

- 25/26 /123 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth (in the Chair), Heale, Gowing, Vine and Welch.
- 25/26 /124 **ALSO PRESENT** - SCllr Munt and 5 members of the public.
- 25/26 /125 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - none received.
- 25/26 /126 **IN ATTENDANCE** - The Clerk to the Council.
- 25/26 /127 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATIONS REQUIRED** - Cllr Vine declared an interest in the Holy Well renovations as he is well acquainted with one of those invited to tender. Cllrs Charlesworth and Welch declared in interest in the Poldens Today project as they are both involved with it.
- 25/26 /128 **AGENDA** - noted that item 4 was covered last month and removed from the agenda.
- 25/26 /129 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - approved and signed.
- 25/26 /130 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - none.
- 25/26 /131 **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** - SCllr Munt provided a report outlining various matters including the Somerset Economic Prosperity Strategy; proposed changes to Sunday parking charges and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- 25/26 /132 **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCNS) AND ENHANCED HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE (EHM)** - Cllr Welch reported that the latest LCN meeting again failed to appoint a Chairman because of the lack of sufficient people present. Two people acting as co vice-chairs would undertake the chairmanship role until somebody could be appointed. She had attended the meeting remotely and the sound quality was extremely poor. Items covered included Step, Ride, Thrive; Health and Wellbeing; Highways (which she couldn't hear); Adult Social Care presentation; Somerset Rivers Authority; Live Local Emergency Plan; Community Action Plan Template and a possible free workshop.
- 25/26 /133 **BTMG (BRIAN TILBURY MEMORIAL GROUND ON THE NIDON)** - Cllr Vine reported that the grant application has been applied for and is awaiting resolution. The Parish Council will receive the grant money and Mr Kennedy will supply the wildflower seeds. The seeds should be sown in the loop which Cllr Heale had already cut. Cutting will need to take place 2 or 3 times per year at times appropriate to the wild flowerings. The Tods are doing well with sufficient good ones to replace any needing replacement. Cllr Heale will arrange the next cut which the Council will pay for. In future years the cutting will be shared on an equal basis with WCW.
- 25/26 /134 **AUTUMN CLEAN-OUT OF DITCHES** - Cllr Vine gave a report on behalf of the Willing Helpers. A map had been provided indicating where teams of Willing Helpers would be working. Photographs could be taken where necessary. Only small obstructions would be removed by the group. With regard to potential flooding and frequency of Highways drain clearing it was agreed that the Clerk should make a Freedom of Information request for matters relating to the drains in the village - the frequency schedule for each drain, date each drain was last cleared, full map of the system.
- 25/26 /135 **FLOODING** - Covered in previous item.
- 25/26 /136 **REMEMBRANCE SERVICE** - The Clerk passed this year's wreath to the Chairman. Following discussion it was agreed that in future years it will mostly be possible to reuse an old wreath as there is a supply of them. A donation would continue to be made to the Royal British Legion so that they still received the funds.
- 25/26 /137 **HIGHWAYS**
- a Speed Indicator Device (SID) - Cllr Charlesworth reported on a recent download of data. 21,832 approached from Chilton Polden; 21,505 seen leaving the device (others go down Broadmead Lane). 1,558 were over 35mph. Average speed 41mph.
 - b Chandlers Lane/Holywell Road bend - no update.
 - c Signs and white lining - no update.

- d Problems arising and any other highway matters - Broadmead Lane - 4 potholes marked for attention - work undertaken over three visits. Church Road trees - a member of the public has reported problems to Hi Line.

25/26 /138 **PLANNING -**

- a 26/25/00002 - Outline application - White House, Broadway - 1 detached dwelling house - Understood that the required bat survey has been completed but there is no update on the planning portal.
- b Pillar Barn - any updates - condition/listed status/planning applications - it was decided to leave this off the agenda for six months unless anything happens. Clerk not to pursue the Land Registry in the meantime.
- c Any other planning matters - The Clerk still has difficulty contacting the planning department as they have still not caught up with the backlog.

