

EAST HUNTSPILL PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of East Huntspill Parish Council was held in the Church Hall Church Lane East Huntspill on **Monday 15th December 2003** commencing at **7.30 pm** when the following business was transacted.

“Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race gender sexual orientation marital status and any disability) Crime & Disorder Health & Safety and Human Rights”

Declaration of Interests

2.5/03/0029

2.5/03/0232 – Mr Francis Kidner – Related to the applicant

PRESENT

Councillors Mesdames T J Salway (Chairman) together with K Bennett W Chinnock Messrs D Barlow D Eckford F Kidner (Vice Chairman) N Litton R Puddy J S B Woolley and the clerk Mr B Poole.

In addition there were 3 members of the public present together with County Councillor M Healey and District Councillor Mrs J C Moreton.

3.1 Apologies

None

3.2 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th November 2003 were approved as being a correct record and signed as such by the Chairman.

3.3 Matters Arising

(1) Matters raised by the public

- (a) Footpaths and Bridleways
- (b) Dog Fouling

(2) HGV Petition

It was reported that a meeting was to be held this following Thursday at County Hall. Councillor Litton also referred to a copy letter from Woolavington Parish Council in which they expressed their concerns about further potential delays.

(3) Factory Lane/Church Road – Traffic Problems

It was reported that this matter was still following the procedural path.

(4) Millennium Stones

Councillor Bennett confirmed that the stones were ready for delivery subject to the locations having received the appropriate planning permission. Comments were also made that the stones should be suitable to have a plaque fixed and that a concrete base should also be in place prior to delivery. The Clerk agreed to progress this matter.

(5) Community Emergency Plan – Sub Committee

It was noted that they were yet to meet.

Mr J Moreton arrived at the meeting 7.40 pm.

(6) Deployable CCTV Camera

It was reported that a letter had been received indicating that the Parish were unlikely to have the services of the camera due to low priority.

(7) Provision of Outdoor Playing Space

It was noted that a suggestion had been made by the school that the pathway from the School to the Playground should be improved.

Agreed.

(8) 2003 Audit

The clerk briefly explained the difficulties being encountered and he hoped it would be resolved under item 3.9.4

(9) Dog Signs

(10) Goal Posts

(11) Notice Board

Matters being pursued by Councillor Woolley.

(12) Wither Bow Farm Wither Road East Huntspill – Compliance of Conditions

See 3.5.3

(13) Register of Buildings at Risk

It was confirmed that the list had been returned to SCC.

(14) SLCC – Quality Council's Seminar

The Clerk briefly touched on his attendance that day at the seminar on "Quality Council Status"

(15) The Local Channel

It was reported that the presentation would take place at the Jubilee Room Coronation Road Bleadon on Friday 31st January at 7.30 pm.

(16) Mrs C Enticott – Book Token

Confirmed as being completed.

(17) Parish Planning Areas

Yet to be decided by the affected Councillors.

(18) Bank Mandate

The Clerk referred the Meeting to his tabled report attached to these minutes.

(19) Mr K Stockwell – Traffic calming measures

Copy correspondence noted.

3.4

Financial

(43)	Redview Computers	Clerk Package	135.00
(44)	Bruce Poole & Company	Clerk's Salary	220.15
		Expenses	50.00
		Postage	10.42
		Photocopying	21.00
(45)	Sage	Sage Cover	84.25
(46)	Staples	Ink Cartridges	89.30

Resolved that the accounts as presented be paid.

Planning

The clerk read to the meeting the conditions set out on the approved applications.

(1) Outstanding Applications

25/03/0024 **APPROVED**
Retention of Pond **11/11/2003**
Mr A Wall Land at Wall Eden Farm East Huntspill

25/03/0025
Erection of two storey side extension and rear extension on site of conservatory
Mr P Jones 2 Withy Grove Cottages Withy Road East Huntspill

25/03/00027 **APPROVED**
Erection of first floor extension to north west elevation **11/11/2003**
Lester Cottage New Road East Huntspill

25/03/0028 **APPROVED**
Erection of approx 1m high picket fence to replace old fence **17/11/2003**
1 Church Close East Huntspill

25/03/0030 **APPROVED**
Erection of two storey extension to west elevation **10/12/2003**
25 Church Road East Huntspill

(2) New Applications

25/03/00031
Erection of first floor side extension above garage
19 Church Road East Huntspill

The Council recommended approval of this application

25/03/0029
Retention of use of land and buildings as a wildlife hospital etc etc
New Road Farm New Road East Huntspill

25/03/0032
Installation of new door in North Elevation and internal alterations to building C
New Road Farm New Road East Huntspill

Due to the complexity of these two applications and that some of the Councillors had not inspected the application it was agreed that a decision would be deferred until a sub-committee had taken place.

