

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

held on

TUESDAY 31st MAY 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN ENMORE CHURCH.

Attendance: Cllr Cole, Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Hucker, Cllr Comley, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Nicholson.

Clerk D. McIlroy

Present: A. Stoye

1. No apologies.
2. No Declaration of Interests on agenda.
3. No Public Comments from agenda.
4. Minutes of last meeting and Village Assembly approved (incorporating amendments requested by A Stoye) agreed and duly signed.

A discussion took place regarding the technical issues and content of the current website, which did not fully satisfy the requirements of the transparency code, and which needed to be overhauled and updated as a matter of urgency. It was agreed to obtain a quotation from Teresa Davies for building an updated and easy-to-use website. A Stoye noted that she had not yet submitted the Annual Return forms, including the agreed Exemption from External Audit, as she hoped that the website would be compliant before the end June submission deadline.

D. McIlroy to organise this and liaise with Parish Council.

5. Finance

Bank Mandate

A Stoye explained that we are still waiting for the bank mandate changes to be processed.

When it has been, there will be 3 signatories (two are needed to sign any cheque or instruction) plus C Sidaway, who will then be removed as a signatory. Hopefully we can then proceed to at least view-only online access to enable better monitoring of the Council's finances rather than being dependent on monthly paper statements.

Approval of payments

These minutes record that it was decided to hire portaloos for the Jubilee celebrations, that this expenditure was authorised at the January 2022 meeting but not minuted at the time. Cllr Nicholson placed the order on behalf of the Parish Council and paid for them. He has since been reimbursed. There are still unpaid invoices for the hire of Enmore Memorial Hall for meetings last year as well as training sessions for Cllr Jackson. D. McIlroy and A. Stoye. There is also an outstanding invoice for Councillor Guides and D. McIlroy currently has 3 months' pay outstanding.

A. Stoye will chase NatWest again re mandate. Council authorised the payment of these invoices when the mandate change makes this possible. Jackie (Small Business Assistant) will undertake payroll so that the Council is fully compliant with PAYE and NI requirements going forward.

A discussion also took place regarding the possible repayment of the remainder of the loan for cemetery. The outstanding capital to be repaid stands at £5670 but in addition to the capital repayment there would be a charge, currently equivalent to 3-4 years' interest payments, for early repayment. A Stoye had obtained an official quotation of the repayment terms currently applicable (these vary from day to day according to a complicated published formula) and would be able to provide updated estimates on request using this formula. There are several factors to consider before making a decision on possible repayment and it was decided that more time, research and reflection were needed. This issue will be reviewed at a future meeting.

There had been no further financial transactions since the report given at the previous week's meeting.

6. Cemetery. Planning approval has been granted by Sedgemoor for planting and parking.
Cllrs Cole & Hucker will look at plans and obtain quotes for various surfaces for the carpark.

Cllr Jackson questioned whether there would be any grants available from Sedgemoor for using a 'Green approach' for the car park arrangements and alternative uses for the land until it was needed for burials.

Cllr Jackson undertook to investigate possible grants towards such work.

A discussion took place regarding the use of the land. The possibility of a playground/picnic area/ used for the Village fete etc was mooted. To be discussed at next meeting.

7. Speed Control measures through Enmore. Cllr Comley explained financial implication of figures for the scheme. SIDs £5700 excluding VAT (it was thought that there was a high likelihood of reclaiming VAT) + £800 for notebook to allow for collection of data. In addition, new brackets and a substantial pole to attach mobile SID would be needed. An application has been made for a grant of £5000, meaning the Parish Council would have to find the difference of at least £2000.

Cllr Hopkins proposed that the Parish Council purchase the equipment, seconded by Cllr Jackson. All agreed and Cllr Comley was given permission to order the equipment

Cllr Hopkins also stated that, as well as the SIDs, increased signage on the road would be a good way of reminding road users of the speed limits, as in Kingston St. Mary. Cllr Comley noted that he had had very little success with Somerset County over this.

It was decided to go ahead with Phase 1 (SIDs) and then, when that is in place, contact Somerset Council for increased and/or replacement signage. It was further agreed that a note be sent out asking for more Speed Watch volunteers.

On the subject of visual impact on entering the village it was suggested that the Gardening Club might be approached to assist with planters by the Enmore signs- similar to those at Goathurst. Discussion for a future meeting.

8. Parish Plans for the coming year and how they should be communicated to residents.

Ideas approved were:

Using the website to provide information about the plan and updates in addition to the statutory content of minutes and financial documents.

Regular updates in the Enmore & Goathurst magazine (this reaches every household irrespective of internet access and social media usage).

The possibility of a dedicated Enmore Parish Council section of an Enmore Village Facebook page, to be managed by a volunteer.

It was agreed that it would help the workload if there were several sub committees which would report back to the main Parish Council. Therefore, task allocation is to be an item on the next agenda.

However, a subcommittee was set up to undertake an initial contribution for next month's magazine. A. Stoye, Cllr Jackson and Cllr Hopkins agreed to meet and submit introductory copy.

9. Finally, D. McIlroy expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for Cllr Nicholson's work refurbishing the two Parish noticeboards. Notices placed in them can now be seen.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

NEXT MEETING July 5th @7.30 pm in Enmore Memorial Hall

Signed: Date:
Chairman of Council