

**SEAVINGTON ST MARY/MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE 483rd PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17th NOVEMBER 2020
HELD VIA ZOOM UNDER COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

3174. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**PRESENT****Mr N Loxton - Chair****Mrs J Ash****Mr A Doble****Mrs E Edwards****Mr N England****Mrs P Parsons****Mr C Reyland****Adam Dance – County and District Councillor****Crispin Raikes – District Councillor****APOLOGIES****None****3175. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No members of the public present****3176. PLANNING APPLICATIONS –**

20/02098/HOU - Building erected west of Dove Cottage, Upton Lane – Awaiting decision

18/02609/FUL – Kingstone Parish – Buildings to aid the construction and storage of Carnival carts. There is a possibility of this application being further delayed because of the problem of Phosphates on the Somerset Levels Catchment Area. Lopen Brook which is close to the site flows into the River Parrett. Agreed that we would continue to work closely with Kingstone Parish regarding this.

2 Southernaways, Seavington St Mary – Councillor Dance had received an e-mail from the Planner dealing with our concerns. Agreed this seemed to be old information and that a further e-mail would be sent regarding the wooden fence and 5-bar gate that was erected without planning permission.

3177. REPORT FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S

Briefing held with Full Council regarding the Phosphate problem on the Somerset Levels. Agreed that all planning applications that could affect this would be put on hold. Further meeting to be held regarding "A Stronger Somerset". Funds available for Market Towns to apply for a grant for various projects.

County – Vote to take place at a Full Council meeting to delay the Election for County Councillors, that should be taking place in May 2021.

3178. MINUTES OF THE 482ND MEETING AGREED - These Minutes will be signed when Covid-19 restrictions allow**3179. SID** – At present sited at Falcon Close. The application for a Grant for half the cost of an additional SID from the CLT has been agreed. This SID will not be identical to the present one. Will be solar operated which should mean moving it to different locations will be made easier. Agreed that an order could be placed. Discussion regarding a permanent SID at Falcon Close resulted in Councillors agreeing that any permanent SID should be put in place by the County Council.**3180. HIGHWAYS ISSUES –**

Recent Traffic diversion along C5021 when works being carried out to the west bound carriage way of the A303 Ilminster By-pass. Seems there was a health and safety risk for operatives working on overhanging branches and other vegetation. Traffic Management at County Hall advised that the works had only been agreed as an emergency as long as the Parish was informed and agreed. Councillors could not understand this as Highways England has never asked affected Parishes for permission in the past. We can only wait and see what may happen when planned works take place on the by-pass.

Road in front of Falcon Close - Nothing further in connection with reporting this to SSDC

Pavement to west of Village Car Park – Has been marked for repair by County Highways

Planned meeting with Traffic Management – postponed due to new Lockdown measures. New date to be agreed when possible.

- 3181. RANGER SCHEME-** Main priority at the moment is keeping drains cleared. The verges close to the Shop and Playing Field will be cut later this month.
- 3182. VILLAGE FOOTPATHS –** A request was made for a Bristol Gate to be erected on Manor Farm land on Scotts Hill. Councillor Reyland contacted the Footpaths Officer in County and a new gate has been delivered. A suggestion that one should be erected on a path on Meade Farm was declined by the owners.
- 3183. VILLAGE CAR PARK –** After discussion it was agreed that with effect from the 1st January 2021 the Parish Council would issue infringement notices on any vehicle not obeying the signed rules.
- 3184. SPFA –** Councillor Ash reported on the Zoom meeting that she had attended. The Association admitted that they were at crisis point with only 3 Trustees. Going forward three suggestions were made:-
1. Form a new Committee, 2. Close the Charity Down 3. Dispose of all the assets.
A question was asked regarding how the £25,000 grant from Central Government could be spent. It seems that the Committee were unsure of what restrictions may be in place.
Only 100 lottery tickets had been sold but three draws will take place in December.
Those present at the Meeting agreed that any decision would be difficult at this time due to Covid-19 restrictions but that a letter drop would be made to all houses in the village explaining the situation.
Next planned meeting to take place on 13th January 2021 when it was open some indication would have been gained from residents.
After discussion Parish Councillors agreed that disposal of the assets of the SPFA was not an option
- 3185. COMMUNITY SHOP –** Longer hours have been agreed. Profits are down but this is mainly due to the closure of the cafe as there is a larger profit margin on sales in the Cafe. Turnover has decreased but still hopeful that it will be similar to last year. An additional smaller grant has been received from Central Government. Draw tickets now on sale for Christmas Draw. Looking for a new Treasurer to take-over at the next AGM. There is the possibility of a retired Chartered Accountant being able to help with part of this. Grant application is being submitted to Wessex Water in connection with an EPOS system and the creation of a disabled ramp to the Cafe.
- 3186. SEAVINGTONS NEWS –** Financially the News is secure but still looking for a new Editor
- 3187. WEB-SITE UP-DATE -** On-going. Nothing further due to Covid-19 restrictions
- 3188. OTHER MATTERS OF REPORT**
Badger cull on Council Land.- does not affect us as we own no land at present
Community Energy for Rural Areas – agreed not to join a group as we felt individuals could sort themselves.
- 3189. ACCOUNTS**
(a) **Balances –** Current A/c - £6,687.40 credit Business Reserve £16,888.08 credit
(b) **Payment requests –** SSDC – Ranger - £657.12,
(c) **Initial discussions re Precept –** Discussion paper had been sent to all Councillors. Further discussion to take place at the December meeting. Hopeful of more news regarding SPFA by that time.
- 3190. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 15th December 2020 – by ZOOM**

Meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed

Date