

- 07/08/1 **PRESENT:** Cllrs Westmaas (in the Chair), Hamblyn, Mackay, Fraser and Chilcott.
- 07/08/2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** received from CCllr Huxtable
- 07/08/3 **ALSO PRESENT:** 4 members of the public and DCllr Kingham.
- 07/08/4 **IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk to the Council.
- 07/08/5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:** none declared
- 07/08/6 **HIGHWAYS:**
- a. Highway Maintenance questionnaire and Environmental Maintenance - Environmental Maintenance information sheet had been copied to all councillors. The questionnaire had been copied to councillors and was completed at the meeting.
  - b. Any urgent problems arising and updates - matters needing attention are a pothole opposite Catcott Garage; two potholes outside Mr Barnett's house; the edges of the road along Lippett's Way. Mr Barnett reported that heavy duty tarmac had been used on the newly treated section of Langland Lane.
- 07/08/7 **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** DCllr Kingham reported that the Unitary Authority proposal is a main concern at present. Sedgemoor would be pressing for a referendum on the matter in Somerset and it was hoped that all the Districts would adopt this. The preferred bidder had won the Integrated Waste Contract. A new cultural centre is to be created in Bridgwater. The Northgate area was also discussed.
- 07/08/8 **PLANNING:**
- a. Planning complaint re Hill Farm, 12 Manor Road - to consider response to latest letter from SDC - A draft response was considered, slightly amended and approved. A proposal was then put by Cllr Mackay: "Catcott Parish Council wish to record their total dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Development Control Department of Sedgemoor District Council carry out their responsibilities. The Council has three main areas of concern:- 1) The Council considers that planning laws and regulations are applied in a casual, haphazard and inconsistent manner. There can be no confidence that any one decision can have any relevance to any other application, however similar. 2) Details relating to planning conditions, as applied to planning consents, appear to be rarely, if ever, properly scrutinised and even more rarely enforced. Such lack of effective action serves only to expose Sedgemoor District Council to continued ridicule, and gives applicants the confidence to ignore, with impunity, the requirements of such conditions. 3) Legitimate queries and complaints initiate responses, which are invariably inaccurate or incomplete, and which demonstrate an arrogant, evasive and dismissive attitude on the part of the personnel of the Development Control department. Requests for information invariably result in an inadequate response, requiring yet more demands for release of relevant facts. This council believes that council-tax payers have a legal right to access accurate information relating to the reasons for planning decisions." This motion was carried unanimously. It was agreed that prior to sending this to Sedgemoor it should be sent to SALC and then to all other parish councils in Sedgemoor asking them to give it their support. A date for reply to Catcott would be set by the Clerk, probably for June.
  - b. Update on 2 Weares Lane - 14/07/00002/KP - It was noted that an amended application had been received. This had addressed the problems as noted in the Council's original response and had also made a few other amendments in line with the Officer's recommendations. Council was pleased with this outcome.
  - c. Agricultural Development - to consider response to SDC - It was agreed that the Clerk should respond in line with suggestions put forward by councillors, adding that the barn at Cox's farm was a complete shock to many people and asking that, before any permission is given in future, someone should come and look at the situation on the ground as maps cannot be relied upon to give the full picture.
  - d. Statement of Community Involvement re Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 - this had been copied to all councillors.
- 07/08/9 **MAY ELECTIONS - REPORT OF NOMINATIONS RECEIVED BY SDC:** The Clerk reported that Cllrs Chilcott, Fraser, Mackay and Westmaas had all been successfully nominated. There would be no contest. One further councillor would need to be co-opted. There were also three nominations for the position of District Councillor.
- 07/08/10 **FINANCE:**
- a. Possible grants for VDS and VDS printing arrangements - Clerk reported on the information she had obtained from Sedgemoor. It was agreed to apply for a project grant. If this resulted in a shortage of funds council would apply to CCllr Huxtable for a grant to make up the shortfall. Clerk to get a quote for 300 copies from Somerton Printers.
  - b. Cheques for signature - Chq.011 Allianz Cornhill (Insurance) £421.72 (dated 30.05.07); Chq. Community Council (sub) £25.00; Chq.013 SALC (sub) £99.54; Chq.014 J A Marshall (Clerk's salary and expenses) £290.85. Churchyard grant for current year to be considered at a future meeting. A receipt for last year's churchyard grant had been received. A receipt for the deposit on the noticeboard had been received.
  - c. External Audit has been called for 30<sup>th</sup> June - Clerk had received notification that the Council's audit has been called.
  - d. Internal Audit - appointment of Richard Young to be confirmed - Clerk reminded council that it had previously been agreed that Richard Young should undertake the internal audit for 2006/2007. This was confirmed and it was also agreed to ask Mr Young to undertake the task for 2007/2008.
  - e. Quote from Edward Skidmore - not yet received.
- 07/08/11 **SALC:** Clerk would send the Council's proposal regarding planning matters to SALC.
- 07/08/12 **WHITE PAPER, UNITARY AUTHORITY AND AREA WORKING PANELS:** County Council meetings arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May at Kingsmead School Wiveliscombe and 18<sup>th</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet. These meetings were regarded as propaganda and nobody wished to attend. Clerk reported on Area Working Panel meeting she had attended.
- 07/08/13 **TEAM SOMERSET:** District Council response to Unitary Authority proposals meetings at The Exchange, Bridgwater 17<sup>th</sup> April and The Princess, Burnham on Sea 18<sup>th</sup> April starting at 7.30pm. Full document on web at [www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/teamsomerset](http://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/teamsomerset). Clerk had received the Outline Business Case in the post this morning. This was put for circulation

