

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7.30 pm in Enmore Memorial Hall

Attendance: Cllr. Hopkins, Cllr Comley, Cllr Hucker, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Fergusson,
Cllr A. Hubbard (Footpaths Officer), Cllr Caswell, Clerk: D. McIlroy,
RFO: A. Stoye, Mrs D. Hopkins

1. There were no apologies
2. There were no Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items.
3. There were no Public Comments on Agenda Items and Questions on matters of concern.
4. The Minutes of Parish Council meeting, held on 2 May 2023, were approved and duly signed.
5. Actions arising from minutes of previous meeting:
 - 5.1 Cemetery update

Cllr Jackson, Cllr Hucker and A. Stoye are to meet with Iain Poulter (AONB) and their funding manager to discuss possible grants towards work on the car park area of the cemetery. They will also look at other possible funding eg- towards planting costs etc.

Cllr Comley raised a point that if permission was granted for change of use to a cemetery at what point can it not be used for social events such as BBQs (as it was in Jubilee celebrations).

Cllr Hopkins stated that at present there is still room in the churchyard for burials (currently at the rate of one or two a year) and that, when it is full, it will become closed. Cllr Caswell remarked that, on its closure for new burials, churchyard maintenance is usually passed to the Parish Council (via land registry).

In order to comply with the planning permission, it was resolved that more background information was needed with regard to when the land becomes an official cemetery and any restrictions on its use for any other purposes.

ACTION: D. McIlroy will contact planning department at Somerset Council for more information.
 - 5.2 Speed management update

D. McIlroy read a report she had received from Katherine Tyson (Highways) about the progress of requested speed changes through Enmore (report available). In brief, the TRO must be sent for a statutory 21 day public consultation and at present there is a delay for advertising of at least 3 months. However, the Parish Council will receive final proposed plans and costings. Ms Tyson further advised that from conception to delivery usually takes 9-12 months.

Enmore's PCSO Jason Wyatt expressed his support for the requested speed changes at an informal meeting with two of the councillors.

Cllrs Caswell and Bolt were surprised to learn that the Parish Council would have to fund new road signage as they were under the impression that this was under the jurisdiction of Somerset County Highways department. They both promised to investigate this issue with Highways. They also mentioned a government Green Paper proposing that all roads in built up areas would be subject to a 20mph limit, but this was thought unlikely to apply to Enmore.

5.3 SID update

Cllr Comley has been informed that there will be a stronger pole at Stone Hall sometime this year so he will continue to change the battery in this SID until then.

He has spoken to Dan Cox and suggested suitable times for the use of a mobile speed camera to monitor speeds through the village. The busiest periods are 7-9 am and 4-6 pm but very few speeds are noted over 50 mph during these periods. He is also to look at those drivers leaving the village and increasing speed as they do so.

Cllr Comley also expressed concern as to how to stop hedge vegetation from blocking Wi-fi route to the SIDs. Cllr Hucker recently trimmed the hedges around them and is quite happy to continue to do.

5.4 Broadband update

Cllr Comley provided an update, based on an email he had received from Openreach CEO Clive Selley (report available). Openreach is expected to offer high speeds to Lower Enmore only by the end of July. Those who received email confirmation should contact their provider to arrange final connection.

However, Openreach will not provide the same cover for Upper Enmore (who are with the Spaxton exchange). This will be supplied by Airband and their proposed completion date is still Autumn 2024. Airband are a provider as well as owner of the hardware so the connection should be seamless. They have promised to keep Cllr Comley updated.

Cllr Caswell serves on the Connecting Devon and Somerset committee (CDS) and remarked that Openreach will connect full fibre to the box, but there also needs to be full fibre to the premises to achieve full benefit of the upgrade. He suggested registering for a voucher (funded by the Government) on the CDS website which would help towards the cost of providing full fibre to the property.

ACTION: Cllr Comley will check with Openreach to ascertain if they will provide full fibre to properties.

5.5 Wilding Update

Cllr Jackson reported on the first meeting of those interested in 'Wilding Enmore'.

Those present were split into 4 teams with a 'leader'. Four areas were noted as potential wilding sites: the churchyard, residents' gardens, the civil cemetery and hedgerows/ verges. Each group will meet separately to initiate their own plan and then meet up again in October for a progress update.

Cllr Comley asked if the Wilding plan was a Parish Council or a personal initiative as he was unaware that there had been a discussion on it. It was decided that the Wilding initiative should appear as an item on the next meeting's agenda for discussion with a vote for a resolution.

