

Teffont Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Teffont Village Hall

And via Zoom

(This meeting was recorded).

1st November 2022 at

18:00

MEETING CONVENED: 18:00

Those present:

Parish Councillors: E. Worth (Chair). I. Johnson (Vice Chair) R. Blamey. T. Deane. S.O'Donnell

Also in attendance: Councillor Wayman. M. Honeybourne (Parish Clerk).
6 members of the Public.

Questions and Statements.

The Chair invited questions and statements from the public.

The Chair received 2 questions from members of the public asking why the levels of water in the Stream are so low, even dry in some areas. Members of the public enquired what the Parish Council were doing to investigate the matter.

One member of the public stated they had lived in the village for 40 years and never seen the spring or stream so dry. He stated, the village sits on one of the largest aquifers in the country and our springs are no longer working. Another member of the village stated they had lived in the village since 1963 and had never seen water levels this low before.

A further statement was made by another resident who has contacted his local MP regarding the matter.

A written statement was read by the Clerk from Pam Fisher. She stated a Wessex Water representative had completed the bi-annual survey and the results would be available in the 6 months. She suggested a local survey should be conducted on ownership of local bore holes and springs. She further suggested asking a hydrologist and engineers for their opinion.

The hydrologist was present at the meeting and is happy to give her opinion on Wessex Water reports on water levels in the stream.

The Chair informed the members of the village she intends to request a public meeting with Wessex Water so that the public can fully participate and be given better access to all the information available.

Report from Wiltshire Councillor- Bridget Wayman.

Councillor Wayman arrived after the meeting had begun.
 Councillor Wayman recommended the Wiltshire Council website for help on the Cost of Living and relevant information on energy grants etc.
 Councillor Wayman informed the Council that winter preparations are under way and salt bins will be filled on request.
 Councillor Wayman expressed frustration with the local police and their reluctance to attend meetings and offer support. The Highways committee and all local villages, mostly complain about speeding traffic but the police will not offer support.
 Councillor Deane questioned the monies paid to the police through the precept.
 Councillor Wayman agreed.
 Parish Stewards have received additional funding to allow 2 parish stewards to attend larger jobs.

MEETING MINUTES

22.11.01	<p>Resolution to receive apologies for absence. Councillor Graham. (Work commitments).</p> <p>Proposed: IJ Seconded: RB Carried: Unanimously</p> <p>Resolved: Parish Council resolved to accept Councillor Grahams absence from the meeting.</p>
22.11.02	<p>Declarations of Interest/ Dispensations</p> <p>A) Declarations: None received B) Dispensations: None required</p>
22.11.03	<p>Resolution of Minutes of 26.07.22</p> <p>The Chair asked the Councillors to accept the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th July 2022.</p> <p>Proposed: JA Seconded: RB Carried: Unanimously</p> <p>Resolved: Parish Council resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held 26.07.22 as a true and accurate precis of the meeting.</p>
22.11.03a	<p>Teffont Village Website.</p> <p>The Chair invited Mr M. Audus to inform the Council about updates required to maintain the village website.</p> <p>The Website launched in 2012. Free software was used to build the website and then other areas were attached to it to make it as it is today. A template was purchased by the PC to assist with the build. The company who own the original software have made various security updates. Mr Audus has spent many hours trying to upload the latest security software but the system keeps crashing. He believes the solution is to buy new software and a template. He is confident this will rectify the issues, but he cannot guarantee it. If it doesn't work the Council will need to source a web designer to build a new website as Mr Audus does not wish to embark on this project. The Council need to decide which route they prefer, a possible fix costing approximately £100 or design a new website. The cost of this is unknown.</p> <p>The Chair invited Councillors to comment.</p> <p>The Councillors discussed the matter and agreed to ask Mr Audus to buy a new</p>

template software costing approximately £150.00 before investing in a new website. Councillor Blamey expressed a debt of gratitude to Mr Audus for all his work supporting the village website and the Council.

Resolved: Parish Council resolved to ask Mr M Audus to purchase template software to enable him to update the village website. Parish Council agreed For Mr Audus to purchase the software and submit an invoice to the Parish Clerk. Cost approximately £150.00

Proposed: EW Seconded: JA Carried: Unanimously

22.11.05

Water Levels in the River Teff and Spring Head. Riparian responsibilities.

The PC commissioned Wessex Water and the Environment Agency to investigate the river levels on the Teff.

The Chair invited Councillor Johnson to update the Council on his investigations.

Councillor Johnson informed the meeting the Environment agency had closed the case without visiting the site. Councillor Johnson has, therefore, escalated the issue with the EA, as this was unacceptable. Councillor Johnson will monitor progress.

