

ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Barrow, Englishcombe, Haycombe, Inglesbatch, Kilkenny & Nailwell

Parish Council Meeting was held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm
at the Old Schoolhouse, Englishcombe

MINUTES (draft)

Present: Robert Law (RL) (chair), Tom Try (TT) Lucie Scurlock (LS), Abi Budd (AB)
Will Pow (WP), Anne Corlett (AC). Matt McCabe (MM) joined halfway.

1	Appointment of minute taker	AC	
2.	Apologies for absence	NS	
3.	Declaration of interests & dispensations	None	
4.	Parishioners' matters	None	
5.	Approval of minutes of the held on 6th February 2024	Approved	
6.	Matters arising not covered by the agenda	Nothing	
7. 7.1 7.2 7.3	Recruitment to parish council: parish clerk Chairman from May 2024	Still have a vacancy on the Parish Council. RL has produced one page advert and will circulate it. No interest re Parish Clerk, but ALCA's chief Officer Barnaby Harding devising a scheme for clerks to work together. There are several parish councils without clerks. We have been paired with Combe Hay and their clerk, Olga will mentor RL. RL will be standing down as Chairman after the APM in May. Need to decide who will chair and for what duration. RL prepared to be voted on as vice-chair so can step in for meetings, if needed.	
8. 8.1 8.2 8.3 8.4	Financial Report HSBC statements: Current combined a/c with Millstream + Wheelwrights £17,136.85 Millstream + Wheelwrights: £2987.46 CIL: £2687.86 Refurbishment of sign posts x2 - estimates for approval Village entrance sign (north end) Further allowable /possible uses. Charges: £5.80 Interest: £ tbc	Balance is healthy – c £23,000. Budget for next year agreed. Clerk's salary is currently not allocated, but might be used for clerk related services if no clerk is secured. CIL rule change – money can be used for improvements to chapel or church now. At some point, the chapel will give	

<p>8.5 8.6 8.7 8.8</p>	<p>Present budget for 2024/25 £ 10,000 Budget for 2024/2025 Budget Risk Assessment + cash book Full Bank reconciliation VAT reclamation ALCA training payment: £40 agreed ALCA annual subs of £80.31 agreed Millstream, Orchard & Wheelwrights rent: Annual amount to Duchy of C agreed: £117.14 + £256.52</p> <p>Unity Trust Bank</p> <p>Bath Preservation Trust parish contribution: Amount agreed: £40</p>	<p>up the schoolhouse, so we will need to look to the future. Village will need somewhere to meet – Wheelwrights is an option. We may be able to build upon current funds and explore options. We will need to widely explore with parishioners whether they think this is a good idea.</p> <p>VAT reclamation – AB is working on this. Difficult to get someone from HMRC to talk to her – not a normal VAT system.</p> <p>Bank reclamation – AB working on this. Need to balance to the penny with the VAT. AB will want everything ready in advance of the July deadline.</p> <p>2 cheques countersigned by WP.</p> <p>Signatories/online banking continues to be an issue. RL looking at other options. Metro Bank which RL was considering is no longer being pursued. ALCA recommends Unity Trust Bank – RL will investigate.</p> <p>Bath Preservation Trust – could be useful if we need support with planning comments re listed buildings etc.</p>	
<p>9 9.1 9.2</p>	<p>Planning: Sulis Down status</p> <p>New House design Duchy of Cornwall Appl: 24/00529/FUL</p> <p>Local Plan input</p>	<p>Sulis Down - refused 7:1. Not the end of the line, but positive step.</p> <p>There will be a new chair of the planning committee in due course.</p> <p>Furlongs – application for 4 bedroom house not considered to be controversial and would be an improvement on existing building. Council supported the Duchy application.</p> <p>No proposed developments in our parish. Need to be positive where we can be, but limited opportunities locally.</p> <p>MM – what would be interesting from the village’s point of view would be an exception site. You can work with the Bathnes to create an area with slight easing of planning in order to create affordable housing. Proposed site in Peasedown, but Radstock may gain 500 to 1000, then another 500-1000 past Writhlington, which may be an issue with traffic. Land south of Burnett ?</p> <p>Keynsham is the controversial development – 500 houses, rather than the 3000 that is being talked about locally.</p>	

<p>10. 10.1</p>	<p>Rural public transport and roads Community transport</p>	<p>RL spoke to the Priston clerk about common use and running of a community bus. Timsbury are not interested in running a route via Priston. Priston could potentially join with Englishcombe and Inglesbatch. RL will be talking with Priston and Wellow representatives to explore options. Probably not viable for Englishcombe to run a bus on their own.</p>	
<p>10.2</p>	<p>Parking triangle - solutions</p>	<p>Triangle parking – Rose Cottage has steps down onto the road which could prove to be a hazard if parking is removed from that section of single track road. Nothing the parish council can involve themselves in – technically no one should be parking there as it is obstructing the highway. It’s a matter between the persons parking and any enforcement body. RL proposes to explore options for making the triangle of grass less susceptible to damage – agreed.</p>	
<p>11 11.1</p>	<p>Millstream, Orchard and Wheelwrights report: Use of Wheelwrights</p> <p>Asset Register Review</p>	<p>Wheelwrights – NS keen to explore options to use the Wheelwrights as a multipurpose community location, and possibly a bus stop for any rural transport option. Chapel may pull out of the schoolhouse at some point. RL welcomes ideas for possible ways forward. To be updated by RL</p>	
<p>12 12.1</p>	<p>Parish Website and communications</p> <p>First Aid Courses and installation of defibrillators -update</p>	<p>Website functional at the moment – any contributions welcome. First aid courses should be the first priority. RL also to investigate where defibrillators might be sighted.</p>	
	<p>Reports from BANES Councillors and Chairman</p>	<p>All covered</p>	
	<p>Dates of meetings in 2024: tbc</p>	<p>APC to be held in the Tithe Barn. Date – 13 May 2024 at 7.30pm agreed. Council to fund refreshments.</p>	

Robert Law Clerk: