

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BUTLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 5th December 2023 IN THE CHURCH ROOM, BUTLEIGH.

PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT : T Willmott (Chairman). K Otton, A Coleman. M Acland-Hood

OTHERS PRESENT : P Keggin

APOLOGIES: None

Pre- meeting statements and questions from members of the public in respect of business itemised on the Agenda : P Keggin regarding flooding.

Serious flooding affected Baltonsborough Road, Back Town that could affect development at Baltonsborough Road. Water Lane, High Street which could be affected further by development at Sub Road.

Sandbags: Consider purchasing a supply for the village.

VISITING COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Clare Sully Somerset Council, Somerset Council. Email ref Watchwell Drove.

I wanted to update both Parish Councils regarding caravans and camps along Watchwell Drove.

I met with the police team last week that deal with, and manage, the travellers setting up caravans/camps in our ward (Mendip South) and across the entire Mendip area. I had a first-hand look at all the different areas (of camps/caravans) with the police team. There are 170 sites (approximately) across Mendip, at the moment.

The police have been working on a more "strategic" approach for 3 years on "managing" the traveller groups, in the various areas in Mendip. One of the PCs I met spends 70% of their time on this work. They regularly monitor the situation, the different sites, weekly.

They are seeing a 12% increase in monthly numbers of caravans/camps , but do not consider this a spike at this time of year.

When I visited Watchwell Drove last week (Wed) with the police there were 5 enforcement notices on caravans issued by Somerset Council. The police liaise closely with Somerset Council enforcement team as well as private landlords (when applicable). There is not a one-sized fits all approach, due to the complexities, people, their circumstances, landowners, local community, involved.

The police drove me around the areas they had "moved on" the caravans/camps and what they had done to prevent any return. Preventative work has to be paid for by the landowner.

Legally, when moving "on" people living in caravans and camps, Somerset Council and the police must have a designated place to move people to. A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) requires this. Currently planning permission is being sought for traveller communities to move to, but this has not yet been approved, in some instances we see local opposition to the planning applications.

The Police told me that often when they move traveller camps/caravans on, they can move around the area or move back to where they originally were set-up. There are sometimes serious welfare consideration and anti-social behaviour, which the police also have to manage. Enforcement can be appealed of course, using legal channels by the traveller community.

I've copied in Simon Lancey, from the police team, who is happy to speak further with you on this matter.

STATEMENT OF DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST : The Chairman reminded Councillors of the need to make and to have recorded any Declarations of Interest made in accordance with the Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct Order adopted on 7th August 2012. (Based on District/ County Model) (Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011).

URGENT BUSINESS : None

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7th November , having been circulated, were signed as a true and correct record. Proposed K Otton, seconded A Coleman, all in favour. Minutes to be posted on the Village Website.

MATTERS ARISING : Avalon Court- New planning application received 2023/2247/FUL to be debated in January.
Seacole Directors meeting with Chairman. Proposal to have 14 residents for specialised nursing for brain injuries. Agreed that proposals will be shared with the immediate neighbours, then possibly facilitate a wider discussion for the village if required. Will require CQC approval. Planning permission will not be required as it is covered as a Nursing Home.

REQUEST FROM THE VILLAGE COMMITTEE TO SITE A SHED AT BACK TOWN PLAYING FIELDS - BPFAs as leaseholders agree. Agreed Proposed T Willmott, seconded K Otton. All in favour

HIGHWAYS (KO) MOBILE SID- application for a grant from the Road Safety Fund- No reply. Chasing with The Police Crime Commissioners Office.
Traffic Management in discussion with K Otton for 3 new posts in the new financial year for the SID.
Further correspondence with Traffic Management regarding a Parking amendment order.
Notice of Road Traffic Act 1984 Prohibition and Restriction of stopping, waiting, loading, unloading and on street parking at front of the school and round to Homeleigh, Baltonsborough Road as per road markings. Notices have been erected. Traffic Management.....

FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE (AC) Wood Lane to Rowley Farm blocked WS2/22 Tenant Burrough- Home Farm. Clerk to report to Savills

FINANCE REPORT (Clerk)

CURRENT AC		BR AC	
BALANCE	£ 10388.13	BALANCE	£ 3691.30
+ Wales & West Utilities	£ 500.00		
+ sale of maps	£ 44.00		
- War Memorial Trust	£ 25.00		
	£ 10907.13	Balance	£ 3691.30

Proposed T Willmott, seconded A Coleman, All in favour.

FINANCIAL APPROVALS : Resolutions to approve the following expenditure :
Somerset Garden Services: Footpath Sweep £400.00 Village Green Maintenance £160.00. Total £560.00

Proposed T Willmott seconded K Otton . All in favour

DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES- SOMERSET COUNCIL- Clerk reported from various meetings attended.

SETTING OF PRECEPT. Add £1300 for SID and £700 for possible devolution of services. £19,000. Proposed T Willmott, seconded M Acland-Hood. All in favour

CORRESPONDENCE: Butleigh & Butleigh Wootton Welcome Booklet. Agreed

NEXT MEETINGS 2nd January 2024 for Avalon Court Planning Application and 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

The next meeting 2nd January 2024.

Chairman
2nd January 2024.