

PURITON PARISH COUNCIL



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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY FOR PURITON

MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY FOR PURITON 9TH March 2021

Present: Councillors S Langley, J Fletcher, S Tizzard, J Lunn, J Coleman, D Saunders, S Chambers, B and V Crow.

County Councillor M Healey

Parish Clerk S Diaz

Village Ranger C Gulliford

The Chairman welcomed those present.

1. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr S Langley for the period April 2020 to March 2021

Despite COVID-19 being the main disruption this year to parish proceedings we have continued via zoom meetings to continue to provide the normal service the parish council always does.

Large infrastructure changes are continuing at a pace including the new gravity road and plans for Dunball roundabout. New garage and retail facilities are being constructed at Dunball and Mc Donald's are due to start soon. Big changes to a small area of the parish.

Around the village a few changes have taken place, new dog waste bins, a new path surface from Old Puriton Hill Road to the school in Rowlands Rise, the sub structure material of which was kindly supplied by Gravity. The money for the path and dog bins has come from CIL money, this is money the council receives from Sedgemoor District Council when new houses are built in the village. The money must be used for community projects to benefit the community, this money is a compulsory payment for construction companies and has been the norm for many years. Once our Neighbourhood plan is in place, we will receive a larger proportion of any money SDC receive which again can be used for improvements to benefit the community. This eases the burden on the precept, the money we all pay on our council tax.

Following a successful application to Villages together and Viridor, the pump track group received funding to install the pump track at the sports centre. This project, delayed due to covid and some red tape, also secured funding for CCTV and various other improvements to enhance your visit to the track and sports centre fields.

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Manse Lane was fitted with up to date led street lighting to improve the reduction of light pollution and lower consumption.

As for the future, we are hoping to secure funding enhance the area at the bottom of the sports field to make this a nature area with micro forest planting, a footpath, and various areas of planting to provide a natural environment that offers a pleasant walk together with encouraging insects and a better environment.

The parish council sadly lost Mark Healey as a long-standing councillor and we wish him well and thank him for all his hard work over the years.

Sue Chambers has stepped into the fold and we thank her for joining us to serve the community and we look forward to her contributing to debates and resolutions in the future.

Big thank you as ever to our dedicated staff who continue to provide a superb service to the council and the community, thank you to Chris and Sally.

Finally, a big thank you our Councillors who as always give up their time to look after the Parish affairs.

2. Financial report for the period April 2020 to March 2021 made by the Clerk/Responsible Officer

The Parish Council's finances remain healthy due to the sound financial management of the Council.

At the start of the financial year the Council's bank balance stood at £88 386. At the end of February, the balance was £109651. There are only March payments outstanding and a VAT refund of £3140.05 for 2020-21 which will be applied for at the end of the Financial year. Therefore, the Council's cash assets effectively total £112791.

The Council have received CIL funds of £8258 from the building projects in the Parish. The Council have used these funds for projects including new dog bins, the Webbers Way steps and the resurfacing of the path from Webbers Way to the School which have totalled £12098.

Village grants for 2020-2021 have totalled £999.98, there are additional requests made for £4000 at the March Parish Council meeting.

The precept demand has remained the same as last year at £50000. This will mean that a band D house will pay an additional £1.12 a year to the Parish Council.

This decision to keep the Precept at the same amount was taken due to the Covid pandemic and the financial pressures residents are facing, the Parish Council did not want to increase their Council Tax payment for the year ahead.

I am very confident that all financial decisions taken by the Parish Council have been the correct ones.

The meeting ended at 6.52pm
End of minutes

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Councillors S Langley, J Fletcher, S Tizzard, J Lunn, J Coleman, D Saunders, S Chambers, B and V Crow.

County Councillor M Healey

Parish Clerk S Diaz

Village Ranger C Gulliford

Prior to the meeting a representative from Gravity provided an update and answered questions on the Energy Park/Link Road

PCSO Simpkin provided guidance on crime related issues in the area.

The meeting started at 7.30pm

21/3A To receive any apologies of non-attendance

All Councillors were present.

21/3B To receive any declarations of interest in items on this agenda

Councillor Fletcher declared an interest in item 21/3F application 42/21/00004 and

Councillors Fletcher and Tizzard declared an interest in item 21/3K, grant application for Puriton Playing Fields.

21/3C To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2021

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th February 2021.

21/3D To receive the County Councillor's report

This report was sent prior to the meeting. Councillor Healey also mentioned that Planning Enforcement are receiving an increase of queries.

21/3E To receive the Clerk's report

This report was sent prior to the meeting. The clerk discussed plans for the Annual Parish Council Meeting. A provisional date is planned for 4th May at 6.30pm. This was noted and will be confirmed at the next meeting depending on guidance from SALC regarding online meetings and if legislation will be extended to hold them.

