

- 23/24 /171 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Barnett (in the Chair), Pople, Salter and Hall.
- 23/24 /172 **ALSO PRESENT** - SCllrs Munt and Martin and 13 members of the public.
- 23/24 /173 **IN ATTENDANCE** - The Clerk to the Council.
- 23/24 /174 **APOLOGIES** - were received and approved from Cllr Thompson.
- 23/24 /175 **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
- 23/24 /176 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - were confirmed and signed.
- 23/24 /177 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - none.
- 23/24 /178 **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS - SOMERSET COUNCIL FINANCE LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS** - SCllr Munt reported on the time schedule for budget setting and assured the parish that Somerset was not going to go bankrupt. Regarding flooding, although it had been very bad recently it was not as bad as it had been ten years ago. Fostering volunteers are wanted in Somerset as there is a big shortfall and volunteers are wanted. Police and Crime Commissioner elections are due to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. SCllr Martin reported on the latest from the LCN. He felt there is now a more constructive attitude and some highways groups have formed in some areas. It is not a top down thing but for town and parish councils and members of the public to decide what is wanted with the County acting as 'enabler'. The Clerk would put LCN details on the website.
- 23/24 /179 **HIGHWAYS:-**
- a. Flooding - no real problems to report.
  - b. War Memorial triangle - it was agreed that the times should be set from 8am until 6pm. The Clerk was also instructed to ask that the lining be extended round to Gamma House.
  - c. Potholes Langlands Lane - it had been confirmed that the row of six potholes which the Clerk had reported would be sorted out in the new financial year.
  - d. Any other updates and problems arising - Following a request the Clerk would try to obtain some sticky backed no dog fouling notices.
- 23/24 /180 **RIGHTS OF WAY/FOOTPATHS** - In the absence of Cllr Thompson Cllr Hall provided a list of four problems which are on the County footpath map for attention.
- 23/24 /181 **PLAY AREA REPORT** - There had been a complaint regarding the amount of dog fouling that was taking place in the play area. There is little the play area can do regarding this. The Clerk would include this in the Polden Post report asking that dog owners act responsibly in the children's play area. A kiddies Easter trail is being organised for 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 23/24 /182 **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 - refused. It was felt that the planning department needed to check if work had started.
  - c. 14/23/00005 - Wellfield House - 19 Manor Road - change of use from care home to 18 x bedroom House of Multiple Occupancy - Bus service - this is not good at present and is likely to worsen further. Transport - Anybody living in the village is, realistically, going to need a car - work isn't the only reason people need to get about. There are other activities including hobbies, shopping, family commitments, etc. There will be a need for more cars than there are allocated spaces. In addition, the

workers would surely not all be on the same shift meaning that the manoeuvring of cars in and out would happen at all hours and the current bus service would certainly not be equal to the job of transporting them in either direction. Parking - there are too few parking spaces owned by the applicants. There is no guarantee that the spaces outside the confines of the property will remain available for the proposed use - it is described as informal parking permission and could even be used by other villagers. In addition, there is no turning provision for vehicles parking within the confines of the site meaning that vehicles would need to reverse out. Temporary status - a period of eight years seems excessive. We believe that a realistic temporary period would be more like three years such as is permissible for agricultural workers. Residents - we have been informed that Hinkley do not want, and consider it unacceptable, to have 3rd party satellite units. There is no contract with the applicants for any of the Hinkley workers to live there and nor will there be. It is considered too far East of the Hinkley site to ever be considered. It would seem, therefore, that those living on site would have to come from somewhere else. Bearing in mind all the above matters the Parish Council strongly objects to this application as being totally unsuitable for a fairly isolated community with very few facilities and a poor bus service.

d. Any other planning matters

- i. Proposed Manor Farm Development - The Clerk had asked for and received a copy of all the items on display at the recent presentation. These were now on the parish council's website along with an email address to send comments to.
- ii. 14/19/00008 - 2 Scotts Lane - Unfortunately this had missed the agenda. The Clerk would respond following consultation.

23/24 /183 **PARISH PLOT** - no update.

23/24 /184 **FINANCE**

- a. Accounts check copies of the accounts and bank statements were provided for councillors. The accounts were approved.
- b. Cheques for signature - Chq.646 (Website) £284.71; Chq.647 (Clerks salary and expenses) £378.55.
- c. Any other financial matters
  - i. Dog waste bins - the cost of emptying these is going up to £2.86 per bin per week.
  - ii. Critical Bleed Kit - Edington had asked if Catcott was willing to bear half the cost of adding a purpose made Critical Bleed Kit to the defibrillator. The cost would be £99.50 for Catcott's share. Agreed.

23/24 /185 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION** - The Clerk checked that none of the councillors currently wanted to attend any of the forthcoming training sessions. The CVA are organising a litter pick on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

23/24 /186 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING(S)** - Code of Conduct

23/24 /187 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.

23/24 /188 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Catcott School Hall at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.