

- 25/26 /235 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Charlesworth (in the Chair), Heale, Gowing and Vine.
- 25/26 /236 **ALSO PRESENT** - SCllr Munt and 17 members of the public.
- 25/26 /237 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - none received.
- 25/26 /238 **IN ATTENDANCE** - The Clerk to the Council.
- 25/26 /239 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATIONS REQUIRED** - Cllr Charlesworth had submitted a written request for a dispensation on planning at land east of the Holy well. The Clerk had granted dispensation to speak but not to vote. Cllr Charlesworth would need to leave the room when voting was discussed and decided.
- 25/26 /240 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - approved and signed.
- 25/26 /241 **CASUAL VACANCY** - The Chair asked for nominations. Only one nomination was received. Cllr Vine nominated Andrew Fletcher. Seconded by Cllr Heale. Carried unanimously. Cllr Fletcher joined the Council table and signed his declaration of acceptance of office witnessed by the Clerk.
- 25/26 /242 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - Flooding - It was agreed that an emergency plan should be set up. A working party including all councillors would look into this and report back to a future meeting with suggestions and recommendations.
- 25/26 /243 **SOMERSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** - SCllr Munt told us that £5m was to be spent over the next three years to improve infrastructure for cycles etc. Somerset Council has recently won two awards for improvements. A balanced budget has been set and the deficit has been reduced from £101m to £25m this year.
- 25/26 /244 **LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCNS)** - no update.
- 25/26 /245 **HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP (HWG)** - next meeting - 16<sup>th</sup> March online at 10.00am.
- 25/26 /246 **NIDON LAND** - no update. Too wet to do anything.
- 25/26 /247 **DEFIBRILLATORS** - The Clerk confirmed that Catcott was willing to continue to pay half the costs of a defibrillator at the Hall. It is preferable that this matches the one in Catcott to enable transfer of spares if necessary. Cllr Vine reported on some grants and assistance available for the purchase of defibrillators which she will continue to investigate.
- 25/26 /248 **GARDEN CHALLENGE (COMPETITION)** - to be termed the Garden Challenge from now on. Two categories - baskets/tubs to be visible from the roadside; Sunflowers the position to be known by the judges.
- 25/26 /249 **SALC QUESTIONNAIRE RE UNITARY AUTHORITY** - Agreed not to complete.
- 25/26 /250 **WESSEX WATER PUMPING STATION** - Agreed that this is not acceptable as it cannot cope with the quantities of waste currently sent to it. Clerk to write to Wessex Water. Cllr Fletcher offered to monitor the situation and to liaise with personnel on site when required.
- 25/26 /251 **NIDON BRIDGE SLUICE KEY** - Not available for individuals as the water flow affects properties in other areas.
- 25/26 /252 **HIGHWAYS**
- a Chandlers Lane/Holywell Road bend and proposed walkabout - on-going.
  - b Speeding and SID data - no update.
  - c Safety at the Broadway/Holywell Road crossroads - Highways have confirmed that there is a collapse under the road from Belmont Cottage. This is Highways responsibility and they will deal with it in the next financial year.
  - d Road closure - Burtle Road (Catcott) - and another at Chilton Polden Hill were noted.
  - e Problems arising and any other highway matters - the state of Broadmead Lane between Broadmead Farm and the Pumping Station is extremely poor and needs serious work.
- 25/26 /253 **PLANNING** -

Chairman .....

Date .....

- a Land East of Holywell Road - 26/26/00001 - Cllr Charlesworth has an interest with a dispensation. She remained in the room for discussion but left the room for the debate and decision making. This needs an ecological report. The original findings from the previous applications have not been addressed. The safety of the entrance is in doubt. There may be archaeological remains. Verification of other matters was also missing. It was agreed to object to this application primarily based on the written notes available to councillors.
- b Any other planning matters -
- i. 26/25/00002 - The Clerk reported that the applicant had spoken to the Clerk on the phone to apologise for her agent's actions in quoting from the Council's response. This was removed from the advertisement as soon as the applicant became aware of the problem.
  - ii. 26/26/00002 - erection of 2 storey extension at rear, first floor side extension, rear dormer window and car port at Vicarage Cottage, Holywell Road - The Clerk reported that the closing date for comments is the date of the next Council meeting. She would apply for an extension.
- 25/26 /254 **FOOTPATHS** - as the householder would be forced to undertake the necessary work to the tree because Somerset Council refused to do so the Clerk would write to Somerset Council stating that Somerset would be considered liable should any damage occur to the property or residents.
- 25/26 /255 **NEWSLETTER "IT TAKES A VILLAGE"** - this is due out any day together with the details of the litter pick and the Garden Challenge.
- 25/26 /256 **VILLAGE CLEANUP** - scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> March. Probably based at the Village Hall.
- 25/26 /257 **HOLY WELL AND COMMEMORATIVE SEAT** - Our agent had met with the Stonemasons. She was not optimistic about the Lottery Heritage Grant as it would probably be felt that it was not diverse enough. She could be on site to manage and photograph progress on a daily basis. Work likely to start mid to end of May. There would be staged payments with a 2½% retention for two months. Electricity and water would be required. Grass would need cutting at the beginning of May which the Clerk would arrange with Stepping Out. It was unanimously agreed that our agent be officially appointed to cover all aspects of the work at a one off cost of £200.
- 25/26 /258 **BINS - ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BIN AT BUS SHELTER AND WASTE BIN HOLYWELL ROAD SOUTH** - the Clerk said she should soon be able to sort out the large dog bin at the bus shelter. It was noted that the litter bin had now lost its lid and a new bin with a lid would be ordered for the site as well.
- 25/26 /259 **FUTURE PROOFING GROUP** - no update.
- 25/26 /260 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** - it was agreed to invite the Wessex Water Outreach Coordinator.
- 25/26 /261 **FINANCE**
- a Accounts check - accounts and statements had been circulated to all councillors. Accounts were approved.
  - b Cheques for signature - were approved as follows:- Chq.1097 Clerk (paper for newsletter) £31.74; Chq.1098 Clerk (salary and expenses) £464.58; Chq.1099 Information Commissioner (data protection) £52.00; Chq.1100 S Charlesworth (Christmas tree lighting items) £55.08.
  - c Budget for 2027-2028 - Postponed.
  - d Any other finance matters for information - none.
- 25/26 /262 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION** - C&CD
- 25/26 /263 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.
- 25/26 /264 **ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING(S)** - Several policies/documents needing updating; bank changes.
- 25/26 /265 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30 in the Committee Room at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.10

Chairman .....

Date .....