25/26 /139 **FOOTPATHS** - reports were received of gates being tied shut. It is believed that this is the work of the hunt. There is a young Aberdeen Angus bull in a field with a footpath through it. There are female cattle running with him but he is quite lively.

25/26 /140 **VILLAGE SIGN** - Cllr Vine has inspected the sign and reported that it can be re-installed and that a new one is not required.

25/26 /141 **NEWSLETTER** - Cllr Charlesworth provided copies of a draft of "It takes a village" for the first edition.

25/26 /142 **DEFIBRILLATOR/CRITICAL BLEED KIT - TRAINING** - this has been arranged. Cllr Charlesworth would send the Clerk a copy of the poster advertising it for use on the website. The defibrillator was used in Catcott and replacement pads and a replacement for the bag which got damaged have been ordered. It was agreed that a second set of replacement pads would be a good idea. The Clerk would find out what Catcott's view on this is.

25/26 /143 **HOLY WELL AND COMMEMORATIVE SEAT** - It was noted that an annual tree survey should be carried out. Cllr Vine volunteered to undertake this.

25/26 /144 **WEBSITE** - The .gov.uk website has been ordered. The clerk checked with councillors regarding their .gov.uk email addresses which she would now arrange.

25/26 /145 **ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BIN AND LITTER BIN HOLYWELL ROAD SOUTH** - The Clerk had written asking permission for these. It had been passed on to another department and she hadn't heard back yet.

25/26 /146 **SALC AGM AND CONFERENCE** - Friday 3rd October - the Clerk had sent a written report to all councillors of the workshops she had attended and other aspects of the event.

25/26 /147 **FINANCE**

- a Accounts check - the accounts were approved.
- b **PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth and Welch left the meeting.
- c To consider request from Poldens Today for grant funding and inclusion of Council's details - it was decided that more information is required before the Council commits to any expenditure. There is no problem regarding the use of the publicly available information regarding contacting the council, etc. It is hoped that a representative of Poldens Today will attend the next meeting to provide more information.
- d **PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth and Welch returned to the meeting.
- e Cheques for signature - were approved for signature as follows:- Chq.1085 Clerk (salary & expenses) £449.93; Chq.1086 (Heartsafe - defib replacements) £243.54.
- f Budget setting to get under way and Finance Working Party - The Working Party would meet again to look at the budget. Cllr Vine provided some sheets as did the Clerk.

- g Any other finance matters for information - the Clerk had gained some useful information from the Unity Trust Bank when she attended the Conference. She relayed this to the meeting but it was agreed that the current system was alright for the time being.

25/26 /148 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION** - none.

25/26 /149 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.

25/26 /150 **TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING FOR THE NEXT TWO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA** - This was passed unanimously with a day and date set for the following day at 12.30 at Cllr Gowing's house.

The meeting adjourned at 9.40pm

The meeting reconvened at 12.30 on 10th October 2025 at Cllr Gowing's house as agreed above.

25/26 /151 **PRESENT** Cllrs Charlesworth, Gowing, Welch and Heale. (Cllr Vine had declared an interest and was not present)

25/26 /152 **IN ATTENDANCE** - Clerk to the Council.

25/26 /153 **TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS ABOUT TO BE TRANSACTED** - This was passed unanimously.

25/26 /154 **TO CONSIDER TENDERS RECEIVED FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE HOLY WELL** - Four tenders had been received and copies were available for all those present. Two of them were quickly ruled out but there was considerable discussion regarding the remaining two. A decision was reached and the Clerk would contact our intermediary regarding the way forward. Cllr Charlesworth would investigate grant opportunities.

25/26 /155 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING(S)** - Garden Competition - Feb; Christmas Tree; Emergency Plan; Pillar Barn - April/May 2026 if not before.

25/26 /156 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Thursday 13th November at 7.30 in the Committee Room, Village Hall

The meeting closed at 13.00

Chairman Date