

These minutes are draft until agreed at the September meeting

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 9th June 2025

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

There is a vacancy for a Councillor - contact a Councillor or the Clerk if you would like to apply

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

In Attendance: Don Hill (Clerk)

Public Attendance: 1

042/25 APOLOGIES

Cllr Dave Wherrett, NSC Ward Cllr Nigel Ashton

043/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST *(Dispensations apply to Cllrs re the setting of the precept, and to Village Hall matters)*

Cllr Flower: Under Minute 047/25 the matter of a Village Hall car park cropped up incidentally. Cllr Flower manages the land on which such a car park would be located.

044/25 LAST MEETING MINUTES + MATTERS ARISING

- i. **Annual and Ordinary Council meeting** The May 12th minutes were agreed and signed.
- ii. **Annual Parish Meeting** The May 12th draft minutes were emailed to all meeting attendees for their approval as a true record. They were reviewed here as such and signed by The Chair.

045/25 PLANNING *(The NSC website has full details. Applications notified on the meeting day will also be considered)*

- i. **New:** None
- ii. **Refused: 25/P/0428/AOC: 2 Manor Cottages - Works Management plan.**

046/25 PARISH MATTERS

- i. **Parish Maintenance:** Hourly rate of £20 was mentioned in the context of a 'public service' involvement). Protocols for agreeing and paying associated expenses to be agreed with eventual contractor. The Work Schedule was reviewed and agreed as a document that will need to be adjusted and updated in the light of experience.
- ii. **Walton Bay Bus Stop erosion:** Still no feedback from NSC.
- iii. **Highway Signage:** B3124 derestriction sign to Clevedon: 20mph sign at Walton Street/B3124 junction; sign outside Brookside Cottage in Moor Lane. All three with NSC but not yet timetable for repair.
- iv. **Defibrillator - Cllr Dickinson will liaise with the Clerk re payment of the service charges.**
- v. **Drainage pipe from the Coast Road to Walton Bay:** appears to be damaged and taking in sewage. **Cllr Wherrett reporting this to NSC.**
- vi. **Traffic Along Coast Road:** The imposition of a reduced speed limit is prevented by national guidelines. Cllr Wherrett contacted the responsible NSC officer and was referred to his Ward Councillor. Cllr Ashton is in contact with NSC officers on our behalf.
- vii. **Police Data Collection Box (DCB): Clerk to contact the police about the use of a DCB.**
- viii. **Public Session:** The Council was asked to consider adopting a public session before the commencement of each of its meetings. The hope would be that it would increase public attendance and lead to more resident involvement in the work of the Council. Within the provisions of Standing Orders the session would be 15 minutes, with no contribution being being of more than three minutes and each contribution being related to an agenda item. It was suggested that contributions could be submitted to the Clerk for inclusion some days before the meeting (a common feature in some larger parishes).

Public attendance at meetings has been a burning issue among parish councils, who are always seeking ways to improve it. The practice of this Council over very many years has been that public attendance is welcome, and that discussions with Councillors can take place before and after the meeting. This opportunity is mentioned at the head of every meeting agenda. Two crucial aspects of existing practice were identified as being not publicised: that of involving residents in discussion by suspending standing orders at points in the agenda where their contributions can be made and discussed, and that of considering the inclusion of items on the agenda that have been suggested to Councillors or the Clerk by residents.

Critical to either view of the Public Session debate is the existence for decades of the Parish Council's monthly information sheet, which has been delivered to every household in the Parish and is now put out as a full monthly newsletter called The Cross Tree Chronicle. The Parish Council has always contributed to these publications and now does so by including a summary of Council meeting minutes. This, together with the lively range of interest groups and activities that are the core of Parish life and are also reported in the Chronicle, means that the Parish Council functions within a Community that is far from being 'inert'.

Discussion around ways in which public involvement might be developed resolved into a decision that the hitherto unpublicised elements of the Council's existing procedures should be explained and headlined within its publicity - ie the opportunity of public involvement during meetings and the ability of residents to contribute agenda items to meetings. **The Clerk was asked to progress this unanimous decision.**

- ix. **Blocked Gullies from Springhead to the Cross Tree:** Reported to NSC, via the Council's online account, to their drainage/gully reporting team. On Tuesday May 20th.

047/25 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Dickinson

The Village Hall Committee of Management will hold a meeting at 7.30pm on June 17th and, as the Council's representative Cllr Dickinson asked if there were any matters Members wished to raise. Whilst there were no specific issues raised, it was noted with bafflement that, after decades of struggle, the possibility of there being a Village Hall car park seems to have stalled.

Cllr Cannell

Vexatious Behaviour Order: this will continue in the light of further pestilent communications from the subject of the order. Cllr Cannell reported that the order was due to be renewed at the end of June. The meeting noted this with a degree of regret that it was so clearly necessary.

048/25 FINANCE

- i. **2024-25 Accounts:** Posted to website
- ii. **2025-26 Accounts to date:** reviewed and reconciled with the bank statement.
- iii. **Payment Authorised:** Cllr Cannell re transport for Clerk Apr/May/Jun per minute 008/25 iv (C): £35.10.

049/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday September 8th 2025 - Note: There will be no meetings in July or August

The meeting closed at 8.20pm