



# Cannington Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Cannington Parish Council held at  
**7.00pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in Cannington Village Hall**

## **MINUTES DRAFT**

### **Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** John Addison, Carole Taylor, Shaun Ryall, Colin Allen, Steve Pettitt, Shaun Ryall and Jack Popham  
**Chair:** Ian Dyer  
**County Councillor:** Brian Bolt and Mike Caswell  
**Clerk:** In the absence of the Clerk  
**Members of Public:** 13

### **01/09/23 Declaration of Members' Interests**

Cllr Jack Popham declared an interest regarding in a planning matter raised in the public session and left the meeting when this item was discussed

### **Public Session**

Items raised in the public session included:

- A member of the public who was present at the previous evening's presentation evening thanked the Council for a lovely evening.
- SID – it was acknowledged that the computer download was now possible
- SID – it was suggested that the indicator did not show the actual speed, but a frowning face or slow down as some drivers may be trying to get as high speed as possible when passing the indicator as a competition. It was agreed to investigate what is possible for the display.
- The demolishing of the Crockers glass houses by Bridgwater College was questioned. The Vice Chair explained that they had reached the end of their economic life and would be replaced. The last repairs had been made in 1990's. A member of the public confirmed and said that a replacement poly tunnel had been installed.
- A member of the public thanked the Council for adding the subject of a new village hall to the agenda,
- A member of the public raised several issues about the land off Marsh Lane and Gurney Street which they were concerned were linked.

*Cllr Jack Popham left the meeting*

- Work had started on the shed extension already, but no planning notices had been seen. Cllr Pettit explained that this was possible as the Planning Officer had decided that Planning Permission was not required for this build. Therefore, no Planning Application had been made and so public notices were not needed.
- The removal of the hedge and replacement with a wall and wider access splay to the land where the housing application had been refused concerned the residents of that area as this was one of the reasons for refusal. This work had been done without the knowledge of the council. Was it to facilitate access to the shed extension from Gurney Street rather than Marsh Lane? The Chair explained that these projects were not connected, but activity on the Gurney Street site had been noted.

*Cllr Jack Popham returned to the meeting*

- The resident of 7 Crabtree Park explained that the Planning Officer had visited her and made recommendations to the work completed on her home subject to the retrospective planning application. She stated that she is happy to adjust the rear decking area in line with their comments.
- Concern was raised about the moving of PCSO Jason and asked if a replacement would be made. The Chair explained that no further information had been received.

### **Council Session**

#### **02/09/23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Lisa Evans – congratulations were due on the recent birth of her baby daughter

#### **03/09/23 Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved.

As the majority of the members of the public had come to discuss agenda item 10/09/23 Item 1 regarding a request for a new village hall, the Chairman agreed to bring the item forward and allowed members of the public to speak.

#### **10/09/23 Correspondence and matters to discuss**

It should be noted that 3 members of the current Village Hall Committee were present.

The following points were made by members of the public:

- What is wrong with the current Village Hall?
- The Village Hall Chair explained that the hall was donated in 1928 and was a charity run by volunteers some of whom, like herself, being trustees as well. Under the terms of the trust the hall cannot be sold to fund a new hall.
- An administrator of a Cannington Facebook page explained why the supporter's post including a copy of the letter to the Parish Council on this matter was removed after 30 minutes. It had generated a variety of responses, including

- from the tenant of the Village Hall house who was concerned for her home.
- The Village Hall Chair confirmed that the tenant was upset and she had visited to explain that her home was not about to have its tenancy ended.
- Parking was available at the school on request. This was to be investigated further with the school so it could be used more frequently.
- The URC has a hall that is used by a variety of groups so any new facility could affect them.
- The current hall has all the necessary facilities, but could be better used by the community.
- The proposer of the new hall admitted that they had not known about the status of the current village hall being in trust and said that they had only been making suggestions, not wishing to cause upset to the tenant.
- The existing hall committee explained that although work had been done to update the hall kitchens, toilets, solar panel installation in recent times, further improvements were being considered by the committee.
- Many new village halls had been built on the site of original facilities which meant that the land and services were already available.

