

ENMORE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING

TUESDAY 5TH JULY 2022 AT 7.30 PM IN ENMORE MEMORIAL HALL

Attendance: Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Hopkins, Cllr. Nicholson. Cllr. Pay, Cllr. Bolt, A. Hubbard
A. Stoye Clerk: D. Mcilroy.

1. Apologies given by Cllr. Jackson, Cllr. Comley and Cllr. Hucker, Cllr. Caswell.
2. No Declaration of Interests on agenda.
3. A. Hubbard wished to share her report on her position as footpath officer and her attendance at a Zoom meeting of the Somerset Bus Partnership.

Both of these reports had been circulated to the Parish Councillors before the meeting. (updated versions are attached as Appendices 1 & 2). She highlighted some points for discussion: some parents would like a school bus. Also that there were no plans to revise bus routes in order to provide better transport options for Enmore. She also mentioned that Enmore was only served by the Slinky bus on Mondays and by the college bus in term time only.

She also reiterated her desire for the public footpath running through Enmore Golf Club to be properly located and signposted.

The Council thanked her for her report and observations.

4. Minutes of last meeting approved and duly signed.
5. Actions arising from the previous meeting minutes.

Task Allocation for Council members - Cllr Cole proposed that the Parish Council should be spilt into sub-committees which would report back to the full Parish Council. The following sub-committees were proposed by him:

Cemetery planning:- Cllr. Cole, Cllr. Hucker and Cllr. Nicholson
Road, Signage and Flooding :- Cllr. Comley
Staff welfare:- Cllr. Hopkins
Finance:- A. Stoye, Cllr. Jackson.

In view of the fact that some councillors were absent from the meeting it was decided to confirm these positions with those absent at the next full meeting in September.

Update on cemetery with reference to grant availability from Sedgemoor
Cllr. Jackson had reported (via email to the Parish Council) in her absence that funding was available towards the costs of the cemetery but that the application forms required up to date quotes for materials and labour with an emphasis placed on the use of 'green' environmentally friendly resources.

ACTION Cllr. Cole and Cllr. Hucker will review the previous quotations obtained for the car park/landscaping and report back at the next council meeting. Application forms for the grant for Sedgemoor could then be discussed. The Cemetery sub-committee would also investigate what the community felt was an appropriate use of the land until it is required by the church, possibly through an article to be placed in the Enmore & Goathurst magazine.

SIDs update and planned next phase. Improved signage/ road markings.

Cllr. Comley sent a report (via email) in his absence which was read by D. McIlroy (attached here as Appendix 3). The SIDs are now covered by insurance (Zurich) for £5,700. This is cost of the equipment minus the VAT. Zurich will cover the full cost if the Parish Council is unable to reclaim the VAT.

ACTION A. Stoye will reclaim the VAT back on behalf of the Parish Council.

Possibility of two large flower tubs to mark the entrance to Enmore village next to road signs. A discussion took place as to what form these tubs should be and where they would be placed.

ACTION-D. McIlroy to contact Somerset County Council as to whether permission is needed and if so in what form.

Cllr. Cole to obtain quotes on tubs of varying sizes and materials.

Website.

The newly rebuilt website is now operational and the Parish Council thanked T. Davis for her work on this. The website is now up to date and covers the information needed to comply with the Transparency Code. Councillors were encouraged to look at the website and make suggestions for corrections and improvements.

In view of the increased avenues for news regarding Enmore Parish now available via the website and regular update in the Enmore & Goathurst magazine, it was felt that the village Facebook page could be discussed at a later date.

Broadband services (+landline/mobile services) regarding Air band/BT

No further updates available at this time.

6. Appointment of RFO

Cllr. Comley resigned after the last meeting as RFO (Responsible Financial Officer.)

It was proposed that A Stoye be appointed as RFO for Enmore Parish Council with immediate effect (Proposed: Cllr Cole, carried nem. con.) and the appointment was duly made.

7. Update on financial position/ bank mandate changes release of funds.

There is still no word from Nat West regarding the change of bank mandate but A.Stoye has now been able to make payments approved at previous meetings, namely the invoice for the SIDs, the invoice for rental of Enmore Memorial Hall in 2021 and invoices for training courses attended by members of the Parish Council.