Councillor Johnson contacted Wessex Water who have completed a site survey. Their report is detailed and contains recommendations. Wessex Water stated the biodiversity in the river is good but highlighted an issue which is preventing the trout from swimming upstream. This will need to be rectified. Wessex water stated they are not abstracting above the agreed levels but in their opinion the low water levels are due to successive years of low rainfall and, therefore, the aquifers are running low. The report states water levels are comparable to 2005 and 2011 and 2018. Water flow this Autumn 2022 is even lower due to a dry summer compounded by water abstraction at the Fonthill borehole. The Chair informed the meeting the abstraction from Fonthill has been reduced over the last 4 years.

The Chair and Clerk saw the Wessex water hydro geologist whilst she was completing her tests. In her opinion she thought a hosepipe ban should have been imposed in the summer.

Principally, the low flow, according to Wessex water, is due to lack of rainfall.

Wessex Water, Senior representative Ian Colley, has agreed to attend the PC's next meeting. Councillor Johnson will ring to Ian Colley to confirm and then he will arrange a public meeting.

The Chair thanked Councillor Johnson for his work.

The Chair asked Harry Button, Flood Warden and Head River Keeper for his opinion.

Harry Button is pleased to see Wessex water taking an interest. Harry is on the river day to day and it is lower than he has known it. Harry asked if the report contains details of water levels within the aquifers.

The Chair proposed the report should be circulated. Council should continue to press the EA and Wessex Water and to ask them both to attend a meeting with Wessex water and the EA where the public can attend.

Proposed: EW Seconded: IJ Carried: Unanimously

Resolved: Teffont Parish Council resolved to invite the Environment agency and Wessex Water to an open meeting. Date to be confirmed. They also resolved to publish the Wessex Water report commissioned by the PC.

The Chair suspended standing orders to allow a member of the public to speak. A retired hydro geologist offered her support.

Standing orders resumed.

	<p>Councillor Blamey requested clarification on riparian ownership responsibilities as some sections of the stream and riverbank are unkempt</p> <p>Councillor Johnson explained his personal understanding of his riparian responsibilities.</p> <p>The Chair invited the River Keeper to give his opinion.</p> <p>Harry Button stated there is balance to be maintained between over manicuring the stream and supporting the biodiversity. It is essential for weed and trees to overhang the stream to support the wildlife. The weed is holding water back in the stream during low water flow.</p> <p>The Chair stated river management is an emotive subject and management of the stream is mentioned in the VDS.</p> <p>The River keeper and Councillor Johnson will draft a document giving riparian owners clarity on river management.</p> <p>Councillor O'Donnell suggested it would be helpful if the river keeper could be a point of contact for riparian owners. Harry Button consented for his email address to be added to the document.</p> <p>The Chair proposed Councillor Johnson and the River keeper collaborate to create a document giving clarity to stream management for riparian owners.</p> <p>Proposed: EW Seconded: IJ Carried: Unanimously Resolved: The River keeper and Councillor Johnson will draft a document giving riparian owners clarity on river management.</p>
22.11.04	<p>Environmental Issues arising from the Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <p>Council decided to consider Rights of Way.</p> <p>Councillor Blamey stated there should be Footpath Champion. He suggested Mrs J. Edwards should be contacted to see if she would take on this role as she has in past.</p> <p>Councillor Johnson and O'Donnell agreed a champion would be the right course of action to review footpaths and stiles and highlight any issues.</p> <p>The Chair agreed to walk Teff 8 and check the bridle path is accessible to all. Previous access issues have been resolved.</p> <p>Councillor Blamey proposed to contact Mrs J. Edwards and ask her to review the footpath network and raise any issues with the PC.</p> <p>Proposed: RB Seconded: SO Carried: Unanimously Resolved: Council resolved to reinstate a footpath champion and review the footpaths.</p> <p>Light Pollution will be discussed at the next meeting on 13th December.</p>
22.11.06	<p>Highways Subcommittee Update.</p> <p>Councillor Blamey informed the meeting he is awaiting traffic surveys to completed in the two 20MPH zones by WC. The police will not sanction speed checks in these zones until the surveys have been completed. The company that supplies the metro counts is struggling with a backlog and it may take some time to rectify.</p> <p>The Highways subcommittee have received approval at the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) meeting for a traffic study to be completed on the B3089. The Highways subcommittee were able to have some input into the brief that Wiltshire Council have given to their subcontractor and a study will be completed in the coming weeks. A payment of 20% of the cost will be required for the study.</p> <p>Agreement has been reached with the Fonthill estate and Wiltshire Council to alter the signage for directing HGV traffic in the area. The Fonthill Estate have agreed to pay £10,000 towards the cost of changing the local signage.</p>