Councillors made the following points:

- Cllr Carole Taylor - Funding for the kitchen, toilets and solar panels was from HPC, therefore would they give more money towards a new facility?
- Cllr Mike Andison – If outdoor space was required by the community, then better use of the playing field could be made. The addition of the pump track might attract more users of the site allowing more facilities.
- Cllr Mike Andison – agreed that the school should be approached to ask for more use of the parking facilities.
- Cllr Popham – stated that whilst in favour in principle of a new facility he could not see a suitable site at the current time.
- Chairman Ian Dyer explained the funding and challenges faced by Wembdon and Stockmoor community facilities.
- It was unanimously agreed that a new Village Hall was not feasible at the present time. If at a point in the future land was made available then the situation would be revisited.

**04/09/23 Matters Arising** not covered by separate agenda item

There were no matters arising not covered by a separate agenda item.

**05/09/23 Planning matters**

**New planning**

1. **13/23/00010** – Erection of detached annex to south of property at 40 East Street. *(As this application fell outside our meetings it was posted on the notice boards and website for comments. Councillors agreed by email to support this application.)* **Permission granted**
2. **13/23/00013** – Retrospective application for the erection of access steps and raised decking to the South and West elevations at 7 Crabtrees Caravan Park. Cllr Steve Pettitt proposed to support this application. This was seconded By Cllr Mike Andison and agreed unanimously.
3. **13/23/00018** – Listed building application for replacement of 2 windows and repairs to a further 2 windows on the North elevation at Cannington Court. Cllr Steve Pettitt proposed to support this application. This was seconded By Cllr Shaun Ryall and agreed unanimously.
4. **13/23/00019** – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed extension of an agricultural building at Marsh Farm. Formal application not required.

**Planning decided**

1. **13/23/00009** – Erection of 2 storey side extension to form annex at 20 Lonsdale Road. **Permission granted**  
Cllr Allen raised that the planning officer had referred to 2 other similar extensions in the area being in place which negated the Councils refusal based on over development, asking that consideration of similar buildings is looked for in future.
2. **13/23/00011** – Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 5 dwelling houses and associated operational development at Chilton Trivett Farm, Blackmore Lane (for information only) **Prior approval refused**

Cllr Andison raised the recent activity in the area of Chads Hill, but there is not a planning application to consider

**06/010/23 Reports (as applicable)**

1. Highways and Parking Issues
  - The Chair explained the recent correspondence with Punch Taverns regarding Kings Head car park. This matter was still on their agenda. The Chair will remain in contact, particularly as the current leaseholder may not remain long term and the H&S concerns relating to the stability of the old building. Cllr Allen raised a concern that 3 of the 4 village pubs could have their leases put up for renewal over the next year.
  - Application made for 20 mph community scheme – and a £500 deposit paid
  - Cllr Caswell raised that in addition to the 40mph change being suggested for the A39 from Cannington past Swang Farm that there were suggestions from the County Council to reduce the 40mph to a 30mph limit approaching The Cottage Inn.
2. Footpaths
  - Clifford Park had been cleared by the Community Payback Team
  - Cllr Colin Allen raised the condition of the path from Southbrook to the Weir. Cllr Shaun Ryall will look at clearing the brambles etc
3. Speed Indicator Device
  - The downloading finally made possible had been raised in the public session.
  - Cllr Ryall handed round the results of the measuring of vehicle numbers and speeds from Rodway before and after the installation of the enhanced speed humps.
4. Defibrillator
  - Training took place on 4<sup>th</sup> September and although only attended by 7 people, there were positive responses. Cllrs Ryall and Taylor commented on the FB posts about not knowing it was taking place. What more could have been done in addition to FB posts, posters? The Chair agreed that another training session in the spring will be looked at.

5. Village Maintenance
  - Wildflower meadow in Otters Brook  
Cllr Addison explained his investigations into this:
    - a) The cost varies greatly for seed from different suppliers and the type used. He had found the best supplier option and suggested that a mix including grass would be best.
    - b) Timing is important as some of the seeds are best in warmer weather
    - c) Costs could be controlled if Cllr Addison and his students did the planting.
    - d) Cllr Dyer explained that he is running a similar trial in his orchard so could provide extra feedback before extending any wilding.
    - e) Cllr Allen commented that the old wild area needed attention. This will be done. Cllr Allen also stated that the long grass outside his home, left by the council longer before cutting had become heavily littered with dog poo so this could be a problem.
    - f) Cllr Taylor suggested that the public are made aware of the plans before the work starts – Target article as well as information boards already suggested.
    - g) Cllr Addison commented that this would take at least 2 years before it looked “nice”.
6. Transport Forum meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and attended by Cllr John Addison and reported the following points of interest
  - 50 motorbikes are allowed at the HPC site. After recent accidents new guidance is to be issued to those members of staff.
  - Unregistered cars are a problem if fly parked
  - 28 breaches of policy including HGV deviations
  - 3 people suspended for traffic/parking offences
  - Loads of over 7.5m need police escort. Less than 7.5m can be escorted by HPC teams.
7. HPC – Dutch delegation visit 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Nuclear Power Station will be built on old industrial site with road and rail link so negating several issues with HPC. Cllr Caswell made the Council aware that a delegation from Sizewell PC would be fact finding on this area on 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October. A local and Parish councillor would be invited to join them.
8. Cannington celebration and presentation evening held on 11<sup>th</sup> September – Those that attended the evening had an enjoyable time and it was a great opportunity to thank those individuals and organisations who support the work of Cannington in Bloom.  
The Chair informed the Council that Cllr and Mrs Pettitt would be receiving a Somerset County Council Chairmans Award on behalf of Cannington in Bloom in recognition of the group’s community work.

