

- 25/26 /210 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth (in the Chair), Heale, Vine and Gowing.
- 25/26 /183 **ALSO PRESENT** - 2 members of the public and SCllr Munt.
- 25/26 /184 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - none received.
- 25/26 /185 **IN ATTENDANCE** - The Clerk to the Council.
- 25/26 /186 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATIONS REQUIRED** - none declared.
- 25/26 /187 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - approved and signed.
- 25/26 /188 **CASUAL VACANCY** - Everyone was sad to learn of the resignation from the Council of Julie Welch. The Council expressed its gratitude and thanks for her hard work on behalf of the village during her time in office.
- 25/26 /189 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - none.
- 25/26 /190 **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** - SCllr Munt reported on finance and funding including for severe weather. A council tax reduction would be available for some who no longer officially qualified because of changes to Government funding but would be badly disadvantaged. There was a brief discussion on electric vehicle charging points but it was agreed that the number of people who would benefit was so limited it would not justify the expense.
- 25/26 /191 **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCNS)** - A Health and Wellbeing group agenda had been received. Julie Welch used to attend these. It was agreed that a replacement would not be appointed but if something pertinent came up on an agenda then somebody could represent the Council.
- 25/26 /192 **HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP (HWG)** - next meeting 24th February. Venue to be confirmed.
- 25/26 /193 **NIDON LAND** - Some burning had been intended by a resident but this had been prevented because of the trees and they would inform others of this.
- 25/26 /194 **HIGHWAYS**
- a Chandlers Lane/Holywell Road bend - Cllr Charlesworth reported that the problem was now worse than ever with new holes appearing. She has sent a barrage of emails to the authorities connected with the problem.
 - b Speeding and SID - It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Highways and Police to meet us again to try and find a suitable site for the SID along Holywell Road North.
 - c Safety at Broadway/Holywell Road crossroads - Following three recent crashes at this site (since the start of December) it was agreed that the Clerk should again contact both Highways and Police to try and get a SID post or a warning sign or a mirror or something else agreed for this junction.
 - d Problems arising and any other highway matters - Correspondence explaining the methodology of the reporting system for faults had been forwarded to all councillor. Some councillors had received it and others hadn't. The Clerk would reset the send operation for councillors. It was noted that some Holywell Road gulleys had been sucked out today.
- 25/26 /195 **PLANNING** -
- a 26/23/00006 - Land East of Holywell Road - documents pertaining to this land were reported to the meeting including the covenants in the agreement to sell to the current owners. The fourth one stipulates - "... not to erect any building or structure on the property other than one single private residential dwelling with ancillary outbuildings".
 - b Any other planning matters - none.
- 25/26 /196 **FOOTPATHS** - Mr Olive reported that the tree has still not been dealt with. His offer to chase this up was gratefully accepted.
- 25/26 /197 **NEWSLETTER - "IT TAKES A VILLAGE"** - Cllr Vine requested the template for this from Cllr Charlesworth. He is working on the next edition which will include the precept.
- 25/26 /198 **DEFIBRILLATOR/CRITICAL BLEED KIT** - The Clerk reported that she had asked on the Somerset Clerk's support network if anybody had spare pads. The only response was from those who said they had the

same problem: Cllr Charlesworth has now found that the current defib is out of date and needs to be replaced in any case. It was suggested that if a replacement machine matched the CVA one then spare pads would be interchangeable. This would be investigated. The Clerk would find out if Catcott PC is happy to continue the arrangement of 50/50 share of all costs. Cllr Charlesworth would request a refund for the payment which was sent for the replacement pads which have never arrived.

- 25/26 /199 **HOLY WELL AND COMMEMORATIVE SEAT** - the first grant has now been applied for and others will follow.
- 25/26 /200 **ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BIN AND LITTER BIN HOLYWELL ROAD SOUTH** - the Clerk has not been able to look into this further so far but has not forgotten about it.
- 25/26 /201 **FUTURE PROOFING GROUP** - this group will be meeting on 29th January.
- 25/26 /202 **FINANCE**
- a Accounts check - the accounts and statements to date were approved.
 - b Cheques for signature - were approved for signature as follows:- Chq.1093 Village Hall (room hire) £49.50; Chq.1094 SLCC (½ sub) £100.00; Chq.1095 Clerk (salary and expenses) £447.58.
 - c Transfer of funds to and from earmarked reserves - This is only necessary between earmarked funds. No transfers were necessary.
 - d Set precept for 2026-2027 - With the figures available it was agreed that the precept had to include the whole cost of the HolyWell renovation in case we were extremely unlucky and failed to get any grants. The Council cannot run out of money. There was very considerable serious discussion regarding various aspects but Cllr Vine proposed a precept £34,900, seconded by Cllr Charlesworth and carried. Cllr Vine would explain the reasoning for the high cost in the next newsletter and assure villagers that should the hoped for grants materialise then the precept will be dramatically reduced the following year depending on the grants received.
 - e Any other finance matters for information - none.
- 25/26 /203 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION** - C&CD; Plugged In (Hinkley newsletter), Social Care booklets (Cllr Vine said that Gwilliams would take some for the public; Training (Cllr Vine - Chairmanship on 14th Feb) (Chair and/or Clerk - Web Accessibility on 12th Feb)
- 25/26 /204 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.
- 25/26 /205 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS** - Feb - garden competition; Village Cleanup; Finger post restoration; Mar - NALC Standing Orders update; NALC Financial Regulations update.
- 25/26 /206 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Thursday 12th February 2026 at 7.30 in the Committee Room, Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15