25/0300033
Part retention and part erection of two storey building – stables tack room and hay loft
Barn Withy Bow Farm Withy Road East Huntspill

Both Councillors Puddy and Woolley gave their observations following the recent inspection of the proposed development. They recommended that the Council give approval to this application which was carried after an amendment proposed by Councillor Chinnock concerning applying a tie was defeated.

(3) Other

Withy Bow Farm Withy Grove – See 2 above

Open Spaces

- (1) Playing Field
- (2) Footpaths & Bridleways
- (3) Roads & Transport

Nil reports

3.7

Reports

(1) Village Appraisal

Councillor Bennett gave a brief report. Councillor Woolley reminded the Council that he was the Council's official representative on this committee.

(2) Village Hall

It was reported that the completion had been delayed further.

(3) SALC

(4) Cluster Group

Nil reports.

(5) Councillors

Councillor Puddy reported on the poor state of repair of the Eastern Moor Bridge.

Councillor Salway informed the meeting that she had been advised verbally that a footpath was to be constructed along side the Playing Field from the School. The point was made on hearing this information that maybe the Council should hold back on the school suggestion until the matter could be given further consideration. Agreed.

(6) District Councillor

Councillor Mrs Moreton stressed the advantages to be gained from producing a village newsletter – one of the requirements under the Quality Council Scheme. She indicated some of the appraisal group were keen to participate and she hoped the Council would consider precepting for this publication.

She also asked if this Council was willing to receive Press Releases from SDC via their e-mail system. The meeting indicated that they were and suggested that they should be channelled through the clerk.

(7) County Councillor

(8) Village Beat Officer

Nil reports

Both Councillors Moreton and Healey then excused themselves from the meeting. 08.45 pm.

3.8

Correspondence

(1)	SDC	Planning Applications for 06/11/03 to 12/11/03	C
(2)	SDC	Comprehensive Performance Assessment	C
(3)	Village Appraisal Group	Request for further cheques	NL
		Request agreed to.	
(4)	Moore Stephens	Annual Return for the year ended 31 st March 2003	BP
		Please refer to 3.9.4	
(5)	SDC	Planning Applications – 06/11/03-12/11/03	C
(6)	The Local Channel	Registration	BP
		Confirmed as having been registered.	
(7)	SCC	Public Transport Timetable – Sedgemoor	BP
(8)	AGE Concern	Ageing Well Co-ordinator	C
(9)	SDC	Additional Security Lighting – Church Close	

The Clerk confirmed that SDC planned to install additional security lighting at Church Close.

(10) SDC Electoral Register BP

The Clerk confirmed that he was in possession of a copy.

(11) A&S Police PC Paul Hocking – Voice Mail Number C

(12) SCC Governor Services C

(13) SDC Planning Applications for 20/11/03 to 26/11/03 C

(14) SDC Deployable Camera Request JS

See 3.3.6

(15) Age Concern Carol Service Wells 10th December 2003 NB

(16) SCC Council Tax – Have your say – November 2003 C

(17) SCC Minutes & Agenda – 26/11/2003 C

(18) THATCH Winter 2003 C

(19) Huntspill News Christmas & New Year Issue C

(20) English Basketball Assoc OBI Inspection JW

(21) Village Appraisal Group Request for further cheques NL

Request agreed to.

