

Trudoxhill Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.30pm (Village Hall)

Present: Diana Francis, Sheila Salmon, Chris Kenyon, Rohan Masson-Taylor (Chair), Cllr Clarke
Clerk: Sam Winstanley
Members of Public: 1

23/475 Apologies

CBC, JS

23/476 Disclosure of Interest

23/477 Minutes of the last meeting

4/4 approved

Meeting suspended to take questions or comments from the Public

Budget gap down to 19m, next year down from 100m to 87m, mostly due to capital management rather than real savings. Need to balance budget – lots of service price hikes being discussed, reduction in services & funding etc... advice from Cllr Clarke is to not take on services, lots of cost and risk. County hall closing a block to reduce costs. Change to waste pickup days incoming. Extra money for road repairs and relining – make sure you remind your highways rep of needs. Council tax would need to go up 30% to cover deficit (it cannot, legally, however).

23/478 Planning

23/478.1 2023/2147/VRC - Variation of condition 2 on consent at Theobald Arms, Nunney Catch

The council discussed and agreed that it was a minor change with no adverse effects

RESOLUTION - 4/0/0 in favour of recommending approval

23/478.2 2023/1981/FUL – Erection of Agricultural Barn at Dove Cottage, Smithwicks Lane

Although the barn has a fairly large footprint with a 5m+ ridge height, it is not out of keeping with similar agricultural buildings. This is a full application rather than permitted development because the applicant does not own the required size of plot to qualify. The council was made aware that 2 neighbours had not been notified and the clerk was asked to follow up with the officer. The council agreed that further details on drainage were needed, as the existing ditch protected the access for neighbours and this must be maintained.

RESOLUTION – 4/0/0 in favour of recommending approval, subject to drainage plans being submitted

23/479 Finance

23/479.1 Financial Report

The clerk reported £2850 in the main bank balance, £600 behind budget, mostly due to the 20mph zone application fee.

23/479.2 Accounts for payment

Clerk - £316.40, Fencing - £125.86

23/479.3 Budget

Clerk presented the budget which had been submitted for comment and discussion prior. Including projected new costs for speed abatement and with only a few cuts, total costs are expected to be only £54 more than last year. Cllrs discussed capital impact of speed abatement project (which are covered by funds already raised and potentially a grant that the council applied for) and ongoing costs, which were included in the budget.

RESOLUTION – 4/0/0 to approve the budget as presented

23/479.4 Precept

The council discussed running a deficit and the concern on running down the scant reserves. The clerk ran projections that showed with the current deficit, with upcoming projects and costs, reserves would be gone in two years. An increase in precept would be to fund new initiative for speeding abatement signage, zoning change, camera device and ongoing costs whilst balancing the budget for the council, a core requirement for the budgeting process. The required increase in precept is projected at £2.16 per household for the year. Councillors discussed that any increase must be done thoughtfully, and there was some concern that as a percentage, 5% is substantial, but this is only because the precept is small to begin with – and the actual increase of just over £2 seemed good value, particularly in light of the work involved in the upcoming 20mph zone and the amenity that brings to the parish. The council agreed to write in the next YourView about the precept decision.

RESOLUTION – 3 votes for closing the deficit, 1 vote for cutting deficit by half. Closing the deficit carries. The precept will be raised to close the deficit and balance the budget.

23/480 Reports

23/471.1 Highways & 20mph Zone Application (SS)

Layby by A361 at Cheese Hill has worn away line, lorries emerging dangerously – after contact with our highways rep, this is already in highways repair program and will be reinstated shortly. Referred dumping of rubbish and spoil on Cheese Hill to highways, was making the road dangerous. Also rubbish dumping in laybys – notified through fixmystreet. Response seems fairly rapid. 20mph zone has been formally approved by highways, it has been scheduled for 2024 – this includes the extension of 30mph limit out to Pyle farm.

Grit bins have been refilled, except one at iron mill, the clerk followed up and received a response that they will come back and fill that bin shortly.

23/471.2 SpeedWatch (SS)

Might lose a member, still looking for more members.

23/471.3 The Village Hall

Thanks were received for the donation of trees and requests for help erecting and decorating the two trees in the village have been made. The Village Hall Christmas party is booked for 17th, all are welcome.

23/471.4 Unitary Update – LCN

See Cllr Clarke's notes in the public section above.

23/471.5 Parish Plan

No updates

23/481 Correspondence and Emails Received

23/482 Other Business referred to the Clerk

23/473.1 Playground Fence

2 Members of the council repaired and reinstated the sections of the fence that were in need of repair, donating their time to do so. A bill for materials has been submitted to the council.

23/473.2 Boundary Commission

The clerk received a note from the clerks at Nunney and Wanstrow looking to get together and discuss as a larger group the implication of the boundary commission and the asset and service devolution processes that are occurring. They are

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large and far-reaching actions the scope of which are outside the reach and knowledge of the council. The council agreed this would be a good way forward, the larger our voices are the more chance we have of being heard.

23/473.3 Asset Devolution

See above

23/473.4 Memorial Tree Pruning & Memorial Stone

The clerk confirmed that SSE had been out to prune the tree from around their cables, but they are not responsible for the whole tree, only where it may impact service provision. The clerk will ask Mr Gale if he can prune further now that the tree is off the lines. A group of councillors looked at the fractured memorial stone and have agreed to consult with a local mason about the best way forward.

23/473.5 Voneus

After repeated followups, the representative stopped responding to the clerk. It appears the latest project to bring broadband to beyond Trudoxhill to Marston, Gare Hill and others has been dropped. Promises have been broken, but no further information is forthcoming.

23/473.6 Christmas Trees

Thanks to generous donations there are two large trees awaiting erection in the village hall and next to the notice board. Councillors will arrange to decorate and raise them in the next week

23/483 [Date of next TPC meeting](#)

Thursday 4th Jan.

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