#### **07/09/23 Neighbourhood Plan**

The work was complete except for that required from Somerset Council. This has been chased by the Chair and will continue to be until the final report is received. The Parish Council cannot progress until the necessary information has been supplied

#### **08/09/23 Capital/CIM fund projects**

1. Footbridge between Otters Brook and the play area
  - Ecological survey has been completed, but we are waiting for the report.
  - Plan of proposed bridge received.
  - Once the ecology report is received the requests to the EA can be made
2. Pump track
  - Outline plan received for the alterations to the playing field car park.
  - These were reviewed by the Council and found to be incorrect. A road is not required to the pump track, but a footpath. Cllr Ryall added that this should be accessible for wheelchair and mobility scooter uses.
  - The removed trees should be offset showing the planned planting around the edge of the footpath. It was agreed to investigate the costs of planting these trees now.
  - There needs to be increased parking now. Cllrs Allen and Popham confirmed that parking on the playing field should not be allowed by EDF even if on netting. It was agreed to dig out some of the slope edges at the bottom of the parking area to make a steeper edge, move the Scout container to the space by the garage as planned and add more chippings to that area. The container would benefit from being painted.

#### **09/09/23 Financial Matters**

1. **The Payments** - The following were approved for payment

Name of Payee	Description of cheque	Cheque	Amount
<b>Additional payments made since the last meeting: -</b>			
Cannington Village Hall	Hire of Parish Community Room (£230.00) and Council monthly meeting (£20.00) August 2023	S/O	<b>£250.00</b>
Heart Internet	Exchange mailbox August 2023	DD	<b>£12.00</b>
BT	Phone & broadband services August 2023	DD	<b>£62.27</b>
Somerset Council	Annual rates for Rodway Playing Field pavilion	Tfer	<b>£494.01</b>
Inst of Cemetery & Crematorium Mgt	ICCM annual membership	Tfer	<b>£95.00</b>
EDF	Electricity for pavilion May to July	Tfer	<b>£127.89</b>
Chris Kemmish	IT support for downloading SID data	Tfer	<b>£52.50</b>
Blackmore Farm	8 x watering (July)	Tfer	<b>£384.00</b>
Aly Prowse	Clerk’s Salary (July)	Tfer	<b>£424.04</b>
Tina Gardener	Clerk’s salary (July)	Tfer	<b>£1177.35</b>
EDF	Electricity supply to Jubilee Gardens	Tfer	<b>£200.69</b>
South West Ambulance	1yr extension for High Street defibrillator	Tfer	<b>£540.00</b>
Exturniture	Paint for Brook Street bus shelter	Tfer	<b>£177.31</b>
Chris Kemmish	IT services for downloading SID data	Tfer	<b>£70.00</b>

RT signs	Plaque for WI tree	Tfer	<b>£34.20</b>
Greenslades Grounds Maintenance	Maintenance for July £1,871.10, Roundabouts £264.00	Tfer	<b>£2135.10</b>
Cockwood Fabrication Ltd	Drawing of proposed footbridge at Otters Brook	Tfer	<b>£600.00</b>
Blackmore Farm	8 x watering (August)	Tfer	<b>£384.00</b>
SALC	Chairman's training	Tfer	<b>£30.00</b>
Cannington Village Hall	Hire of Parish Community Room (£230.00) and Council monthly meeting (£20.00) September 2023	SO	<b>£250.00</b>
Heart Internet	Exchange mailbox September 2023	DD	<b>£12.00</b>
BT	Phone & Broadband charges September	DD	<b>£61.56</b>
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External audit fees for 2022/23	Tfer	<b>£756.00</b>
Somerset Council	Deposit for community funded 20mph scheme	Tfer	<b>£500.00</b>
Quantock Ecology	Ecology report for the brook	Tfer	<b>£478.80</b>
Aly Prowse	Clerk's salary (August)	Tfer	<b>£424.04</b>
Tina Gardener	Clerk's salary (August)	Tfer	<b>£1,177.15</b>