- 07/08/14 **SEDGEMOOR CHARTER:** Clerk reminded Council that Catcott had not signed up to this last time. The new version was shorter and simpler. Following consideration the Council decided not to sign.
- 07/08/15 **IDEAS FOR CONSIDERATION BY AREA WORKING PANELS:** Clerk drew attention to the need for the Area Working Panel to agree topics for funding. It was felt that a referendum of Somerset residents should definitely be held and that this should quash the SCC bid for Unitary Status and the need for any decision on this matter. Noted that it would be discussed at cluster meetings in Sedgemoor.
- 07/08/16 **DATA PROTECTION:** confirmation of renewal received
- 07/08/17 **CEMETERY PROVISION:** Letter from Revd Graham and follow up by Clerk were noted. Reply from Revd Graham awaited.
- 07/08/18 **CPRE:** Fieldwork put for circulation.
- 07/08/19 **RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTPATHS:**
  - a. 14/30 Edington to Catcott School - Letter from Tamlyn's was noted. Might be possible for established RoW for all to be agreed. Copy letter to SCC.
  - b. Any other updates and problems to report - Cllr Mackay would let Cllr Fraser have details of a bridge needing attention. Letter and leaflets "Guide for Dog Owners and Walkers" had been received. Clerk would put this info on the website. Cllr Fraser would ask for enough copies to deliver to all houses with the VDS and some for display at Gwilliam Kellands.
- 07/08/20 **SDC'S CLEAN SWEEP INITIATIVE:** It was agreed that this had been successful on the whole. DCllr Kingham reported that this was a one time only initiative. Clerk to ask SDC if they would also carry out a Clean Sweep in the Autumn.+
- 07/08/21 **SCC HOME COMPOSTING BINS OFFER:** Copies of the literature/application are available for anyone who wants it.
- 07/08/22 **COMMUNITY COUNCIL:** Thatch put for circulation. Letter advising that Parish Plan money still available has been received.
- 07/08/23 **POLDEN HILL CLUSTER GROUP:** Clerk had planned to attend the latest meeting but had been ill at the time.
- 07/08/24 **HIDDEN SOMERSET:** new website - [www.hiddensomerset.com](http://www.hiddensomerset.com).
- 07/08/25 **CLERK'S APPRAISAL AND NEW MODEL CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT REVISIONS:** Clerk and Cllr Westmaas to look at these.
- 07/08/26 **ANY OTHER REPORTS OR ITEMS FOR INFORMATION, CIRCULATION, DISTRIBUTION:** Sedgemoor Events; Somerset by the Sea; Somerset Showcase; Parrett People; Local Council Review. Clerk advised that she had received an email from Polden Post representative asking if they could do a report on the Council's website. Council was happy for this to happen.
- 07/08/27 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** (8<sup>th</sup> May 2007 following the APM) and Date of Annual PARISH meeting (8<sup>th</sup> May 2007 **starting at 7pm**)

Chairman .....

Date .....