8. Approval of payments
The Council approved payments to:
Sedgemoor Council of £100 for election costs
Enmore Memorial Hall of £3000 for the Solar panel donation
SALC of £25 for Councillor Guides
SALC for £30 for a further training course.
In addition, approval was granted in principle for payments to be made to T Davis for her work on rebuilding the Parish Council website (expected to be c£180) and for costs involved in using the WIX website builder platform (expected to be c£132). A Stoye will notify Councillors of the exact final figures before making any payment. Invoices had not been received at the time of the meeting.

9. Somerset Bus Partnership- possibility of representative for Enmore.
At present there is no representative for the parish of Enmore on the bus partnership scheme.
Without representation it would be impossible to raise any concerns for any proposed bus routes for the future. A. Hubbard agreed to Cllr Cole's request that she become Enmore's representative on the bus partnership initiative.
D. McIlroy will notify the Somerset bus Partnership of her position and official representative for Enmore Parish.

10. Jubilee update.
The Council's costs to date were £276 for the portaloos. This figure is inclusive of VAT which cannot be reclaimed because the invoice is not in the name of Enmore Parish Council. To date £230 has been received by this Council, £200 from Sedgemoor District Council and £30 being a cheque for hog roast tickets made payable to the Parish Council. Although most expenses for equipment and food have now been settled, the accounts for the Jubilee Committee have not yet been finalised.
A.Stoye has written a letter of thanks to Sedgemoor Council for the grant given by them and a brief outline of the activities the village saw during the Jubilee weekend.
Most receipts for extra equipment and food purchases have now been received by Cllr. Cole and any profit from the events is to be equally divided between the Parish Council and the Enmore Hall Committee. The proceeds from the raffle held the night of the Hog roast are to be given to Enmore Hall and used by them towards a project.

Meeting closed 8.25pm

NEXT MEETING September 6th 2022 @7.30 pm in Enmore Memorial Hall

Signed: Date:
Chairman of Council

Appendix 1

REPORT (updated) for 5 July 2022 Enmore Parish Council Meeting BY AMANDA HUBBARD (PARISH PATHWAY LIAISON OFFICER)

Incidentally, my role as PPLO is what the title says – to liaise between SCC and Enmore PC concerning paths/Rights of Way problems and report issues to SCC. The Interactive Map can be used for this purpose – it can also be used by the public and I have included the Interactive Map Link at the end of the Report. One of the issues mentioned below was in fact reported this way. Signposting is also important as is cutting back vegetation I am not expected to write letters, agree to R of W route changes or removal of furniture (signs and stiles) – I refer everything to my Area Warden. When I started out, I didn't realise there was a system of Wardens for Somerset (six in all). Our area has Sarah Cresswell, who has responded promptly to my questions, is tactful and seems to have the answer to everything. Her colleague, Glynn Edwards is helping Sarah out at the moment.

ISSUES –

1 Enmore Park Golf Club – lack of signage, protection of ancient Pack Way and Church Path, location of Clubhouse - See forwarded email for the maps.

Sarah reports on 20 May 2022

“In terms of the Golf Club, it looks as though the legal route of the path footpath goes through the building. However, there is a reasonable route to the side of the building which we took on our site visit which is open and available. This means this obstruction is very low priority for us in SCC. If the Parish Council wish to pursue the Golf Club for a diversion, then they can do so under their own powers.

In terms of the Packway, the only historic route I can see on our maps is attached to this email which follows the line recorded on the Explore Somerset Map now. I'm unsure if this is the Packway or just another route that got recorded on the definitive map and statement. It maybe that the Packway path is not recorded on the definitive map and statement so it may be something the parish want to investigate. All the information is here. Andrew Saint ASaint@somerset.gov.uk is the best contact regarding adding on unrecorded paths to the definitive map and statement and he'll be able to signpost you in the right direction. I've had a look at our scanned copies of the definitive map and it's so annoying but footpath BW 15/4 is right on the cusp of each map so you can't see the route clearly. (I've attached one so you can see what I mean). I will have to ask one of my colleagues to scan me the route, if possible, which I will send you.