	Discussions continue with the Fonthill Estate.
22.11.07	<p>Village Design Statement Review.</p> <p>The Chair does not believe a subcommittee is required, in her opinion, to review the VDS.</p> <p>Councillor Deane stated the VDS was written 10 years ago, suggested there are some technical statements within the VDS that require updating. He stated, there are some environmental issues that should now be incorporated within the VDS. Councillor Deane the VDS should be reviewed to include new ideas.</p> <p>The Chair emailed Councillors a template for a new planning guide issued by Wiltshire Council. The Chair continued, the VDS is considered by the planning authority as a supplementary document and does not carry much weight. Whilst the VDS has great merit, it does not have much, if any. impact on planning decisions. The new document supplied by WCC has been taken directly from National Planning Quantity Framework and will be adopted by Wiltshire Council and will allow Local areas the opportunity to produce their own design guide which will be input within the WCC design guide and will carry considerable weight.</p> <p>The Chair suggest Council should use both documents concurrently. The Chair stated the VDS should be updated to include new technical information but in addition TPC should produce their own design guide to be recognised by the planning authorities. Councillor Aspden stated the new design guide should be written by people with expertise.</p> <p>Councillor Johnson suggested elements of the VDS be transposed into the new design guide.</p> <p>The Chair proposed there will be two separate documents. The Chair proposed Councillor Blamey to review the VDS and the Clerk to contact the planning department at WC for guidance on the new design statement.</p> <p>Proposed: EW Seconded: RB Carried: Unanimously Resolved: Council resolved to review and update the VDS and to investigate and produce a recognised Design framework for the village.</p>
22.11.08	<p>Civility and Respect Project.</p> <p>The Chair and Councillors recently attended a Code of Conduct course run by the NALC. The Chair was satisfied that TPC was being managed effectively and the Code of Conduct was adhered to. The Clerk informed the Councillors that much of the Civility and Respect project, whilst worthy, was directed at large organisations and by actively abiding by the Code of Conduct was sufficient for a small parish council.</p> <p>The Chair proposed Council would not sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge and will abide by the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Proposed: EW Seconded: JA Carried: Unanimously Resolved: Council resolved to not sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge and abide by the Code of Conduct.</p>
22.11.09	<p>Parish Steward.</p> <p>The Chair invited the Councillors to highlight local issues for the Parish Steward. Councillor Blamey informed the meeting the current contract for Ringway was due to expire 31.03.23. It is not known if Ringway will retain the contract.</p>
22.11.10/ 11	<p>Finance Reports/ Current position.</p> <p>The Clerk has reconciled all accounts against the bank statements. There is one</p>

	<p>outstanding invoice for TVHC for the hire of the hall. The budgets are currently running an underspend.</p> <p>The Clerk has signed up to a three month trial for new accounting software. The Clerk has demonstrated this to Councillor Johnson. The new system is proving efficient.</p> <p>The Clerk was unable to demonstrate the new system as the projector was unavailable but will show the Councillors at the next meeting.</p> <p>The precept setting for 23/24 will be required at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Council agreed to carry out general repairs to the play equipment and varnish the village benches for the winter.</p> <p>Proposed: EW Seconded: IJ Carried: Unanimously</p> <p>Resolved: Council resolved to accept the accounts as a true and accurate record. Council resolved to authorise David Scott to carry out general repairs to village equipment at a cost of £165.00</p>
22.11.12	<p>REPORTS – no resolutions required.</p> <p>Chairs Report:</p> <p>Village phone box needs of painting. Clerk to obtain paint via the website. Clerk to obtain a quote for painting of phone box.</p> <p>The Chair has investigated the possibility of lowering the oil tank at the village hall. The oil tank is considered an eyesore. Southern tanks will supply a quote.</p> <p>The Clerk has requested moving the village noticeboard in Evias. The Chair has obtained permission from the owner of the proposed new location.</p>
22.11.13	<p>Clerks Report:</p> <p>The annual Playground Inspection has been completed with some issues highlighted and plans are in place to rectify the issues.</p> <p>The precept 23/24 setting submission date is the 18th January 2023.</p> <p>The Clerk informed the Council the National Trust have altered their position on supporting the A303 Stonehenge Tunnel. The NT are now asking members to vote against the proposal as UNESCO have threatened to remove their World Heritage site status because of the pollution from the building of the tunnel.</p>
22.11.14	<p>Items for the next Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light Pollution • Highways Update • Parish Steward Update • Review of public meeting with Wessex Water. • Coronation Party for the Village 6th May 2023.
	<p>Meeting Closed: 20:00</p>
	<p>Date of next meeting: 13th December 2022 Teffont Village Hall at 18:30</p> <p>Note: The Village Hall is open for 30 minutes prior to the start of any public meeting for questions from any resident.</p>

