has been done, but the hedge needs re-profiling to provide a view of the junction sign, ideally to some 20-30 feet back from the present position. Cllr Baulch to discuss possibilities with the farmer.

vii. **Parish Maintenance:** Verge-side re-wilding not deemed to have the space to be effective; but a budget is in place for other possible schemes that will be the subject of on-going review.

viii. **Speedwatch/Police Driver Training:** Weston-in-Gordano SpeedWatch is now re-established via Cllr lead Becky Stubbs. Police training is underway, and our Cllr Wherrett is able to be a member of both Walton and Weston teams. Whilst long held concerns about police driver training speeds through the villages remain, current priority will be on SpeedWatch issues.

ix. **Sandbanks sewage odours:** Owner's works are some 50% completed, the position appears improved, but spring and warmer weather will provide the real test of that. Cllr Wherrett will keep an on-the-spot watch of the situation and on possible movement of the works to completion. The Parish Council will maintain a watching brief under his guidance.

x. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** may be suffering from ash die-back. Reported to NSC tree officer.

xi. **Odours in Walton Brook:** The Environment Agency is satisfied with investigations and the works carried out by residents to prevent any further incidents. There have been no reported incidents since. The Council will continue to maintain a watching brief.

xii. **Cliff Path Bridge at Two Acres:** Cllr Wherrett reported that NSC have cordoned off the bridge and posted signage to alternative routes. The outcome is less than satisfactory in that walkers

have to be directed onto the narrow and busy Coast Road through one of its critically tortuous sections. Damage, and consequent repairs, are more serious than initially presumed. **Clerk to get bridge update on rebuild timetable.**

- xiii. 2 Notice Boards:** There were no residents' responses from our December Cross Tree Chronicle call for views on whether our two noticeboards should be replaced when they come to the ends of their lives. At Walton Bay, Cllr Wherrett reported that landowners of The Bay were happy for the board to remain off pavement, on their property per an agreement with former owners W G Way. Whilst not offering funding for a replacement board, they did suggest creative ways of doing so, for example by a subscription from the immediately local residents. Re renewal of the Village board, would a cost share/use arrangement with the Church be an effective route for Both parties? **Clerk to enquire of the Church Wardens, and also to investigate the cost of renewing the name banner above the Walton Bay board.**

006/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Baulch: Security Scams - these have hit Weston-in-Gordano PC email addresses. There is a long history of such scams in local government, where there is a legal requirement for so much information to be in the public domain. **Cllr Baulch will provide the Clerk with a copy of his brochure on scams so that a website link to it can be created.** Cllr Ralston suggested that key points might be highlighted on a periodic - monthly? - basis in the Cross Tree Chronicle.

Cllr Dickinson: 30mph signs on B3124 now all clear. No Village Hall update.

Cllr Ralston: Bin collections have been erratic, with teams collecting some, but not all bins. Cllr Ashton asked that cases be reported to him so that he can pursue the missed bins protocols.

Cllr Dickinson left the meeting.

007/22 FINANCE

2021-22 Accounts: pre-circulated with the meeting papers, reviewed and noted.

2022-23 Draft budget: reviewed - the importance of the process being stressed by Cllr Cannell. After discussion it was agreed that the draft as presented be agreed. **Clerk to progress to precept.**

Online Banking: **Clerk to apply for online banking.**

Bank Mandate: to be updated to include Cllrs Baulch and Wherrett. **Clerk to process**

Cheques: 808 re Dec Hall Hire - cheque cancelled. **809** HMRC re PAYE **£133.00**. **810** D Hill re extendable loppers £29.99 + LCN annual WalGPC SMPT web access £21.00 = **£50.99**

- 008/22 RESIGNATION OF CLLR RALSTON:** As Cllr Ralston is moving from the area, he tendered his resignation from the Council after 8 years of unstinting service. Cllr Cannell voiced a huge debt of gratitude to Cllr Ralston that was supported by all Members. His services will be missed.

- 009/22 APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR:** As Vice Chair, Members agreed that Cllr Cannell should assume the role of Chair to next May, when offices will come up for re-election at the Annual Meeting.