6. Finance

A. Stoye (RFO) had sent a finance update prior to the meeting (report available). Since providing her year-to-date figures a further £22.34 interest had been credited to the account. There had been little change in the financial position over the two months since the last meeting: an invoice for SID pole had been received and paid but this was only for one pole. (Another invoice is expected and will be paid when received.) Two further months of Clerk's pay and tax deductions had been paid, and included in the figures provided.

A. Stoye requested authorisation for payment of £10 to D. McIlroy for the annual renewal of the Parish Council website domain name and for her to be reimbursed by £158.40 for the annual fee for the WIX website software/platform (payment for which has to be made by debit or credit card). This figure includes £26.40 VAT which will be reclaimed by the Parish Council. Both these payments were authorised by the Parish Council.

The process of adding Cllr Comley as a cheque signatory and removing former councillor Mr. D. Cole has been started.

7. Planning applications

At the time of the meeting the Council had not been informed of any new planning applications.

8. Issues with highways

8.1 Flooding Enmore Road

Cllr Hubbard reported that she had been informed that the gullies affecting properties near The Tynte Arms had been cleared but that no remedial work appears to have been done along the Enmore Road, in particular to the front and side of her house. It was requested that an update be obtained from Highways. **ACTION:** D. McIlroy to email L. Hackling for a further update and notification of completed works.

8.2 Signpost outside Castle House

Cllr Hopkins reported the poor state of repair of the signpost outside his property. Mr J Nicholson had volunteered to repair/repaint the post. However, Cllr Caswell reported that as the signpost is officially belonging to Somerset Council only persons who are licenced by them should carry out such repairs. There is a possibility that Iain Poulter (AONB) may be able to assist. Cllr Jackson will ask at the following day's meeting.

8.3 Road surface in Church Road

As a result of the flooding issue in Church Road (now resolved) the surface of the road has deteriorated and is in desperate need of repair in relation to the whole road surface, not just potholes. Cllr Bolt suggested using the 'Fix my street' app to notify Somerset Council rather than online notification. **ACTION:** D McIlroy to investigate and report the problem.

9. Report on Neighbourhood watch

Cllr Fergusson reported on his meeting with PCSO Wyatt and also conversations with S. Faux and L. Hex (both of whom have working knowledge of the police force) regarding the lack of Neighbourhood Watch in the area and whether Enmore would benefit from becoming an official member of the scheme. Cllr Fergusson has signed himself up as a member. The Parish Council discussed the merits of the scheme, following which Cllr Fergusson proposed that the Parish Council formally adopt the scheme. This was seconded by Cllr Hubbard and agreed nem con. **ACTION:** Cllr Fergusson to proceed with next steps.

Cllr Fergusson then also discussed the idea of a database of contact numbers/email addresses of Enmore residents as a means of disseminating vital information, alerts and events etc to them. As a first step he wished to send out a questionnaire asking residents whether they would like a scheme. This was approved by the Parish Council and it is to be added as a flyer to the next Enmore & Goathurst magazine for Enmore residents only.

ACTION: D. McIlroy to liaise with Cllr Fergusson and notify magazine chair/editor.

10. LCN update

Both Cllr Hubbard's notes and the official minutes from the first LCN meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Caswell is the chairman for the Dowsborough LCN for this year. At present there is no vice chair.

Cllr Caswell reiterated that the LCN is the network for parishes in our locality and, as chairman, he will ensure that local issues are brought to the attention of Somerset Council. At present planning is not in the remit of LCN but Hinkley Point is the exception. No date/location as yet has been given for the next meeting.

11. Report from Somerset Bus Partnership and Footpaths Officer

The Reports had been circulated prior to the parish meeting. Cllr Hubbard updated her Footpaths Report and reported that Sue Coman, Rights of Way Officer (Definitive Map) is investigating Footpath BW:15/4 (the Gully perhaps) on the Enmore Park Golf Course to see if there was a deviation of the Path at the time the Club House was built, as claimed by the Golf Club Chair, and also to see if the Gully is part of the ancient Packway. Sue Coman will be conferring with Sarah Cresswell, Rights of Way Area Warden Somerset Council, before commencement of her investigation.

12. Parish Council procedures

Following D. McIlroy's email to SALC and their subsequent clear response regarding holding emergency meetings, no further discussion was deemed to be necessary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday September 5th 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Signed:Date:
Chairman of Council