

MUDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – Thursday 16th July 2020, by video conference at 6pm.

Councillors Present:

Stephen Bartlett (Chairman)

Mark Rowlands

June Lydon

Phil Sargent

In attendance: The clerk and 1 member of the public.

20/50. To receive any apologies for absence. Cllr Lanigan, D. Cllr Capozzoli, D Cllr Hull & C. Cllr Lewis sent their apologies.

20/51. Public Open Session.

The clerk had received a report from a village hall committee meeting reporting that it had been decided not to open the hall until at least September to enable all of the Coronavirus prevention procedures to be put in place. The hall had undergone a deep clean in readiness for opening.

Cllr Sargent praised Cllr Bartlett and his team of volunteers for their efforts towards repairing the Weir with the hope that the bridge would be open soon.

6.10pm – Meeting opened

20/52. To receive any declarations of interest. There were no declarations of interest.

20/53. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2020.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

20/54. Planning

- a. To note decisions on earlier applications.

20/01467/FUL, Longcroft Farm, Stone Lane, the erection of an extension to farm shop and café. Application permitted with conditions. Noted.

- b. To consider new applications. None. Noted.

20/55. Finance

- a. To note the internal auditors report for the financial year 2019-20.

The internal auditors report had been circulated to all PC members prior to the meeting and all confirmed that it had been noted.

- b. To approve AGAR Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2019-20.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to answer 'Yes' to the AGAR statements 1 – 8 (9 N/A).

- c. To approve AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019-20, to include bank reconciliation & significant variances.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the AGAR Accounting Statement, bank reconciliations & significant variances and to submit the completed AGAR to the external auditor.

ACTION: Clerk

- d. To note the Notice of Public Rights posted on the Mudford PC website.

RESOLVED: Members of the PC confirmed that they had made note of the Notice of Public Rights posted on the Mudford Parish Council website, commencing on 20th July 2020 and ending on 31st August 2020.

- e. The following payments had been made since the previous meeting;

J Ferguson	Clerks Salary & expenses (June)	£ 472.14
HMRC	PAYE (June)	£ 105.40
David Jarvis associates	Up Mudford challenge	£1140.00
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Bench installation	£490.20
Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Removal of trees from cemetery	£630.00
Lightatouch	Audit fees	£ 75.00

RESOLVED: It was agreed to approve all payments made under the business continuity motion.

20/56. Parish Council Matters.

- a. To consider the co-option of a parish councillor.

A member of the public had contacted the clerk prior to the meeting and put themselves forward to the PC for co-option. A further member from the same family asked to be co-opted onto the PC, however there were no proposers at this time.

RESOLVED: Mr Snell was duly co-opted onto Mudford Parish Council. As he was not present, clerk to arrange for declaration of office and register of interest forms to be signed before the next meeting.

ACTION: Clerk

20/57. Playing field and play area.

- a. To consider the re-opening of the play areas.

The clerk reported the steps necessary to re-open the play area, after having attended a clerks meeting earlier in the day attended by insurance broker Came & Co. It was agreed that, after having received the annual inspection report which was due imminently, with a risk assessment & signage in place the play area & fitness equipment could be safely opened. The PC agreed to resume weekly inspections as per the rota.

ACTION All Cllrs and Clerk

20/58. Highways and Parish Paths.

- a. To consider widening the public footpath by Carpenters Cottage, Main Street, Mudford.

Cllr Rowlands reported that the owner of the property on Main Street had asked the PC to consider arranging for the footpath to be widened in line with the rest of the footpath, provided no costs were incurred to the owner. Cllr Bartlett explained the process which would involve legal fees as there would need to be a property transfer of ownership and significant further work for both County and Parish Council. Cllr Bartlett offered to speak with the owner of Carpenters Cottage to explain the process before any decision could be made.

ACTION: Cllr Bartlett

- b. To report on Mudford Community Bridge at Hinton Weir.

Cllr Bartlett provided a report on the work that had been carried out on the replacement bridge and the Weir. He explained that the bridge was currently closed by Somerset County Council until they approved the specification of the bridge and the repairs to the walls of the Weir, and anyone using it would be doing so at their own risk. Furthermore, his investigations into wild swimming had discovered that the right to swim in Rivers in England is written into the Magna Carter and is one of the last few remaining laws in existence from that time.

- c. To consider signage reminding the public of their responsibilities to pick up after their dogs on private land.

Cllrs Sargent agreed to speak with a local sign maker to arrange for signs to be produced and erected on the gates at either end of the footpath between Mudford Bridge and Trent.

20/59. Wildlife Issues

- a. To report on problems with herons & swans being injured on power lines by the river.

Cllr Bartlett asked the clerk to contact SSE to arrange for deterrents to be attached to the overhead lines to prevent water birds from injuring themselves, as recently a Heron had died after flying into an overhead cable.

ACTION: Clerk

- b. To report on dead fish in the river.

Cllr Bartlett reported on a pollution incident at Hinton brought to light by dead fish having been seen in the river. The EA had investigated and reported that sewage had been the cause of the incident. The clerk agreed to contact the EA to ensure the source of the pollution was identified and resolved.

ACTION: Clerk

- c. To report on the activities of Stoke Sub Hamdon Fishing Club.

Cllr Bartlett explained the benefits of having a fishing club active on the river in Mudford. Stoke Sub Hamdon fishing club members would challenge anyone fishing the river to ensure that they held a rod license and were members of the club. They would report back if any fences needed repairing or the river needed to be cleared of debris. Any incidents of wrongdoing or pollution would also be reported.

20/60. Date of next meeting. 24th Sept 2020 (provisional).

7.10pm – Meeting closed