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21/3F To receive the following planning applications

Planning application number	Location	Proposal
42/21/00001	Woodside, Puriton Hill, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8AG	Retrospective application for the conversion of a garage to ancillary residential annexe It was resolved to make no comment on this application.
42/21/00002	Mfg Dunball Service Station, Old Works Road, Dunball, Bridgwater, TA6 4BQ	Erection of 1 no. 5m EV pole sign internally illuminated. It was resolved to object to this application as the height of the signs are excessive for the area and will cause light pollution to the residents living in Downend.
42/21/00004	24 Hillside Crescent, Puriton, TA7 8AP	Erection of a single storey rear (North) extension and associated works. It was resolved to make no comment on this application.

Councillor Fletcher left the meeting at 7.55pm and returned at 8pm.

21/3G To note the outcome of the following planning applications:

The decisions were noted.

Planning application number	Location	Decision
42/20/00034 42/21/00003	Adjacent To A38 And North Of Dunball Roundabout, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6	Awaiting decision
42/20/00035+ 42/20/00036	30 Rye, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8DA	Awaiting decision
42/20/00031	Adjacent To A38 And North Of Dunball Roundabout, Puriton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA6	Awaiting decision
42/20/00014	Land to the South of, Woolavington Road, Puriton, Bridgwater, TA7	Awaiting decision

21/3H To approve the budget, bank statements and payments.

Date	Payee	Description	Amount
22.1.21	Wellers Law	Professional/legal fees for the Pump track	540.00
15.2.21	NA Haggett	Footpath resurfacing	£5460.00

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21.11.21	L Adams	Zoom subscription for October and November 2021	£28.78
1.3.21	Plusnet	Broadband	£26.40
1.3.21	EDF	Electric supply	£10.00
	Staff Costs	February	£1622.93

It was resolved to approve the budget, bank statement and payments.

21/3I To consider a sign for the Post Office.

It was resolved to ask the Traffic Engineer to visit the area and advise where it could be placed and what signage could be used.

21/3J To consider a replacement sign for the Orchard.

It was resolved to not replace the sign at this time.

Councillors Fletcher and Tizzard left the meeting at 8.20pm and returned to answer questions at 8.25pm. They left the meeting again at 8.28pm and returned at 8.35pm

21/3K To consider the following grant applications:

Puriton Playing Fields £2000.

Puriton Village Hall £2000

It was resolved to approve both grant applications.

21/3L To consider the parking issues at Manse Lane.

It was resolved to advise the resident at Manse Lane that the Parish Council have been unable to contact the possible owner of the Lane after trying various options. It was agreed to advise the residents to take this matter forward independently.

21/3M To consider the return of face to face meetings and the safety requirements required.

It was agreed to ask the School and the 37 Club for availability for meetings on a temporary basis if we are unable to return to the village hall or use the Sports Centre as they are awaiting confirmation of which groups will return and when. Times may conflict due to cleaning regimes after each group.

21/3N To consider the deterioration of the Exchange Inn

It was agreed that District Councillor B Crow will ask Sedgemoor District Council if Council Tax/Business rates have been paid and if Planning Enforcement can consider further enforcement. This will be reported back at the next meeting.

21/3O To consider carrying out a footpath survey regarding repairs needed to stiles and gates in the parish.

It was agreed that the clerk will ask Julia Glinister, the Public Paths Liaison Officer to start reporting back on areas in need of maintenance to the Rights of Way team. The clerk will email Councillors to ask if they can cover any areas so there is no duplication. A post will go on Puriton People to encourage walkers to report any maintenance issues when out in the village.

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21/3P To consider an application to save the oaks and determine how many are required and which locations.

It was agreed the clerk would email the Councillors and ask for how many trees required, where and if permission granted. The deadline for this will be 7 days.

21/3Q Councillor reports

Councillor B Crow has no guidance from Sedgemoor District Council regarding to face-to-face meetings. Bridgwater is applying for funding to develop the town centre. The Bristol free port application did not get approved. Brewery Field development begins work in April. There will be a small increase on Council Tax this year.

Councillor Tizzard reported the path from Webbers Way to the School needs to be sprayed with weed killer. The clerk will contact Clean Surroundings for a quote. The Ranger will be able to keep this maintained.

Councillor Langley asked for ideas for potential names for the new link road, suggestions made were Green Bridge Way, Greenhill Way, Blue Hat Lane and Hudson Hill.

21/3R Items for the next agenda-Parish Plan, Annual Parish Council Meeting 4th May, dropped kerb suggestion from Webbers Way footpath to car park entrance at the School.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 13th April at 7pm

The meeting ended at 9.10pm

End of minutes