In terms of golfer inconvenience, it is worth noting that the right of way greatly pre-existed the golf course. There is the possibility of diverting the path should the golf club wish to try and do so although there's no guarantee this would be successful. It would be up to the landowner, in this case the golf club to ensure no activities interfere with the legal right of the public (who have the priority) to cross the golf course on the public right of way and all possible measures should be taken to ensure the safety of right of way users”

Warden, Glynn Edwards, has informed me that the missing Finger Posts are now replaced, but the path to the Club House is still unclear and needs more signage like the Bridleway to Stone Hall Lane has. I believe that the Golf Club (Martin Clapp is Chair of Enmore Park Golf Club mobile 07885496623) has emailed Enmore PC requesting a meeting with the PC to discuss their proposed projects prior to applying for planning permission. I further understand that there is concern among Villagers about any proposed development of the Golf Course, especially the alleged filling of the Packway (Gully) mentioned above. It is up to those Villagers to research the Packway and see if it was unrecorded.

I believe the Council has asked representatives of the Golf Club to attend the Council meeting on Tuesday 6 September to discuss their proposals and I would request at the same time discussion about signage on the Golf Course for the definitive Plan Right of Way BW 15/4 – with me able to speak. This is a 15 minute walk and a truly convenient way to access the Village Hall from Upper Enmore on foot, but even I am nervous about using it. And it should not be forgotten that the legal route of the path goes through the Golf Course Clubhouse building and the Golf Course should really be looking at diversion - this is also within the powers of the PC. The pathway route needs to be more obvious for the public.

2. Rye Field.- accessed behind **Enmore School.** This is an enormous field and the crop planted on the public right of Way (which goes diagonally, not on the outside of the field) has now been harvested. The Landowner was contacted by our Warden and following my article in the Magazine, he phoned me and told me he had driven his 4x4 along the footpath and I managed to follow his tyre marks and the path diagonally across the field. Recently Warden, Glynn Edwards arranged for the footpath beside the School to be strimmed after telling me there was a tree down on the School footpath following a windstorm. My next door neighbour did strim the Path earlier this year and I had advised SCC that my neighbour would like to volunteer. But no-one got back.

3. Electric Fencing for horses– between 2 obvious stiles on public footpath just off the Golf Course in front of The Castle. Sarah has delegated this issue to Warden, Glynn Edwards, who will send a letter to the landowners of a horse paddock between 2 stiles to discuss their electric fencing. Their solution to have access around the outside of the horses made sense to Sarah and she said “SCC do generally allow this with temporary fencing across the Right of Way as long as there's easy to use grab handles and it's labelled (which it isn't currently).”

4. Fingerpost installations, gate clearance and stile repair etc - Sarah reports on 16 May “I have now sent some work to my contractor including your issue numbers :66941, 66940, 66942, 66944 and 66939. Glynn reports that these - mostly fingerpost installations, gate clearance and stile repair – have been attended to by contractors.

5. Tirelands Farm Scaffolding on Public Bridleway –

Some of the scaffolding bordering the bridleway, which seemed to be a problem for some horse riders who reported it, has now been removed and it appears that work is being carried out on building bordering the path. The Footpath just above Tirelands, which connects with Cobbs Cross and the other way with Broomfield Hall Road, has been completely strimmed and is dry and very walkable. Access behind the Tynte Arms.

More and more horse riders and walkers want to use the public pathways. I meet them all the time. The Interactive Map mentioned above is great to plan walks and report problems on the public footpaths. Also, there is a lot of specific info for the Public, landowners and dog walkers etc. Here is a link with some useful information regarding RoW- <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/#Downloads>

Appendix 2

SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP (SBP) and BUS ISSUES REPORT

On June 6 2022 I attended a **Zoom Meeting** on behalf of Enmore PC as a person “interested in buses”. As we do not have a bus service (apart from to Bridgwater College during College hours), I concluded (after 2 hours) that it wasn’t very relevant to Enmore. All those attending were those who can use buses and were complaining about poor bus service and cancellation of routes. And the purpose of the meeting seemed to be about promoting the “Bus Image”, obtaining volunteers and campaigning – the next campaign is 3rd to 11th September, when the public will be urged to leave cars behind at least 1 day a week.

