

- 23/24 /133 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Barnett (in the Chair), Pople, Thompson and Hall.
- 23/24 /134 **ALSO PRESENT** - 9 members of the public and SCllr Martin.
- 23/24 /135 **IN ATTENDANCE** - The Clerk to the Council.
- 23/24 /136 **APOLOGIES** - were received and accepted from Cllr Salter who was ill.
- 23/24 /137 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATIONS REQUIRED**  
- Cllr Pople declared an interest in the Play Area as she is the Council's representative on the committee. Cllr Thompson declared an interest in the CVA as he is the publicity officer and his wife is the treasurer.
- 23/24 /138 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - were confirmed and signed.
- 23/24 /139 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - none.
- 23/24 /140 **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS - SOMERSET COUNCIL FINANCE LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS** - SCllr Martin reported on budget setting and a conference of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the various LCN groups. His feeling was that with no staff and no money there was little point in the LCNs, particularly for small councils. Because of Somerset Council's financial situation there are some significant changes in the offing. Cllr Barnett reported on meetings he had attended and the Clerk reported on on-line meetings she had attended. In general discussion the following emerged. The £30m for the Octagon Theatre is on hold. The Council is now chasing non payers for rates. Parishes are likely to become responsible for footpaths. It was noted that a critical bleed kit would be a good addition to the defibrillator.
- 23/24 /141 **HIGHWAYS:-**
- a. Any updates and problems
- i. Flooding - There had simply been an unprecedented amount of rain. Among the consequences the grit on the roads had been washed into the drains and blocked them. They needed clearing.
- ii. War Memorial triangle - no update. The Clerk would chase this up.
- iii. Potholes in Langlands Lane - the Clerk had sent details of a row of six potholes and suggested that a proper repair be carried out rather than individual patches which don't last.
- b. Problems arising and any other highway matters - Brook Lane potholes have been reported.
- 23/24 /142 **RIGHTS OF WAY/FOOTPATHS - INCLUDING DEAD TREES ADJACENT TO SCHOOL FOOTPATH** - Cllr Thompson reported that Somerset Council agree they are responsible for the footpath but refuse responsibility for the trees. The Clerk will try to find out whose responsibility they are via contacting the Land Registry.
- 23/24 /143 **PLAY AREA REPORT** - Cllr Pople reported that the recent craft sale had raised nearly £400. She thanked everyone who had helped in any way.
- 23/24 /144 **PLANNING:-**
- a. Any updates on previous applications - none
- b. 14/23/00004 The Four Seasons, Chilton Polden Hill - installation of dormer and erection of single storey extension to North elevation, erection of a two storey extension to the East elevation and change of use of land from agricultural to residential - supported.
- c. Any other planning matters - Manor Farm Development - no update.
- 23/24 /145 **PARISH PLOT** - no update.
- 23/24 /146 **POLDEN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK** - details of a seminar on 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm were available.
- 23/24 /147 **FINANCE**
- a. Accounts - The accounts weren't available but the Clerk would send them as soon as possible. She warned that with extra responsibility forced on the Council there might be some difficult decisions to make and bear in mind for precept setting in January.
- b. Cheques for signature - were approved as follows. Chq.640 J Marshall (Salary and expenses) £384.85; Chq.641 Barnetts Dairy (Christmas tree) £50.00.
- c. Any other financial matters - Catcott and Edington poppy appear had raised £1,051.86.
- 23/24 /148 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION** - War Memorial plaque is being cleaned. There is a consultation on-lone regarding budget setting for Somerset Council. There are upcoming changes to refuse and recycling collections. The Clerk would write to Bridgwater Sorting Office to complain about the very infrequent deliveries to households and businesses at present.
- 23/24 /149 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING(S)** - Precept setting; Code of Conduct.
- 23/24 /150 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - None.
- 23/24 /151 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Catcott School Hall at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed by Cllr Barnett on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Chairman .....

Date .....