

**SEAVINGTON ST MARY/MICHAEL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE 461st PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SEAVINGTON MILLENNIUM HALL
On Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7.00 pm**

2797. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Mr N Loxton – Chair

Mrs J Ash

Mrs E Edwards

Mr N England

Mrs P Parsons

Mr C Reyland

Mr C Turner

Adam Dance – County and District Councillor

Crispin Raikes – District Councillor

12 members of the public

APOLOGIES

None

- 2798. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – Twelve members of the public were present at the meeting. A resident asked for a reply from our District Councillors regarding the recent e-mails sent to the Parish Council, published in The Seavingtons' News regarding the amount, speed and times of vehicles travelling through the village which are perceived to come from Frogmary Green could be answered. Mr Bragg [Frogmary Green] gave some background to the installation of the unit. The AD scheme was fully supported by Central Government whether using waste or crops to feed the digester to produce either gas or electricity. It was stated that the original concept of the AD unit was to dispose of waste and to generate electricity for use on the farm. However, the initial company involved in the Scheme – Greener for Life – caused many planning problems and a second unit was installed, initially without full planning permission, thus creating a need for crops to be grown purely to be used in the AD units. At present the digester takes waste materials from his own chicken enterprise, waste from Branstons Potatoes as well as the crops specifically grown. At present there are 15/20 local farmers that produce crops for the digester. The major issue with traffic movements to the storage site at Whitelackington was acknowledged and once again Mr Bragg stated that there will be only one clamp at Whitelackington following the maize harvest this year. Concerns were also raised with regards to the recently installed pit for the digestate [the liquid that remains after the production of gas/electricity] at Whitelackington which has led to the Frogmary Green tankers travelling through the village. It was stated that tankers have been used since early 2016 for transporting the digestate to the fields as and when required. With the installation of the storage pit at Whitelackington, to serve the Dillington Estate land, it can be used as and when required by the Dillington Estate and there will not be a need for all of the digestate to travel back through the villages. The digestate goes back on the land where it acts as a fertilizer. Concerns were also raised that one Sunday in particular there were 14 individual journeys through the village, despite a statement given by Mr Bragg that there would be no movements on a Sunday. However, as with most agricultural work the weather plays an enormous part as to when various activities can be carried out. Mr Bragg again stated that it was not his intention for any work to be done on a Sunday but the weather may make this difficult. Another point raised was that maize is not a crop that should be continually grown as it can impact the ground causing water run-off in the case of heavy rain. Mr Bragg stated that he has been in talks with Wessex Water, FWAG and Hill to Levels and he is working with these organisations to overcome any difficulties. Mr Bragg advised that he is still very environmentally aware and has 33 acres of Environmental Schemes on his land. Mr Bragg reiterated that he is taking the concerns of local residents and the Parish Council seriously and is reducing the amount of vehicle movements through the village whenever possible. It was suggested that perhaps all vehicles from Frogmary Green come through The Seavingtons at 20mph as opposed to 30mph as this seems to have quite an impact on the noise and vibration caused. Mr Bragg stated that he would ask all his drivers to drive through the Seavingtons at 20mph. The Parish Council also agreed that they would follow up on the suggestion made by Mike Bellamy [SSDC Highways Consultant] in February 2016 that, as part of the planning consent, the operator should keep records to include the number of vehicles which enter or leave the site associated with the AD plant. These records should include the size, type and load details, as well as the vehicles point of origin or destination. These records should be made available to the local planning authority on request.

