BISHOPS LYDEARD & COTHELSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Neal Gossage, PO Box 1008, Taunton. TA1 9RB

Email: clerk@bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk

Web: bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the CIL Working Group meeting held in the Church Centre, Bishops Lydeard on Thursday 25th July 2024.

Present: Cllrs Lewin-Harris, Hunt, Warmington and Roberts supported by Neal Gossage (Clerk)

Apologies: None

Absent: None

10 members of the public were present.

C01/24 Apologies for absence

None

C02/24 Election of Chair

Cllr Roberts proposed that Cllr Lewin-Harris be elected as Chair. That was seconded by Cllr Warmington and received unanimous support.

CO3/24 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Warmington declared an interest in the Play Park as her grandchildren use the Park.

Cllr Roberts declared an interest in the Skatepark in that she assisted in the preparation of the expression of interest for this project

CO4/24 Questions from Members of the Public

The comments were as follows:

A 'letter' had been received from Rachel Gilmour suggesting that the nursery project should be supported.

On occasions, councillors had shown hostile behaviour towards members of the public and should receive guidance on civility and respect. It was recommended that the Parish Council signs up for the NALC Civility and Respect Project.

Expressions of interest should have been received by 14th June 2024 and some appear to have been received later than that.

One member of the public noted that the full Parish Council had not been consulted before a leaflet drop was made to all houses in the village in May 2024.

The roads project is supported but £150,000 for Gore Square appears to have been added to the funds required at the May 2023 Parish Council meeting. It appears that the change was not voted on at the meeting.

Post meeting note: The minutes of the May 2023 Parish Council meeting specifically recommended that Gore Square should be excluded from the roads project. It was therefore excluded from the amounts earmarked at that stage.

The 'situation' at Somerset Council is 'dire' and it was suggested that this should be taken into account.

A query was raised as to how much money was left to spend. It was confirmed that £121,000 is left.

A comment was received that the roads project appeared to be very expensive and queried whether savings can be made. Cllr Lewin-Harris advised that Cllr Bletcher would advise on that given his professional background.

Cllr Lewin-Harris reminded the meeting that the provisions in the standing orders in relation to the conduct of meetings will be observed in future meetings. Whilst a fairly relaxed attitude has been taken in the past, that had led to councillors being interrupted during their deliberations.

CO5/24 CIL Strategic Priorities

Cllr Lewin-Harris reminded the meeting that this is a Working Party meeting and no decisions will be made on any specific project. The Clerk was asked to introduce the paper for this item and made the following comments:

CIL funds are in the process of being spent and there was £530k remaining to be spent at 1 April 2024. Of that, £375k has been committed for the roads project and £34k will be needed for the Streamside path project (subject to further quotations being received). The decision as to how CIL funds are spent rests solely with the Parish Council as set out in The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2013. Funds are to be spent on infrastructure and that is defined quite widely.

There followed a discussion on various projects and comments were made as follows:

<u>Skatepark/Half Pipe</u>

This provides a benefit for people of many ages.

Concerns were expressed as to where the facility could be located and the effect on local residents.

The position on maintenance of the facility would need to be addressed.

Teenagers are not 'looked after' but this would be a significant civils project.

The facility would provide educational and emotional support for those using such a facility.

Edventure could help with this project and Cllr Hunt will reach out to them and local youth clubs.

The project was generally supported.

Action:

Ask for a full proposal and identify a suitable site.

Play Park

£10k is required for this project as a result of matched funding.

The old equipment is shabby (and potentially unsafe) and needs to be replaced.

The Working Group recommends to the Parish Council that this project should be supported.

West Somerset Railway It was questioned whether this would benefit people in the village or would mainly provide a benefit for visitors.

Development of the WSR could bring commercial benefits to the village and provide access to Taunton to reduce pressure on the 28 bus service and the necessity to make car journeys into Taunton.

The working group was not generally supportive of the bid.

Lighting for the Village Hall

This provides an enhanced facility for the Village Hall and involves young people.

It has matched third party funding

The Working Group recommends to the Parish Council that this project should be supported.

Football Club Equipment

This project needs a proper application but is a really important facility for the village involving many age groups.

The project would benefit from matched funding.

There was general support for the shelter (welfare benefit) and for the mowing equipment (subject to getting additional quotes).

Action:

Clerk to ask football club to complete application form asking for funding for the shelter and mowing equipment.

Nursery

The Clerk advised that he is in the process of getting legal advice on this project as recommended by SALC and is awaiting a reply from the Department of Education.

An estimate has been provided rather than a tender.

Questions were raised as to what would happen if the Academy Trust failed to complete the project.

A roundtable meeting is being arranged by a member of the public to discuss funding for the project.

It is not known whether the nursey will be run on a commercial basis.

Concern was expressed as to how such a facility would affect the businesses of the existing childminders in the village and would potentially offer unfair competition.

It is not clear who will be responsible for maintenance of the business or what part the Church will play in the development of the facility.

The project was not viable when it was considered a few years ago.

Action:

Clerk to determine what the modus operandi will be for the facility and request a business plan setting out the viability of the project. A tender is required and specific assurances will be sought

from the Academy Trust that the project would be completed. It will be established if a contribution of less than the amount requested would be acceptable.

Village Hall Roof repairs

This project has been completed and further funding is not required.

Speed Indicator Devices

There was general agreement that one or two more SIDs are required including solar panels to reduce the regularity of battery charging.

The working group supported this project subject to getting accurate quotes for the units and solar panels including installation.

Action:

Clerk to obtain quotes for new equipment.

Electric Vehicle Chargers

This project was approved some time ago but stalled when the LEVI funding request by Somerset Council was initially rejected. It is possible that funding will become available in 2025. The chargers are to be provided free of charge by Somerset Council but some Parish Council funding may be required to support the installation of the chargers.

Action:

Await clarification from Somerset Council but possibly set aside funds for 2025.

Biodiversity Project

An ecological survey can be completed at a cost of £45 and could be met out of regular Parish Council funds.

A survey could be competed by a councillor if required.

An environmental study is required and sites need to be identified to plant more trees.

Possible sites have been identified but a firm proposal is required.

The project received general support.

Action:

Identify possible sites for tree planting and the cost of suitable trees.

C06/24 Any Other Business

A question was asked if the War Memorial is on the Asset Register. Clerk to check.

A date for the next meeting of the Working Group will be determined later.