

**Minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee  
held on Thursday 20 July 2023 at 6.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr Irven, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Westcott, and Cllr Whetlor (Chair)

**In attendance:** Jo Grellier, Deputy Town Clerk

23/10B To receive apologies for absence: (LGA 1972, section 85 (1))  
Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'apologies given by Cllrs Campbell, Moss, and Richards are accepted'**.  
Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

23/11B To receive any Declaration of Interests under Watchet Town Council's Code of Conduct (Adopted on 9 July 2012) issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 Si No: 1464

Name	Minute no	Description of Interest	Personal & Prejudicial	Action
Cllr Murphy & Cllr Irven	3/37/23/015	Objector employed by WCCT of whom Cllr is a Director	Personal	Cllr remained in the room but did not participate in the discussion and abstained from voting
Cllr Whetlor	3/37/23/015	Personal friend of applicant	Personal	Cllr remained in the room and participated in the discussion and voting

23/12B To receive and sign the minutes of the previous Environment and Planning meeting - (22 June 2023) and adopt the Resolutions and Recommendations contained therein. (LGA 1972, SCH12 Para 41 (1) - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 1*)  
Cllr Murphy proposed that **'the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 22 June 2023 are approved as a true and correct record'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

23/13B **Allotment/West Beach subsidence:**  
(i) Update - *if required*  
Cllr Irven verbally updated that the allotment cliff is gradually sliding with no catastrophic falls. The refiguration of the car parking layout is ongoing.

23/14B **Watchet Task Force: if required –**  
Cllr Murphy informed members that following discussions through the E&P committee and WTF, the new recycle bins on the Esplanade were turned, but have since returned to their original position. This needs to be investigated through WTF.

23/15B **Cleeve Hill Road closure update meeting:**  
(i) Minutes from the follow-up meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023 with Somerset Council and other attendees – Members to note minutes of the meeting (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 2*)  
Cllr Irven updated the committee on a successful follow-up meeting with the following main points raised:

- Geckoella suggested that the original plan for a Coastal Working Group was revisited and arranged as this would help concentrate on the longer term solutions for the cliff erosion and decipher what Watchet wants. The E&P committee will address this at the September meeting.
- Paul Tucker was tasked with establishing the contact of the Unitary officer now responsible for the licencing of West Bay Residential Park. No response to date, Deputy Clerk due to chase this.

*hms*



- Somerset Council agreed to data collected on drone surveys will include WSCP and happy that the information is shared with WTC. Geckoella proposed that reports will be sent directly to Deputy Clerk and verbal updates given at E&P meetings.

Cllr Murphy proposed that **'when S/C officer responsible for West Bay Residential Park is established, that the Deputy Clerk has delegation to make contact to inform them of the proposal to form a Coastal Working Group'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

23/16B

#### **Wansborough Papermill new development company:**

- (i) Introduction site visit Meeting – members to note minutes of the Teams meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – *(Paperwork to be tabled at the meeting)*

Cllr Whetlor tabled the minutes of the Teams introductory meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July with the new Mill Site development owners, Stratton Lands' National Development manager, and S/C Planning Officer Simon Fox. Members of Williton PC were also in attendance. Members noted the update.

Cllr Irven thanked Cllr Whetlor for taking the notes and generating the minutes from the meeting. Happy to see that issues raised with the developer are being actioned.

- (ii) Mill site parking – verbal update  
Cllr Irven informed members that following the introduction Teams meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July, the new Site Developers, Stratton Land requested an on-site visit to the Mill site to discuss parking for Markets and main community events to alleviate the shortage of parking in the town during events. It was agreed that:

- Watchet Wednesday Markets are authorised to park up to 15 vehicles on the entrance road to the Mill site. This would be F.o.C as it did not require a member of staff to be on site to monitor traffic and open security gates. The Deputy Clerk is to arrange 15 parking displays to be printed and given to traders who may benefit.
- Site parking will be available for Sunday Street Fair and other large-scale events via separate negotiation regarding fees. Site Manager is happy for the first section of the mill site to be used for parking, they have agreed to Heras fence the Section permitted to avoid vehicles accessing unauthorised areas. Signage must be displayed to direct pedestrians into Town. Consideration to financial contribution for signage once proposal from Strattons received.
- Industrial vehicle movement from Mid-September will prevent the site being used for events including markets. Site developer happy to negotiate for any events up to this date.
- Once formal response received, further confirmation required to establish if public parking permitted on entrance lane.

