

NOTES FROM THE APRIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

After what seems like years of speculation, a planning application has been received to build a Co-op convenience store with parking spaces on land opposite Kings Yard in Taunton Road (application number 06/25/0001) and a further outline application for 9 residential units on the site (application number 06/25/0002). You can see all the details of both applications on Somerset Council's website: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

The Parish Council supported the Co-op convenience store application, while raising concerns about the inevitable increase in traffic in Taunton Road, particularly the short stretch where there is no footpath. WE also raised concerns about the proposed parking arrangements for the 9 dwellings which do not seem adequate and may lead to yet more parking on Taunton Road.

Cllr Hunt provided an update on the Easter Club event run by Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership (SASP). The first session was held on Tuesday 8th April with 23 children attending. The second session is planned for Tuesday 15th April, after which SASP will provide an evaluation of the events. The last On Your Bike session was also well attended with 16 bikes serviced and 7 donated.

The first Digital Café session took place on Thursday 3 April 2025 at 10:30am in the village hall, alongside the Talking Café. The parish clerk and Siobhan Wilson from SparkIT were on hand to provide advice and help. The session proved popular with members of the public requesting support for their smart phones and iPads. It is planned to hold these sessions on a regular basis on the first and third Thursday of the month. The next one will be on 17 April 2025.

The clerk presented figures showing the income and expenditure figures for the last financial year. There was a small increase in projected income, largely due to receiving more bank interest than anticipated and I am glad to say expenditure was within budget, though with variations under some headings. You can find full details on the Parish Council website <https://bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk> under Scribe Reports to the April meeting.

There will be two meetings next month:

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council meeting will be held on 14th May at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 21st May at 6.00 pm in St Mary's Church Centre. This is a general meeting at which the Chair presents a report on the work of the Parish Council for the previous year and members of the public have the opportunity to ask any questions they may wish. We will also have a presentation on new proposals for a safe cycle and walking trail from Bishops Lydeard into Taunton, called the Russet Cider Trail, and updates from a couple of organisations which have received grants from the Council on how the grants have benefitted local residents.



Chair, Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council

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