

Minutes of the Dunkerton & Tunley Parish Council Meeting 28 November 2024 7.30 pm Dunkerton Parish Hall

Ref	Agenda Item	Minute	Action
	ATTENDANCE	Cllr Orme, Cllr Willert, Cllr Prescott, Cllr Batchelor, Cllr Thring, Cllr Mannings, Cllr Ashley, Ward Cllrs McCabe and Gourley, and the Clerk Kathryn Manchee	
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	Cllr Robinson	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS	None.	
3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22 October 2024 were approved and signed by the chair of the meeting.	
4	MATTERS ARISING		
4.1	Update on the CPR & Defibrillator Training	It has been agreed to arrange a session in the spring next year so the air ambulance service will be contacted again in February next year to make arrangements for the training.	Clerk

4.2	Update on the Parish Online Training	A very useful training session was run by BANES on 27 November.	
4.3	Update on Suspicious Activity in the Pull-Ins Above Withyditch	This matter was raised at a previous meeting. More information has been provided to the police who are now dealing with this matter. The recently abandoned vehicle in Blind Lane may be linked to the suspicious activity in Withyditch.	
5	URGENT BUSINESS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN	<p>Flooding in Dunkerton</p> <p>The recent flooding is the worst since 2001. The flooding may have been made worse by a blockage of trees and farm gates in the Cam Brook on the other side of the A367. The last time this matter was raised with the Environment Agency who were very helpful but the issue could not be resolved due to not being able to identify one of the owners of the land on the side of the stream. As the site is in their parish the parish council to write to Combe Hay parish council asking if they know who the relevant landowner is. Clearance of the blockage can then be progressed with the Environment Agency.</p>	Clerk

6	FINANCE		
6.1	Financial Report	The balance of funds as at 28 November is £16,279.57.	
6.2	Approval of Award of Pay Settlement to Clerk and RFO 2024 2025	Unanimously approved.	
6.3	Consideration of New Agreement with Cricket Club re the use of the cricket ground following the expiry of the existing agreement	The planned site meeting was unable to go ahead due to access issues. Once the parish council has new keys the meeting will be rearranged. This item to be put back on the agenda once the new site meeting has been arranged.	Cllrs
6.4	Approval of the Risk Assessment 2025 2026	Unanimously approved.	Clerk
6.5	Approval of the Asset Register	Unanimously Approved.	Clerk
6.6	Consideration of Insurance Renewal for 2025 2026	The parish council is in the third year of a three year long term agreement with Zurich hence no alternative quotes sought. While the proposed premium has increased on last year's cost the premium is still cheaper than all alternative quotes obtained two years ago. Note without the long term agreement the premium would have been between £40 and £50 more.	Clerk

		Therefore the clerk and RFO is recommending renewal with Zurich. Next year alternative quotes will be requested. Unanimously approved.	
6.7	Consideration of Items for the Budget 2025 2026	The budget and precept level for 2025 2026 is to be approved at the January 9 meeting. Therefore the draft budget will be prepared during December. Therefore could any items to be included in the draft budget be with the clerk and RFO by close of play Friday 13 December.	Clrs/Clerk
6.8	Consideration of Quote for Removal of Further Overgrown Vegetation in Manders Orchard	It was unanimously approved to accept the quote for the work to clear all the brambles. No other quote had been requested as the PC was happy to engage a local, reliable and value for money supplier.	
6.9	Payments for Approval	Approved. Details can be found in Appendix 1.	Clerk
7	PLANNING		
7.1	BANES Planning Decisions	Planning Application REF 23/04142/FUL 1 North Hill Cottages Tunley Road Tunley Conversion of existing garage to a holiday let PENDING DECISION. Parish Council SUPPORTED.	