23/17B

#### **Watchet Car parking:**

- (i) Meeting with Somerset Council Parking Services and Enforcement Officers – update from Committee Clerk – *members to note*

Members noted that a site visit with Somerset Council Parking Services and Enforcement Officers will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023, and members of E&P are welcome to attend. The time is yet to be confirmed.

- (ii) Somerset Council review of parking charges – to discuss recent press release from Somerset Council – *(Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 3)*

Members discussed recent correspondence from Somerset Council informing that car parking fees will be increasing. Cllr Murphy proposed that **'the Committee object to the proposed 10% increase in parking charges particularly after the closure of the B3191 and the current pressure put on the businesses in the town. Delegation is given to the Deputy Clerk to write to Somerset Council to express objection. The matter is referred to WTF so that this can be raised with Somerset Council at their next WTF meeting, and finally the concerns are raised directly with S/C Parking Service and Enforcement Officer at the meeting due to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> August'**. Seconded by Cllr Irven. Carried.

23/18B

#### **Councillor Surgeries:**

- (i) Missing road signage at St Decumans Road - to address correspondence from resident following a discussion held at a recent Councillor surgery - *(Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 4)*

At this stage Cllr Irven declared a personal interest in the following item as a resident of St Decumans Road. Cllr Irven remained in the room and took part in the discussion and voting.

Members discussed the report following a resident concern raised at the last Councillor Surgery. Cllr Murphy proposed that **'The Deputy Clerk contact Somerset Highways and request that they investigate the concerns raised and invite officers for a site visit. Contact the resident who raised concerns to inform them of the actions WTC are taking to help resolve the issues.'** Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

Cllr Whetlor proposed that **'Cllr Murphy attend if Somerset Highways agree to a site visit'**. Seconded by Cllr Westcott. Carried.



- (ii) Brendon Road – to address resident concerns regarding increase in traffic and pedestrian use of the road since the closure of B3191 – verbal update by Cllr Murphy  
Cllr Murphy gave the following update:
- Cllr Ellwood indicated that she may be able to supply information on this matter. There has been no response to the Deputy Clerks request for this information from Cllr Ellwood.
  - Speeding concerns and increase in traffic and pedestrian use of small path on road.
- Cllr Murphy proposed that's **'the Committee recommend referral to WTF working group to take up this matter with Somerset Highways at their next meeting, and delegation is given to the Deputy Clerk to contact Somerset Highways to reiterate the concerns raised by the resident and inform the resident of the actions taken by this committee'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

23/19B

**20mph Scheme:**

- (i) To discuss the Somerset Council 20mph Scheme - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 5*)  
Cllr Whetlor informed members that she had contacted Services Manager of Traffic Engineering and received a response to confirm that the total cost of the scheme if taken up will be borne by the Town Council. A discussion ensued. Cllr Irven proposed that **'the scheme is referred to WTF working group to discuss matter with Somerset Council to establish if they have an amended perception of the speed limits in Watchet since the closure of the B3191'**. Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried.

23/20B

**Five Bells subsidence**

- (i) to address correspondence form Cllr Rosemary Woods - (*Paperwork circulated to members prior to the meeting via Appendix 6*)  
Cllr Irven updated members to correspondence received from S/C Councillor Woods. A discussion ensued. Cllr Irven proposed that **'the correspondence is added as an item on the Williton PC collaborate meeting agenda due to be held on 27th July for joint discussion and collective response.'** Seconded by Cllr Whetlor. Carried

23/21B

To address items received from the planning authority requiring attention prior to the next Somerset Council planning meetings: *if required*  
**None**

**Plans received for discussion**

3/37/23/015

**Vernley, 15A-A Whitehall, Watchet, TA23 0BD**

Erection of attached garage to side of dwelling and single storey rear extension

**The Committee has no further comment as the encroachment concerns raised have not been addressed because the measurements are not detailed on the site plan.** Carried with 2 abstentions.

3/37/23/018

**Land between Beverley Drive & Goviers Lane, watchet, TA23 0DF**

Application for the approval of reserved matters following outline approval 3/37/21/006 for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the erection of 1 No. dwelling (resubmission of 3/37/22/015)

**The committee stand by their initial comments and note in support of comments made by S&I Goode of 18 Almyr Terrace. The committee feel their valid comments have not been addressed.**

3/37/23/021

**Windwhistle, 46 Brendon Road, Watchet, TA23 0HX**

Erection of detached annex for a disabled person


**The Committee recommends approval.**

23/22B

**Matters for the next meeting – verbal, no discussion**

- Watchet Car parking
- Coastal Working Group
- Liaise with Deputy Clerk

Meeting closed at 7.29 pm

Signed..... 

Date..... 



