



Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30 pm at Morganians RFC on Thursday 25th January 2024.

Present Parish Councillors Davies, Kennedy, Lane, Mason, Bond, and Ellicott, in attendance Councillor Dingwall and the Clerk.

Item	Minute	Action
24/01/01	Apologies were received and approved by Councillor Rodrigues. Declaration of interest received from Mr D Lane - planning application 08/23/000369, land in his ownership, approved.	
24/01/02	The minutes of the meeting held on 23 rd November 2023 and 11 th December 2023 were agreed unanimously and signed as correct.	
24/01/03	Arising from the minutes: 2008 – The traffic light situation has improved with the changes requested. Reports from residents of lorries using Eastern Ave and Somerville Way. River outfall at Dunwear has been jetted but due to SRA barges moving silt this requires completing again and will be done at a low tide. Skipton account status – The clerk stated this will be sent with minutes once signed today.	RD to speak with the site manager at Strawberry Grange and DL to speak with RK Bell. Clerk to send Skipton account application ASAP.
24/01/04	Unitary Councillor reports: Finances of the Unitary Council will mean that services will change, requests have gone to the central government to raise the council tax to 10% as currently there is a ceiling of 5%. They are also considering selling off all buildings that are in their ownership. There could be up to 1200 redundancies in coming years/. Statutory services will remain including Children and Adult social care plus libraries. Parish Councils have been asked to take on delivery of some services, 20 th February full budget will be agreed. Bridgwater Town Council are considering an increase of 167.8%.	
24/01/05	Reports from Parish Councillors: RD – potholes on River Lane Dunwear. A resident requested support with a situation near his property and resolved that the PC could not get involved in a civil matter. RK – scramble-type bikes on the riverbank at Somerset Bridge under the motorway bridge as well as cars, two of which had been pushed into the river. Car dismantling activities in Dunwear. ME – potholes along Chedzoy Lane. He has the memorial bench agreed that RD, RK, DL and the clerk will meet on Saturday morning to agree position. DL – Increasing rubbish including tyres appearing along the motorway bridge section of Westonzoyland Road. PM - none GB – reported that potholes are an ongoing issue in the parish. He questioned the use of funds to complete a survey of the Willow man. LB – Bower Lane planning application is likely to be before the planning committee in April or May. The World Wildlife Blue Heritage Project has been involved with the application to improve green spaces. RD asked if they could be involved with the Folletts Farm application, LB to request this. She explained that the lack of provision for green space on the Eastern side of the town had been recognised. Highways report from a meeting with David Carter, John Pellingham and Lizzie Browne will be shared at the next meeting.	
24/01/06	Budget figures shared, The Clerk had sought information regarding increases in costs and had costed for services that had previously been conducted by the council. To retain a similar service to residents without a reduction in service there will have to be an increase in precept. Members were keen to consider the cost-of-living crisis. An increase of 21% just covers the budget. Twenty-nine percent offered a small buffer, members noted that the budget had no room for contingency. Funds held in	

Signed Chairman

Date

	reserve are marked for community building. Agreed by 4 to 3 to raise the precept by 42% giving a buffer of £8k. This is an increase of £16.84 per band D.	
24/01/07	Clerk report – Bridgwater Town Council looking to offer services that could be lost through devolution opportunities. The recycling centre at Saltlands will be funded by the town council. Suggestion for Neighbourhood Watch in the parish – resolved that the Clerk promotes this through social media. NatWest has removed a signatory from the account and the process to add needs to be completed. Clerk to complete the online form, sending this to M Ellicott and R Kennedy to complete. Two signatories for this account Mr M Ellicott and Mr R Kennedy Unity Trust Bank have been discussed at previous meetings, and this offers better options, online payments with protection via two signatories releasing payments. Resolved to open the account with Mr R Davies, Mr R Kennedy and Mr M Ellicott as signatories and the Clerk but not as a signatory. HMRC payments will now be taken as DD. FSCS paperwork for the Skipton Community account was signed.	Resolved to open an account with Unity Trust Bank, signatories RD, RK, and ME with the Clerk not as a signatory. Resolved that Mr R Kennedy re-added to the NatWest account, the Clerk to complete the process online.
24/01/08	Planning Full Planning Permission 08/23/000369 Land to the West of, Summerway Drove, East Bower, Bridgwater Proposed construction, operation and decommissioning of a 90MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility and associated infrastructure. Renewable Connections Developments Limited Agent - GP Planning Ltd, iCon Innovation Centre Full Planning Permission 09/23/00017 Medway Park, Chedzoy Lane, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8QW Alterations to existing access at Medway Park. Mrs R Tremain Full Planning Permission 09/23/00018/JMS Applicant: Mr Rayson Erection of garage to southwest elevation. Location: Meadowland, Chedzoy Lane, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 8	Resolved to support as renewable energy and batteries are screened from view and are adjacent to the M5. Proposed by GB, seconded by ME, support unanimously. Resolved to support a good improvement in road safety. Proposed by DL, seconded by GB support unanimously. This application has already been decided.
24/01/09	LCN – RK reported the Active Travel Group presentation at the recent meeting, ideas for usage of empty buildings, e.g. the bus station as it will shortly close. There was a general feeling amongst several attendees that there was no funding, follow-up, or progress.	
24/01/10	Date of next meeting – The clerk has sent invites for 22/02/2024 at 7.15 pm for public speaking before the 7.30 pm meeting.	

Signed Chairman

Date

Signed Chairman

Date