- 010/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday February 14th 2022

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

WALTON-IN-GORDANO PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET: 1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023 (Precept £5583.00)

OPERATING EXPENSES	Budget 21-22	Estimate 21-22	Budget 2022-23	Budget Diff's	
Clerk's Pay	2661.00	2660.00	2,730.00	102.59%	
Clerk's Expenses	315.00	314.00	315.00		
Hall Hire	120.00	81.00	108.00		
Public Light	140.00	123.00	130.00		
Insurance/Subs/Audit/Legal	450.00	399.00	450.00		
Parish Maintenance	700.00	0.00	700.00		
Other Costs	120.00	27.00	50.00		
Website	250.00	115.00	100.00		
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00	0.00		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	4756.00	3719.00	4,583.00	96.36%	
+ Election Provision	0.00	0.00	0.00		
+ Capital Provision	800.00	800.00	1,000.00	125.00%	
+ Precept	5556.00		5,583.00	100.49%	
CASH MOVEMENTS	21-22 Opening	21-22 Closing	+ Precept	- Expenses	= 22-23 Closing Balance
Operating Funds	3546.00	4584.00	4,583.00	-4583.00	4,584.00
Contingency Provision		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Election Provision	2277.00	2277.00	0.00	0.00	2,277.00
Capital Provision	3600.00	4400.00	1,000.00	0.00	5,400.00
TOTAL FUNDS TO C/F	9423.00	11261.00			12,261.00
2022-23 Precept			5,583.00		

Minutes of the Meeting of The Council on Monday 14th February 2022

Meetings are held at 7.00pm at the Village Hall unless stated otherwise - Nigel Ashton, Gordano Valley Ward Cllr, attends when possible

Present: Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Daveran Baulch, Rachel Dickinson

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 6

011/22 APOLOGIES - Cllrs Dave Wherrett & Nigel Ashton (NSC)

012/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

013/22 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING (January 10th) were agreed and signed.

014/22 CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

During the weekend of 5/6 Feb I was alerted by some parishioners of an anonymous notice hand delivered to some but not all properties in Walton.

This notice makes some accusations against Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council by an individual that calls themselves a member of the public and also 'whistleblower'.

The Parish Council is well aware of who this person is as we have documentary evidence from the individual sent to us prior to the notice being delivered. The complainant has no residence or pecuniary interest in Walton, being a resident of Puxton parish where he is well known. In Puxton he has, since 2016, embarked on a campaign including alleged intimidation, harassment and bullying to not only the Parish Council but to others including members of the public. He is also well known to the police. Since February 2021, he has included Walton Parish Council, its councillors and clerk in this campaign.

Because of this behaviour, following advice from North Somerset Council and ALCA (Avon Local Councils Association), we called upon the North Somerset Council's Unreasonable Complaint Behaviour Policy and he was excluded from any of our meetings. We subsequently adopted the ALCA Vexatious requests and complaints policy. As part of this sanction, he would not only be excluded from our meetings but we would cease any communication with him.

The complainant continued to send emails making unsubstantiated allegations about us, our conduct and more especially our Clerk. This is the link to Puxton as Don is Clerk to their Parish Council as well. He was also part of their Village Hall committee, in much the same way as he was here.

The complainant then reported us and our local ward councillor to the Local Government standards Authority. Following a thorough and independent investigation, all accusations against us were deemed baseless and we were cleared of any wrongdoing. This not being acceptable to him, he has continued to press these historical issues almost unabated.

In January the complainant attended the Parish Council meeting and, although not speaking during the meeting, was obstructive, threatening and intimidating following the meeting where it took 15 minutes to remove him from the Village Hall. Following this I informed him that in accordance with our Vexatious requests and complaints policy he was excluded from any meeting arranged by the Parish Council in any form and any premises booked for the purpose of such meeting. We would also continue with the non communication.

A similar Public Notice to the one circulated here was distributed in Puxton prior to their PC meeting on 3rd Feb which the complainant attended and during which there were an acrimonious series of exchanges and further erroneous claims against their councillors.

The complaints he raises in the 'Public Notice' are the very same ones (save for the Vexatious Behaviour policy) that were answered and adjudicated on last year by the Local Authority Standards Officer, where we were cleared of any wrongdoing. We only had to incorporate the Vexatious requests and complaints policy because of his actions, so he has no-one to blame but himself.

That's the end of this statement... let's continue with the PC meeting.

015/22 PLANNING *(Visit the NSC website for full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

Decision Due: 22/P/0004/TRCA St Pauls tree works.

