Spaxton Parish Council

**Minutes of meeting held on**

**Monday 6 September 2021 at 8pm at Aisholt & Merridge Village Hall**

**Members present:** The Chairman – Simon Stretton, Robert Adcock, Josh Schwieso, Shelley Duggan, Peter Williams, David Jeanes, Mike Hodson and Alan Cable.

**County & District Councillors present:** Cllr. M Caswell.

**Members of the public present:** Tony Fear, Louise Cabble, Lyndon Brett, Pete Clist.

Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting, a public session was held in which Lyndon Brett outlined the proposals contained in planning application 45/21/00028 and their relationship to local planning policy and priorities.

There being no other public business, the formal meeting commenced at 8.05pm.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr. J Pay, Di Wilson, Carol Harmon.
2. **Dispensation requests:** none.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on Monday 26 July 2021 were agreed and signed.
4. **Matters arising:**
* Allotments – in the absence of Di Wilson there was nothing to report.
* SID device for Spaxton – no progress as the Chairman still awaits a response to recent correspondence.
* Safety mirror – the Clerk had contacted the owners of the house opposite the Peartwater junction, who have requested a photo of exactly where the device will be located prior to giving consent. With regard to a possible mirror at the four Forks Lane junction, councillors had mixed views as to the likely merits but it was ultimately agreed to help fund a mirror if residents were willing to contribute towards it and were prepared to take responsibility for its upkeep, as well as requesting permission for the installation from the landowner. The Clerk will write to residents accordingly.
* Disabled parking bays at the Village Shop – this appears on the agenda for the Village Hall Committee meeting on 6th September.
* Fingerpost restoration – no update as Mr Tomlinson was not present.
* Hedge-cutting – The Chairman had established that County Highways guidance stipulates a single cut each year, which was deemed by councillors to be inadequate, leaving overhanging branches that force cyclists and pedestrians into the open road. The Chairman will continue to lobby the SCC portfolio holder.
* Free tree offer – it was decided to request a single specimen tree, to be located at the Village Hall, where one tree had to be sacrificed in order to locate the Community Shop.
* Platinum Jubilee beacons – it was decided to celebrate in a different way, rather than light a beacon on low lying ground that was unlikely to be seen by many.
* Dog waste bins – at the request of members of the public, this issue was debated again, but the view remains that the costs of emptying are too high and place an unfair burden of cost on all Council Tax payers, not just dog owners who fail to clear up. The Clerk was asked to prepare an item for SCN asking dog owners to act responsibly and take their dog waste home.
1. **Reports:** none.
2. **Financial items:**
3. Statement of accounts –the statement of accounts as at 03.08.21 was agreed and signed – Current account £21642.28 credit, Business Reserve £9140.13 credit.
4. It was agreed to donate £240 to Aisholt PCC for the upkeep of the cemetery.
5. The following cheques were confirmed:

830 06.09.21 £30.00 Courtyard Press, Flower Show printing

831 06.09.21 £36.00 Rosevean Bookkeeping, April - June

832 06.09.21 £31.00 M Williams, hedge cutting

833 06.09.21 £500.00 M Husband, grass cutting

834 06.09.21 £240.00 Aisholt PCC, cemetery upkeep

835 06.09.21 £20.00 Aisholt Village Hall, meeting hire

836 06.09.21 £106.00 M Carver, replacement gate post at allotments

1. Clerk’s salary – it was decided that this would be discussed at a closed session after the meeting, at which the Clerk would not be present.

Cllr M Caswell left the meeting at 8.30pm.

1. **Community Land Trust** – the public meeting is scheduled for 2 October 2021, which will also see the CLT’s AGM take place.
2. **Planning items:**

**Applications decided** since the last meeting: as per the published agenda.

**New applications**:

**45/21/00026** Mr & Mrs Edwards No observations

**45/21/00027** Mr & Mrs Trivass No observations

**45/21/00028** Mr A G Fear A summary of a letter of objection from a local resident was read out. 4 members voted to support the application, 2 voted to object, and 2 voted to make no observations, and the motion to support was therefore carried on the following planning grounds – reduced in size since last application and visually unintrusive. Also in accordance with local policy vis-à-vis tourism, particularly all year round.

**45/21/00029** Mrs J Handy No observations

**45/21/00031** McClellan & Bamber Support – vast improvement on existingstructure.

Concerns had been raised by one resident regarding activities at Bush Farmhouse, particularly regarding permission recently granted for an agricultural barn, with doubt expressed that the barn would be put to the use for which permission had been given. Members felt it would be wrong to pre-judge this and – given that the owners of Bush Farmhouse keep sheep – the request for an agricultural building did not seem unreasonable. Concern had also been expressed regarding the ‘mini shop’ being operated from a horse trailer, in terms of planning consent being required. The Clerk was asked to respond to the complainant and to advise the owner of Bush Farmhouse to seek advice regarding planning consent for the trailer.

Tony Fear, Louise Cabble and Lyndon Brett left the meeting at 8.53pm.

1. **Correspondence received**:
* Timing of local elections – it was unanimously agreed that it made economic and practical sense to hold the local elections at the same time as those for the new Unitary Council for Somerset.
1. **Matters of report** and items for the next meeting:
* Almshouses – the almshouses committee should ideally comprise 3 members from the Church, 3 from the Parish Council and 3 from the public. Since 4 nominations for the PC reps had been received, it was decided that Josh Schwieso would become a Church rep, leaving Alan Cable, Mike Hodson and David Jeanes as PC reps. The Clerk was asked to advise Ted Bird accordingly.
1. **Date & time of next meeting:** Monday 11 October 2021at 8pm at Spaxton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9pm.