

- 04/05/196 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Westmaas (in the Chair), Chilcott, Fraser and Hamblyn.
- 04/05/197 **ALSO PRESENT:** DCllr Kingham and 6 members of the public.
- 04/05/198 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk to the Council.
- 04/05/199 **APOLOGIES:** were received from Cllr Mackay (ill)
- 04/05/200 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** were confirmed and signed.
- 04/05/201 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** Cllr Fraser declared a personal interest in 204a as it is a neighbouring property to hers.
- 04/05/202 **HIGHWAYS:**
- a. Temporary Road Closure A39 Bath Road, Bawdrip - The Clerk gave information she had received regarding night time working.
 - b. Meeting with Mr Gill - The Clerk had received a negative response from Mr Gill regarding a meeting to discuss matters in general. It was agreed to identify specific areas. Chairman and Clerk to liaise and Clerk to then contact Mr Gill.
 - c. Any urgent problems arising and updates - Steel Lane sign at junction with Manor Road (by Post Office).
- 04/05/203 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S SLOT:** DCllr Kingham reported on two news releases.
- a. One concerned the removal of dumped cars with SDC declaring an amnesty until mid March. People wanting dumped vehicles removed could contact 0845 408 2543 to have them removed free of charge. They will not be collected from the owners property - only if found dumped elsewhere.
 - b. The second concerned trade at the Port of Bridgwater which is now on the increase with 79 ships having used Dunball Wharf during 2004 (an increase of 4% on 2003). 105,000 tonnes (mainly feed additives and granite) was carried and 314 passengers boarded (mostly for trips on the Balmoral).
 - c. Stuart also reported that Sedgemoor had managed to keep its share of the Council Tax to a 2.9% increase and that the refurbishment at Bridgwater House was progressing on time and in budget.
- 04/05/204 **PLANNING:**
- a. 14/05/00001/KEP - Change of use of land to include equestrian use and formation of horse riding area at OS Field No.8769, Little Leaze Lane - Council unanimously supported this application.
 - b. Planning Enforcement Team and Development Control Enforcement Policy Document - These papers had been copied to all councillors. They may need to refer to them in the future.
 - c. Village Design Statement - The group has met two or three times since the last council meeting and has made good progress. Further meetings are planned. The revised VDS draft should be ready to sent back to Mr Shuttleworth shortly.
- 04/05/205 **ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENCE:** An anonymous letter had been received. It concerned a matter over which only the district council has any control. The Council unanimously agreed that no anonymous correspondence should be considered by the council. If a member of the public wrote to the Council and requested privacy and confidence then that would be respected within the Council.
- 04/05/206 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT:** The latest information from DOPM was in circulation. It explained various details of the Act and clarified that the Clerk to the Council is the primary authorisation with the Chairman being the secondary authorisation.
- 04/05/207 **GATES TO CHURCHYARD - LISTED BUILDING PROBLEMS:** This item to be considered next month.
- 04/05/208 **FINANCE:**
- a. Letter from St Peter's Church - To be considered next month.

Chairman

Date

- b. Money in - Reimbursement for Jubilee Stone damage received; SCC grant for noticeboard repairs received. With regard to the noticeboards it was agreed that the Clerk liaise with the PTA of Catcott School regarding the refurbishment of the noticeboard at the school. Councillors would consider any possibilities for resiting the noticeboard currently on Wellfield House as the Clerk can not always access it because of parked cars and the public can not always get near enough to read any notices.
- c. Cheques for signature - were approved as follows:- Chq.554 Local Council Review (subscription) £13.00; Chq.555 JA Marshall (Clerk's salary and expenses) £274.09.
- d. Appointment of internal auditor for current year - It was agreed that the Clerk should Contact Richard Young to see if he is willing to act as internal auditor. If not then the Clerk is to investigate any other possibility.

- 04/05/209 **SALC:** Items are in circulation. Thatch has also been received from the Community Council.
- 04/05/210 **DUMPED CARS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS IN BROADMEAD LANE:** It was noted that vehicles other than cars are also dumped in the field. DCllr Kingham would look at this problem and investigate the possibilities for getting the area cleared up.
- 04/05/211 **LAMP:** Nothing received. Cllr Chilcott understood that one meeting had been held but parish councils had not been invited.
- 04/05/212 **FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT CALENDAR FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY:** This was available for any councillor who wanted it!
- 04/05/213 **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND FOOTPATHS:** no matters arising.
- 04/05/214 **PARISH PLOT - UPDATE ON MATTERS DISCUSSED LAST MONTH AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROBLEMS ARISING:** There was some concern regarding the site description and proposals. Points raised included Lower Ropes Drove - not registered?; newly designated droves? - which and where?; bridleway along S part of West Drove - is there one? Where does it go - Chilton Polden or Edington? It was agreed that the best way to clear up the conundrums is probably for Vicky Breeze to attend the next Council meeting.
- 04/05/215 **TAUNTON IN 2026 - A REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:** papers in circulation.
- 04/05/216 **SEDGEMOOR CHARTER FOR LOCAL COUNCILS:** in circulation.
- 04/05/217 **ANY OTHER REPORTS OR ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION:** incl: Somerset by the Sea; Mindline; Grand Charity Ball; Communities First in Rural Somerset.
- 04/05/218 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Gates to Churchyard - listed building problems; letter from St Peter's Church; dumped vehicles in field; provision of litter bin in bus shelter (DCllr Kingham would get information on this)
- 04/05/219 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, 8th March 2005

Chairman

Date