(22) SDC Boundary Fence – 35 Ashlea Park DE

(23) SDC Register of Electors 2004 BP

(24) SDC Parish Matters BP

(a) Definitive Rights of Way Map DE

(b) Signs to “the Playground” and “Buses Beware” JW

(25) SDC Parish Cluster Meetings – 10th March 2004 C

(26) Woolavington PC B3141 – Safety Proposals NL

See 3.3.2

(27) SDC Refuse Collections NB

Additional items for information received after the circulation of the Agenda

(28) Mr K Stockwell Copy e-mail to Avon & Somerset Chief Constable NL

(29) SDC Precept Requirement 2004/05

(30) Sedgemoor CAB Seeking Funds

(31) SDC Planning Applications – 27/11/2003 – 03/12/2003

(32) SDC Planning Applications – 04/12/2003 – 10/12/2003

(33) SDC Definitive Public Rights of Way Map

It was proposed to take public business at this time. 09.00 pm.

The Council re-convened at 09.20pm

3.9 Other Business referred to the Clerk

The Chairman agreed to take item 1 last.

(2) To approve a members allowances scheme

The Council agreed to accept the scheme recommended by SDC.

(3) To consider Standing Orders

Councillor Chinnock indicated that she had not had time to peruse them thoroughly and thought she might wish to insert an amendment(s). It was agreed that all proposed amendments should be in writing and with the clerk prior to the circulation of the January agenda.

(4) To approve the amended Annual Return for the year end 31st March 2003

The clerk referred to his tabled report and highlighted a number of concerns. One was the fact that the 2002/2003 Audit had not been signed off. This was due to some errors in the figures on the Annual Return and the fact that a nil figure had been inserted against the assets. He explained why it was necessary to record figures for the Bus Shelters and Playground equipment if the latter was in fact in the Council's ownership.

This explanation did not find favour with Councillor Woolley.

There then followed a lengthy exchange of views. The clerk emphasised that he could only advise on the information that he was given. The Council then agreed that they would accept the asset figures being inserted subject to the clerk ascertaining the value of both from the Insurance Policy.

The clerk then explained why he considered the over claim of vat for 02/03 should be repaid. It amounted £23.90 plus an error of £9.00. Agreed.

Again from the Tabled Report the clerk referred to the fact that a great deal of time had been expended in computerising the accounts and asked the Council to note the summary of the account that had been attached to their agenda which showed the position up to the 30th November. He indicated that it was a requirement under the Audit Regulations that the Council be able to show that they were regularly comparing their expenditure against the budget. There then followed a further lengthy dialogue from Councillor Woolley as to why the clerk had imposed without prior permission on the Council an Income & Expenditure system as opposed to a Payments & Receipts system. The Clerk explained to the Council that he had not intended to impose a system on the Council but had merely attempted to bring the Council's Accounting system up to an understandable position. He had no qualms as to which operating system the Council chose to use. The Council confirmed that they were quite willing to continue with the system that was in place namely an Income & Expenditure Account. Councillor Woolley asked that future summaries were up to and including the date of the meeting so as to show the debtor/creditor position. The clerk agreed to this request but explained that taking that position was to assume that the invoices as presented had been agreed upon.

Councillor Bennett then left the meeting 09.55pm

Councillor Barlow then indicated his intention to withdraw from the meeting offering his resignation to the Chairman as he was not prepared to listen to the unnecessary lengthy discussions that were taking place. The Chairman asked him to re-consider his decision. He then left the meeting at 10.05 pm.

As a result of this action the Clerk suggested that the public withdraw from the meeting which they subsequently did at 10.10 pm.

The Clerk then advised the meeting that he would also have to seriously consider his position if future meetings continued in the manner that this evening's meeting had become. He was of the opinion that meetings could not be conducted in an atmosphere where one Councillor commented on almost everything subject and at some length. It was intimidating and to some extent prevented other Councillors from participating.

The meeting then considered item 3.9.1.

- (1) To consider a Precept for 2004/05

After some discussion it was agreed that the precept for the financial year 2004/2005 should be £8000 as shown on the accompanying sheet attached to these minutes. Furthermore it was suggested that the Clerk should prepare a paper for circulation within the village explaining the increase from £6,500 to £8000

The meeting concluded at 10.45 pm with the Chairman wishing everyone the compliments of the season.

3.10

Date of next Meeting

Monday 19th January 2004 commencing at 7.30 pm.