

- 21/22/105 **PRESENT** - Cllrs Barnett (in the Chair), Pople, Robins, Bell and Salter.
- 21/22/106 **ALSO PRESENT** - 9 members of the public and DCllr Kingham.
- 21/22/107 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - none received.
- 21/22/108 **IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk to the Council.
- 21/22/109 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY DISPENSATIONS REQUIRED** - Cllr Pople declared an interest in the Play Area being the Council's representative on the committee. DCllr Kingham declared an interest in planning and left the meeting before that item was discussed.
- 21/22/110 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - were approved and signed.
- 21/22/111 **UPDATES ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND NOT LISTED** - none.
- 21/22/112 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** - DCllr Kingham reported that Sedgemoor is waiving car parking charges in the weeks up to Christmas starting from 4pm on 20th November. The tree fund has been a great success with a good uptake. Various matters relating to the unitary authority were discussed There will be 110 Council members and 55 wards. Elections for parish councils will most likely be in 2022. The authority will be called Somerset Council.
- 21/22/113 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** - CCllr Huxtable was not present.
- 21/22/114 **HIGHWAYS** -
- a. Langland Lane - the Clerk had taken some photos but at present it seemed that the potholes did not meet the criteria for action. Potholes need to be 40mm deep in a carriageway and 20mm deep in a footway to be deemed a safety defect although other factors can be taken into consideration, such as location and positioning.
 - b. Little Leaze Lane - Cllr Salter reported that the second leak had now been repaired. This was caused by a cracked main.
 - c. A39 Resurfacing - The remaining section of the A39 which was supposed to have been resurfaced in September has still not been done.
 - d. 30mph limit on the Nydon - the Clerk had received and forwarded on a petition signed by residents. Cllr Salter had done some research. The best option would be to find evidence of where the original sign had been and the Clerk would chase up this matter with Highways and CCllr Huxtable. The 'slow' markings on both sides of the summit should go ahead. Some options not requiring a lot of legal work are available such as signage saying 'Max speed 30' and 'Danger - Blind Summit'. As long as these are placed 1m from the highway they could be installed by ourselves and don't require a road traffic order. Likely cost of these signs and installation is in the region of £300. If necessary we could place an order for the required information relating to the original positioning of the sign.
 - e. Responsibility of surface along part of Steel Lane - the response was 'According to our records, the majority of the 'lay-by' area adjacent to the carriageway does form part of the adopted highway.' The area has been inspected and although there is some deterioration it is not currently deemed a safety defect.
 - f. Flooding in various areas - Manor Road near the Old Post Office had been reported. Old School Lane has been reported - apparently flooding results from insufficient capacity of pipe at the top of the hill. Any photographic proof would be invaluable in proving the case. Drain blocked up Scotts Lane. Lippetts Way drains are blocked. Water floods down Weares Lane, past Cheese Cottage and down the drive of Vine House. Those areas not yet reported will be reported now. It was noted that we had had significant downpours causing these problems.
 - g. Nidon Bridge - Cllr Salter had got the bridge cleared of vegetation. The mortar on the top is blown. It would be sensible if Highways sorted it out whilst it would still be easy rather than letting further deterioration occur. There is a tree in the ditch which it would be good to be able to remove.
 - h. Any other updates and problems arising -
 - i. 30mph sign - the sign on the approach from Shapwick has been knocked over and needs reinstalling.
 - ii. Salt/grit - Cllr Barnett had checked and there are 2½ bags in the bus shelter as well as what we have in the bins.

iii. Unofficial obstructions at the side of the road - there are various areas within the village where stones have been placed on the verges to prevent cars using them. One area is of particular concern because the stones have been concreted in place. Clerk to mention in the Polden Post report that those who place such obstructions are liable for any damage to people or property, including vehicles, which results from such unlawful actions.

iv. Manor Road - is in need of attention in places. Clerk to again press Highways to look at it.

21/22/115 **RIGHTS OF WAY/FOOTPATHS** - no update.

21/22/116 **SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP** - The Clerk asked if anyone wanted to represent the village. No takers.

21/22/117 **OFFER OF TREES FROM SDC** - the Clerk's request for a meeting had obviously been misunderstood and she would try again to arrange a meeting with highways.

21/22/118 **DOG WASTE BINS** - The Clerk reported that each bin would cost in the region of £250 plus VAT, plus installation by an approved contractor or Highways. It would cost approximately £80 per bin per annum to have them emptied.

21/22/119 **PLAY AREA REPORT** - Cllr Pople and the Clerk reported on the financial situation. It would be possible to go ahead now but further quotes are required. It was felt that, if left, the cost would only rise further.

21/22/120 **PRESENT** - DCllr Kingham left the meeting.

21/22/121 **PLANNING** -

a. 14/21/00009 - erection of dwelling and two storey garage at 3 Lippetts Way - no update at 09/11/21.

b. 14/21/00010 - first floor extension at 14 Lippetts Way - no update at 09/11/21.

c. 14/21/00011 - conversion of outbuilding to accommodation at Polden Lea, The Nydon - granted.

d. 14/21/00012 - extension at 14 Brook Lane - a time extension had been granted. Supported.

21/22/122 **HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE** - Cllr Salter had enquired about the price of a suitable stone. Very expensive. Cllr Robins had something that might do and councillors were asked to go and look at it. Cllr Salter would explore another possibility.

21/22/123 **PARISH PLOT** - an agreement extension had been signed and returned and proof of delivery had been verified.

21/22/124 **FINANCE**

a. Accounts check - Statements had only just been received. The Clerk would forward accounts in due course.

b. Cheques signature were approved as follows - Chq.554 J Marshall (Salary and expenses) £340.92; Chq.555 Sedgemoor District Council (grass cutting three times over the year) £340.92; Chq.556 Deleted (had been made out to neighbourhood watch but the figure given had been incorrect); Chq.557 Woolavington Neighbourhood Watch (for Catcott NW cards/calendars) £67.56.

c. Any other financial matters - Cllr Barnett would arrange to purchase a Christmas tree.

21/22/125 **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION AND DISTRIBUTION** - Cllr Barnett is unable to attend the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial and Cllr Salter would lay the wreath on our behalf. The Clerk had forwarded to councillors a document from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities headed 'Establishing a Unitary Authority in Somerset - Draft Structural Changes Order Provisions'.

21/22/126 **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING** - none.

21/22/127 **URGENT CORRESPONDENCE** - none.

21/22/128 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday 14th December at 7pm in the School hall (because of Coronavirus refreshments and a social gathering will not be served this year).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

Chairman

Date