

## Minutes of the Council Meeting Held on Monday 11th March 2024

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

*We have a vacancy for a Councillor - contact the Clerk or a Councillor, in the first instance, to apply*

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

**Present:** Cllrs Brian Cannell (Chair), Rachel Dickinson, Claire Flower.

**In Attendance:** Don Hill (Clerk)

**Public Attendance:** 2

### 010/24 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Dave Wherrett, Nigel Ashton (NSC)

### 011/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Dispensations apply to Cllrs re setting of the precept, and Village Hall matters)

None

### 012/24 LAST MEETING MINUTES & Matters Arising

The February meeting was cancelled due to illness. The minutes of the January 8th meeting were agreed and signed. There were no matters arising.

### 013/24 PLANNING (The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)

**Decisions Due:** 23/P/0648/FUH Taggart Cabin.

### 014/24 PARISH MATTERS

i. **Street Light:** Awaiting new costings.

ii. **B3124 Clevedon Road Safety:** A Consultant's quote for an analysis of works needed to improve the B3124 was discussed. For the quote to be accepted the cost must be seen to form part of a responsible strategy for achieving results. Working with the consultants and persuading NSC to consider their recommendations as the basis for improvement work will rely on a solid base of traffic movement data that will need to be gathered via a Speed Indicator Device (SID) per iii below. **The Clerk will so inform the consultants.**

iii. **Speed Issues:** The proposal is that a SID be purchased by the Parish Council to collect traffic movement data along the B3124, along the Coast road between Cross Tree and the Parish Boundary at the footpath beside Squires Cottage, and down Moor Lane to the Parish Boundary at the bottom of Harley Hill. The objective of this data collection is for it to be used as evidence in developing a case that NSC Highways will take seriously enough to agree to and implement.

*Standing orders were suspended to enable public attendees to comment.*

Concern was expressed re the NSC stipulation 6, which states that **'The sign will only be in one location for a maximum of 2 weeks and will not return to that same location for 3 months.'**

It was suggested that if the key traffic problem is along the B3124 through The Village, then surely that is where the SID should be located for much longer periods than two weeks every three months. This was not a contentious point, but given the NSC regulations, it was pointed out that the initial purpose of the SID will be to collect traffic movement data as the basis - with SpeedWatch data as well - for approaching NSC with a highway strategy for the B3124 but also for the two other roads. To keep the SID in use full time will need 6 locations where it can be placed. The SID data may lead to the conclusion that a fixed Vehicle Activated System (VAS) will be needed on the B3124, notwithstanding the acknowledged problem that once drivers 'get used' to a fixed system they tend to ignore it. A VAS will involve two fixed machines, one at each entry to The Village along the B3124. This will

come at a significantly higher level of cost than the single SID, and may have to be funded,,again, from fund-raising and grants as well as from the Parish Council precept.

*Standing orders were reinstated.*

No action plan was established at this meeting. *(The Clerk will draft one for consideration by Members before the next meeting.)*

- iv. **Walton Bay Transport Update:** All Aboard The Bus group are becoming a CIC (Community Interest Group), to apply for NSC/Government funds to run a bus via an outside supplier.
- v. **Website:** VisionITC goes live on April 2nd. Invoice for £918 balance falls due by April 30th.
- vi. **Footpaths:** Winter die back has meant that the path between the church and the golf course has been deemed clear enough not to be prioritised yet for attention by NSC's limited resources. **Plumtree to Common stiles:** The one by the B3124 is ok and will stay. The other two, will be replaced by metal kissing gates.
- vii. **Walton Bay Entry Signs:** These are paid for, and the signs are on order by NSC.
- viii. **Village Notice Board:** replacement door perspex being sourced by Cllrs Flower and Cannell.
- ix. **Free Government Issued Portrait of HM King Charles 3rd:** The Village has agreed to hang the picture. **Clerk to order.**
- x. **NSC General Maintenance in hand with with Area Officer:**
  - a. **The 20mph sign** Realigned. (The horse sign at the Clevedon end of the B3124 is out of alignment) - **the Clerk will check and report as needed).**
  - b. **Walton St Open Section of Brook:** Damaged retaining wall repair by NSC.
  - c. **Walton Street:** Need to clear open section of brook. Work chased.
  - d. **Walton Street:** Failed repair to channel opposite Chapel - repair has been done.

#### 015/24 GOVERNANCE

**2024-25 Document Review:** Governance Documents were updated by the Clerk and circulated prior to the meeting so that they could be reviewed by Members. The Clerk pointed to various updates and additions within the circulated documents, which were noted. The documents were ratified as approved by the meeting. A reference to creating a possible Vexatious Behaviour costs provision was raised. This was never carried forward into the Accounts. *(via a post-meeting check, the Clerk confirms that it was not included within the Governance file ratified at this meeting).*

#### 016/24 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

##### Cllr Dickinson

**Parish Maintenance: Litter Picking:** some Stirling voluntary litter-picking work has been done over the years by a resident. This has, and is being, hugely appreciated by everyone.

**Parish Maintenance: Village Gates:** With a repositioning of the long-fought-for speed limits along the B3124 being demanded as a condition of us being able to install Village Gates, that ambition remains on hold. However, a bulb planting scheme would provide an attractive and noticeable feature to signal to drivers that they are entering a built-up area. It was suggested that this would need to be a year-round planting scheme to achieve the required effect.

These two points raise the question of the Parish employing a contractor to carry out a specified scheme of work throughout the parish to keep our highways and street furniture in a good and welcoming condition.

#### 017/24 FINANCE

- i. **2023-24 accounts:** to date were reviewed and noted.
- ii. **2024-25 Budget:** Precept request acknowledged by NSC.
- iii. **Cheques: 838** HMRC re PAYE for Jan/Feb/March £143.40 approved and signed.
- iv. **Clerk's pay:** standing order increase authorisation completed, and signed post the meeting.

#### 018/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - April 8th 2024.

**The meeting closed at 8.20pm**