		<p>Planning Application 24/01841/FUL Tunley Equestrian Centre, Withyditch Lane, Dunkerton Erection of agricultural building for storage of straw and machinery at Manor Farm Barn. WITHDRAWN. Parish Council OBJECTED due to location.</p> <p>Planning Application 24/03366/VAR Fosseway , Old Fosseway, Dunkerton Variation of condition 4 (Demolition of Garage and Carport (Compliance)) of application 23/00762/FUL (Erection of a two storey extension following demolition of existing carport, garage and lean-to. Alterations and improvements to dwelling). PENDING DECISION. Parish Council SUPPORTED.</p> <p>Planning Application 24/03679/FUL - Lower Tunley Farm, Stoneage Lane, Tunley, Erection of extension to existing barn. APPROVED. Parish Council SUPPORTED.</p> <p>Planning Application 24/03576/FUL Parcel 8775, Tunley Road, Tunley, Erection of tractor and implements shed. PENDING DECISION. Parish Council SUPPORTED.</p> <p>23/00462/NONCOM - New Farm, Marksbury Lane,</p>	
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7.2	Planning Correspondence and other Planning Related Matters	Several members of the council attended the recent Planning Policy Webinar on the local plan.	
7.3	Consideration of a Response to the Consultation on Planning Application REF 24/04006/FUL High View Bath Road Tunley Erection of single storey rear extension, dormer loft conversion, and raised decking.	The parish council resolved to unanimously support this application as it complies with policies D1, D2, D3, D4, D6, CP7, CP8, GB1, NE2, NE2A and ST7. This support is subject to the resulting volume increase being no greater than 40%.	Clerk
7.4	Consideration of a Response to the Consultation on Planning Application REF	The parish council unanimously resolved to object to	Clerk

	24/04040/FUL Parcel 3800 Old Dunkerton Hill Dunkerton Erection of an agricultural storage building/machinery and implement shed.	this application because it doesn't comply with policies GB1, RE2 and ST7.	
8	NEW ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS/PARISHIONERS		
8.1	Consideration of the Future of the A367 Dunkerton Bus Shelter Street Light	<p>In March 2023 the Dunkerton Bus Shelter faulty light that the parish council owns was reported to us via Fix My Street and raised directly with us in August of that year. The clerk spent over 9 months chasing Volker (BANES highways and street light repair contractor) to get a quote for the repair to no avail despite the intervention of BANES street lighting team. Therefore the parish council decided not to proceed with the repair and only look again at this issue when we received another complaint. The parish council has now received a follow up complaint that the street light has not been repaired yet.</p> <p>The clerk has replied to the complainant explaining why the street light has not been repaired and has heard nothing further since.</p>	Clerk

		<p>It has been proposed by Cllr Robinson that the parish council contact BANES with a brief history of the matter. And then go on to state that it is an absurd situation that a small rural parish, with limited funding, should continue to be responsible for one isolated light on this major trunk road, and that we are no longer prepared to be responsible for this light.</p> <p>It was unanimously resolved that the clerk would write to BANES, pointing out that BANES' adoption of the lighting on the A367 would make sense within their large and important "Somer Valley Links" transport strategy.</p>	
9	OTHER ISSUES FOR THE ATTENTION OF DISTRICT WARD COUNCILLORS	<p>Ward Cllr Gourley gave an update to the parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A planning appeal inquiry re the Sulis Down Phase 3 and 4 planning application will be held in January. • The A36 is due to reopen in March as scheduled. • The Ward Cllrs Fund is available for application of about £150. <p>Cllr Orme reported that the Government' Transport Select Committee is conducting an inquiry into bus</p>	Chairman

		services and how they can connect rural communities.	
10	DATE OF NEXT MEETING 9 January 2025 7.30 pm Dunkerton Parish Hall		

Appendix 1 - Dunkerton & Tunley Parish Council Payments for Approval at meeting 28 November 2024

Payments to Ratify

11 October	Bank Transfer	HMRC Tax Due	£26.40
25 October	Direct Debit	Street Lighting September	£29.31
31 October	Standing Order	Clerk Net Salary October	£586.08
31 October	Bank Charge	Bank Admin Fee October	£5.40
22 November	Direct Debit	Cricket Club Electricity July to October	£159.58
26 November	Direct Debit	Street Lighting October	£30.29

Payments for Approval

28 November	Bank Transfer	Somersetshire Coal Canal Society Membership	£10.00
28 November	Bank Transfer	Insurance	£753.17
28 November	Bank Transfer	SLCC Membership	£150.00
28 November	Bank Transfer	Clerk's Back pay April to November	£174.72

This is the gross amount so actual back pay may be lower after tax and will be paid after December payroll run with actual amount ratified at the next meeting. Salary standing order to be amended for January payroll run when increase amount without back pay known. Therefore back pay not yet reflected in the accounts