Refused: 21/P/1021/FUL Conygar Quarry - noted with some relief.

Appeal: 21/P/1836/PIP - Breezeland New house at rear.

016/22 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Street Light:** 2nd chase to email sent to NSC on October 28th **sent on February 7th.**
- ii. **Plumtree-Common Footpath:** Tree felling due on 21st/22nd February.
- iii. **Queen's Jubilee:** Natural England beacon concerns being pursued re the Common via Cllr Ashton. Members were disappointed than an application for funds for parish festivities was too late for inclusion in the 2022-23 budget.
- iv. **Walton Bay Crossing + pavement extension:** **Clerk in touch with responsible NSC officer.**
- v. **Coast Road hedge:** **Clerk to meet with Cllr Baulch on site.**
- vi. **Sandbanks sewage odours:** Under watching brief via Cllr Wherrett.
- vii. **Ash Tree in Moor Lane:** may be suffering from ash die-back. **NSC response chased Feb 7th.**
- viii. **Odours in Walton Brook: Standing Orders were suspended** so that the six members of the public attending for this issue could join in an open discussion about pollution in Walton Brook:

For some years now, Walton Brook has emitted occasional but distinct sewage/washing smells and visible pollution has been witnessed in the open section in Walton Street.

Our parish is not on mains drainage, so Wessex Water (the area's sewage agency) has no involvement in supplying or monitoring sewage related services in the Parish. Wessex did, however, conduct some investigations for the Environment Agency. It is the Environment Agency - not Wessex Water nor North Somerset Council - who are the ultimate authority in getting this problem resolved. It is a matter of recently publicised knowledge that the Agency is seriously under-funded to the point where it cannot adequately perform many of its duties, of which resolving our local problem appears to be a prime example.

The Chair read out an email from one of the attending public which outlined the complainants' views of the problem and actions to date.

This email has been sent after consultation with other residents. There are at least 10 residents who are either directly or indirectly affected by the pollution issue.

For many months now a number of residents have been notifying the Environment Agency (EA) hotline about the daily STRONG smell of human sewage and at times the visible discolouration of Walton Brook which is noticeable between Sunnybank and Parsonage Hayes entrance down past Rivendell in Moor Lane (some distance of 500 metres) onto the SSSI land. This pollution occurs at LEAST twice a day.

At times in the summer it is not possible for some residents to enjoy their gardens due to the strong smell. Also doors and windows have to be closed to prevent the smell from entering their homes.

The stream is also a source of drinking water for the cattle at Home Farm and Church Farm on the SSI Moor land which Natural England manage who are deeply concerned (they have voiced their concerns separately to the EA). Aquatic life has also been adversely affected.

Walkers unaware of the sewage liquor present in Walton Brook allow their dogs and children to paddle in the water.

The Brook is overgrown and there is a high risk of the brook over topping and flooding the cottages at Cross Tree. (The villagers have always cleared the stream once a year but have not done so for the last two years because of the pollution).

The EA have identified the source and have asked the homeowner to make alterations to their system (emails attached) Unfortunately the pollution is still continuing.

It is not our intention to upset or annoy anyone as we all wish to live happily and peacefully with our neighbours. But something has to be done to resolve this issue, so please could the Parish Council contact North Somerset Council, Nigel Ashton, Liam Fox and the Environment Agency to get this awful situation rectified. Hopefully the Parish Council will have more influence than individual villagers.

Given that the brook is piped from the Walton Street open section across the B3124 to Moor Lane, complainants and Wessex Water, who have investigated the problem for the Environment Agency, have deduced that the problem lies in a property or properties above the open section in Walton Street. It has been suggested that the periodic nature of the problem (tending to be at certain times of the day, typically in the early morning and early evening and lasting for about an hour), may indicate over-topping of a particular system rather than seepage from one or more systems. If this is the case, it might further indicate that a single system may not of a suitable capacity to do the job that is expected of it. This is, of course, observational logic rather than fact.

The Environment Agency claims to have acted on the report it received from Wessex Water such that the problem has been resolved. They also indicated also it might take up to two weeks for the signals of pollution to entirely disappear. They deemed the problem as being resolved. The Agency categorise such problems as 1-3. The subject problem is categorised as 3, which means no action needed.