SBP was established in April 2021 and campaigns to improve Somerset’s bus services. It has seats on Somerset County Council (SCC)’s Bus Advisory Board and chairs Bus Users and Stakeholders’ Groups. Peter Travis co-chairs the Partnership and wants a representative from Enmore PC on SBP. He has emailed me and says he is “hoping in the future to get SCC to do a presentation at one of our meetings about existing community transport options and slinky services. I wonder if this would be of interest to you? You could raise this issue of a community bus at this meeting”. With a new administration in place, he is also hoping SCC may find more money for bus services. SBP have heard there is going to be in the Autumn a new Community Transport organisation set up in Bridgwater. It would initially focus on that town, but over time it might be able to expand to include villages such as Enmore. Peter suggests Enmore PC raise this issue with Councillor Michael Carswell.

Statistics were interesting – Somerset Bus journeys fell by 43% in the decade prior to Covid. The fall was almost the steepest in the whole country and Somerset had the lowest satisfaction rate of any local Authority. Post Covid, numbers are now up but only one third ahead. Fewer seniors are using the bus and fuel costs have increased. During the recent Local government elections, the Bus Manifesto was 64% supported. Now Somerset is receiving just over £11 million to enhance and improve bus services, but there is no indication that Enmore’s situation will improve or anyone will look into overhauling routes. Enmore Road is an important commuter route between Bridgwater and Taunton, but no buses use it, except a poorly used College bus. It is possible at present to get the 613 Hatch Green (Bishops Lydeard to Bridgwater College) service through Kingston St Mary (KSM) on College Days only – one gets off at the top of Buncombe Hill having arranged car collection!!! But that only connects us to Bridgwater on limited days - somewhere along the way there used to be a college bus from Taunton to the top of Buncombe Hill. Surely a new route could be arranged through KSM, over Buncombe Hill and through Enmore to Bridgwater – just like the commuters use!

THINK TRAVEL

A NEW PRESS RELEASE IS OUT!!

SCC’s Lead Member for Travel and Digital Cllr Mike Rigby said: “Think Travel brings together all available information on travel options in the county for those not using their own car, whether you’re a student, older resident who relies on community or public transport, or if you just want to help a little bit towards protecting our environment.

“It’s a really important tool in terms of supporting sustainable travel and hopefully it will play a part in growing car sharing communities across the county.

“Now more than ever, it’s vital we support alternatives to single private car use, while at the same time support residents who rely on public and community transport.

“I would encourage people to check out the service and see if Think Travel can help you.”

Yes – the information is all in one place now, but the alternatives are very limited. There are three

1. Public Transport – the college bus on college days only
2. Car Sharing – this is being most promoted. Volunteers work free for SCC, and
3. Slinky Bus. I was full of hope, but it only operates for Enmore on a Monday!!! And the only destination is Bridgwater. It used to exclude car owners or those with access to a car. But now it includes “those who want to help a little bit towards protecting our environment and leave their cars at home”.

CONCLUSIONS

1. More money is required obviously
2. Cut out the universal travel pass for the elderly, except those on pension credit. It is unfair that those in rural communities do not benefit. Then there would be more money for public transport in Somerset, perhaps.
3. Have school buses for primary School students and reduce traffic congestion on Enmore Road.
4. Overhaul of bus routes. Promote Enmore Road as an alternative route – there wouldn't be many buses.
5. INVESTIGATE COMMUNITY BUSES. I am not sure anyone knows what these are.
6. Raise matter of Community Buses with Councillor Michael Carswell – he was receptive to buses at the last meeting.
7. Investigate Slinky Bus, by registering and booking a ride.

Amanda Hubbard
Enmore resident.

Appendix 3

Update on traffic management and Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) for the Parish Council meeting held on 5 July 2022

I have most of the equipment. All that is outstanding are the circlips and locks which I will purchase when I return from holiday. I have carried out , successfully, all those tests that can be carried out in a non-active mode. A laptop has been purchased and the necessary software downloaded. The Bluetooth connections have been made, required for the downloading of data.

Katherine Tyson inspected the various locations on 13th June and proclaimed that two new poles and an extension were required. She promised to raise the necessary paperwork over the coming weeks with the contractors taking up to 12 weeks !!!! She also promised to send me a plan with timelines this week and guess what!!!!

The better news is that there is a pole just before the Goathurst turnoff as you enter upper Enmore to which I intend to fix a moveable SID. This will give me some time to learn how to manipulate the resulting data into a format from which conclusions and future actions can be made. My plan is to install during the week starting 11 July.

David Comley