2. **The accounts for July and August 2023** were previously circulated to Councillors and were agreed as a true record. The balance at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 was £434,586.34 including reserves of £380,518.93

**3. Audit for 2022/23**

- ◆ The External audit has been completed and there were no matters to report
- ◆ The end of audit notice has been issued and published on website and notice boards

**10/09/23 Correspondence and matters to discuss**

1. A request has been received for a new village hall
  - Dealt with in earlier session
2. Somerset Council – roundabout advertising scheme
  - PC were against this proposal but have been over ruled
3. Somerset Council – Creating places for people consultation
  - Chair asked all councillors to read this document
4. Somerset Council – Gambling policy consultation
  - Chair asked all councillors to read this document
5. PCSO Jason Wyatt – moving to East Somerset
  - Raised in public session. Chair is disappointed that local knowledge built up by the current PCSO will be lost and hopes that there will be a replacement soon and that this is not a temporary move like the last time we lost our PCSO.
6. North Petherton Carnival would like to borrow our tower lights. For goodwill this request was approved. There is a village connection via their secretary and the organisation has the necessary insurance.

**11/09/23 Posts of Responsibility – reports where applicable**

- a. Allotments –Deputy Clerk.
  - Following an allotment inspection, a number of allotment holders were sent letters to improve their plott.
- b. Brook – Cllr Ian Dyer
  - Brook clearance – once the ecology report has been received this can be progressed with Environment Agency
  - Concerns raised about the brook near Gurney Mill – this has been raised by Chairman Ian Dyer and is being considered by Landmark Trust
- c. Bus Partnership – Cllr Jack Popham – could not attend the last meeting
- d. Cannington in Bloom – Clerk and Cllr Steve Pettitt
  - The results for this year's South West in Bloom competition will be announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.
  - Cllr Pettitt raised the weed growth in the village and asked when the spraying is likely to be done again.
- e. Cemetery – Deputy Clerk and Cllrs Ian Dyer and Mike Andison
  - It was noted that the hedge needs cutting
  - The Kelland's family grave is currently roped off as unsafe, attempts are being made to find family members. It needs to be fenced off and a 6 month notice given before the monument is laid down.
- f. College – Chairman Ian Dyer- no meeting, but the Council raised the following points:
  - The tall trees which the residents are unhappy with has been raised, but will be mentioned again
  - The weeding of the walls surrounding the Walled Gardens is on the list for action, but won't be done until sufficient funds are available. The Chair will remind the college of the Health & Safety issues that the wall has.
- g. Jubilee Gardens– Cllr John Addison – nothing to report
- h. Playing fields/amenities – Cllrs Jack Popham and Lisa Evans
  - Cllr Popham reported that the hole in the soffit hasn't been fixed.
  - There was a question about what football may be played there this season.
- i. Village Hall – Cllr Kym Wardhaugh – not present
- j. Youth – Cllrs Kym Wardhaugh and Lisa Evans – not present
  - Cllr Taylor confirmed that the new Cubs is now up and running, but Beavers on its last chance.
  - Cllr Taylor suggested that the village items stored in the container (on the playing field) such as the skittle equipment are confirmed with the new group as belonging to the village, and not scouts when she meets the group leaders and suggests that their storage is in lieu of permission to site the container.

**12/09/23 Matters of Report**

1. LCN meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – Chairman Ian Dyer will attend.
2. HPC Community Forum to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023 – Cllrs Steve Pettitt and Shaun Ryall will attend
3. Remembrance Service to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> November – The Road closure is in place and Bridgwater Carnival Committee has confirmed their attendance. The Bugler had also been confirmed. Cllr Taylor confirmed that a wreath was available (Mr Taylor having taken over the village poppy selling)

**13/09/23 Items for the next meeting**

Cannington Christmas – Chair to check availability with Kate Slade, but suggested a meeting like last year be organised to form a group that will organise the event.

**14/09/23 Date and Time of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
Cllr Andison gave his apologies in advance

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed..... Date.....