More detailed information about the Wessex report and its outcomes is not forthcoming from the Agency on the grounds that it would contravene its legal data protection responsibilities under General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which means they do not need to respond to a Freedom of Information Request either.

It is now several weeks since the Environment Agency response and the signals of pollution have not disappeared. The Agency seem bereft of further interest in the problem and the complainants are still desperately concerned to get it resolved.

After lengthy discussion of the issues four routes for further action were identified. The fourth was suggested by Cllr Baulch, who has used it effectively in Weston-in-Gordano (*The Clerk subsequently progressed a test complaint on the website and found it amazingly easy to use*).

Complaining to the Environment Agency

It was felt that individual complaints made on every occurrence of the problem would be the most positive way of pressuring it into being taken seriously and resolved. Each complaint to the Environment Agency hotline number (0800 807060) would, however, need to be supported by the Wessex Water case number, otherwise the individual complaints don't seem to get linked up. This means commitment on the part of individuals and **the author of the above email undertook to supply details to the Clerk of how to go about it.**

Contacting Environmental Health at North Somerset Council

Some years ago this unit 'passed the buck' to the Environment agency on the subject issue, despite having been directly involved with this council in resolving sewage issues at Walton Bay. **Clerk to liaise with Councillor Ashton to get this unit involved again.**

Continuing pressure via our Ward Councillor and MP

Pressure needs to be kept on the powers that be. **Cllr Ashton will be alerted to this need by these minutes.**

Complaining to North Somerset Council via the community concern charity website 'Fix My Street'

Type 'Fix My Street' into your search engine and you will be linked to a charity based website that provides an extraordinarily simple way of reporting problems to North Somerset Council. Cllr Baulch has found this to be significantly more effective in getting things done than by using NSC's standard reporting systems.

Standing Orders were reinstated

- ix. **Cliff Path Bridge at Two Acres:** Work costed & authorised: delayed by urgent work in Clevedon.
- x. **2 Notice Boards:** A replacement can be sited in situ at Walton Bay. Re Village board would a cost share/use arrangement with Church be effective? **Clerk to enquire of the Church Wardens.**
- xi. **Dog Waste:** The Clapton experience was shared via the meeting papers. Cllr Baulch reported that, beyond installation costs, Weston pays some £900 per year for the management of 1.5 bins (one is hardly used). The meeting agreed the **the matter should be included on the Annual Residents' Meeting Agenda in May.**

017/22 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr Baulch: Cllr Wherrett will become a member of both Walton and Weston SpeedWatch teams, with emphasis on the Coast Road. This is part of a natural synergy between the two parishes on a range of valley issues. The re-activated Weston team have been active enough to attract a visit from the Police & Crime Commissioner! New penalty routines applying to motorists registered as speeding via the SpeedWatch scheme will be very rigorous and are expected to do much to encourage more regulated motorist behaviour. Speed monitoring cameras as considered some years ago were at fixed locations and thus became 'un-noticed by familiarity' by motorists. Such cameras, as used by us some years ago via a Gordano wide scheme set up by Cllr Ashton could prove affordable if shared among the parishes in the same way. They are technologically far more advanced and, given stable teams of volunteers within contributing parishes, could prove an affordable way of effective detection without the pitfalls of 'motorist familiarity'. **A matter to be placed on the agenda for development.**

Cllr Cannell: An application for co-option as a Councillor has been received, (the applicant was present), and will be formally considered at the March meeting.

018/22 FINANCE

- i. **2021-22 Accounts:** pre-circulated with the meeting papers, reviewed and noted.
- ii. **Hall Hire Charges:** There is still no information re a new bank account. **Cllr Dickinson undertook to see what the present situation is.**
- iii. **2022-23 Budget:** A precept request of £5583 has been acknowledged by NSC.
- iv. **Online Banking:** Online banking application pending mandate update.
- v. **Bank Mandate:** to be updated to include new Councillors. **Clerk processing.**
- vi. **Cheques: 811 LCN £4.19** (price increase since Jan payment of £21.00 - paperwork refers).

019/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday March 14th 2022

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

DUE TO ILLNESS

***THE MEETING PLANNED FOR
MARCH 14TH 2022***

***WILL BE INQUORATE
AND HAS THEREFORE HAD TO BE
CANCELLED***

Donald Hill
Clerk to the Council