- 2799. REPORT FROM COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS'** - Boundary Commission has made its report, but this still has to be ratified. It has been suggested that Whitelacking should be incorporated into the South Petherton Ward. District Council have purchased a Battery Storage Facility. It is part of the long term plan to recover income not being received from Central Government. No loans have been taken out for this purchase, or that of the M&S and Wilkinsons stores. Yeovil refresh and Chard regeneration will still happen. Not all staff changes at SSDC have been completed.
- 2800. MINUTES OF THE 460th ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th April 2018 were agreed as correct and signed**
- 2801. CONTINUING CONCERNS REGARDING FROGMARY GREEN AD PLANT –See item 2798 Public Question Time.**
- 2802. NEW DATA PROTECTION RULES** – Various documents had been created by Councillor Parsons and distributed to all Councillors. A suggestion was made regarding the storage/back-up of documents on Councillor Parsons's computer. To be discussed further.
- 2803. UP-DATE ON VILLAGE ENTRANCE ENHANCEMENT** – Troughs are now in place. It was requested that the Parish Council clarify with Seavington Gardening Club that no financial held would be needed for the maintenance of the troughs. [After meeting assurances were received].
- 2804. SMALL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME REGARDING C5021** – No Small Improvement Schemes submitted have been approved by Somerset County Council
- 2805. REPORT REGARDING HIGHWAY ISSUES** – A resident raised the issue that in David's Lane the 30mph stops before all of the houses are passed. Agreed that the resident would send an e-mail to our County Council giving all information. A problem regarding the run-off of water following heavy rain at some of the Pond View cottages was raised. Councillor Parsons confirmed that an e-mail had been sent in reply to the resident advising that they should contact County direct as this seems to get problems investigated faster than if the Parish Council does it. Traffic Management at County Hall have agreed a diversion with Highways Agency should planned closures of Major Routes take place, thus avoiding the C5021. The agreement is to take A303 traffic off at the Podimore roundabout onto the A372. Light traffic will go through Langport to Thornfalcon to return to the A303 via the A358. LGVs will use the existing LGV route via A372 Aller, join the A361 at Othey, travel to Creech Castle traffic lights then return to the A303 via the A358.
- 2806. RANGER SCHEME** – It was suggested that the Ranger could be employed to paint the redundant telephone box on the village car park which is now owned by the Parish Council and any signposts within the village boundaries during the winter months. To be investigated further. The Ranger is to be asked to do some strimming around the edge of the orchard behind St Mary's Close.
- 2807.REPORT ON VILLAGE FOOTPATHS** – Nothing to report
- 2808.VILLAGE CAR PARK/PARKING IN GENERAL IN VILLAGE** – Nothing to report
- 2809. SPFA** – Councillors Loxton and Parsons had met with SPFA members to discuss the new projects that are being planned. At the SPFA Committee Meeting, attended by Councillors Edwards and Parsons the Committee agreed to the expenditure of some £21,000 to enable the installation of an overflow carpark closer to the Hall. The alteration of the small area behind the Hall was also agreed. Councillor Parsons agreed to ascertain whether or not any monies received from the development of Falcon Close could be paid to the Parish Council and then play equipment purchased and VAT reclaimed. HMRC to be contacted for clarification. It is now costing the SPFA £140 per cut of the play areas since Parish Council agreed only to pay for the gang mowing of the main field.
- 2810. COMMUNITY SHOP** – Councillor England had attended the last Shop meeting and reported that a Vice-Chair had now been appointed. The Alcohol Licence is about to be renewed. The Committee had agreed that in future it will meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month to avoid the clash with Parish Council meetings.

Health and Safety Policy has been up-dated. A Cleaner is still required. AGM to be held on 21st August at 7.00pm.

- 2811. SUNDRY MATTERS OF REPORT** – Information regarding Community SpeedWatch Schemes were given to Councillors. The Scheme had been run very successfully some years ago and it was agreed to put an article in The Seavingtons’ News to see if a co-ordinator and volunteers to make up a team could be found.
- 2812. APPROVAL OF THE SEAVINGTONS’ NEWS ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018**
– Accounts had been forwarded to Parish Councillors and were approved unanimously
- 2813. PLANNING APPLICATIONS** – Applications made by Mrs J Lewis, Mr S Ash and Mr & Mrs N Loxton have all been approved – subject to conditions.
- 2814. ACCOUNTS**
 - (a) Balances – C/A - £16,543.73 cr [VAT refund of £2,029.63 received
Business Reserve - £14,811.22 credit [Interest of £0.65 received]**
 - (b) Payment requests –** SSDC Ranger [April] £603.84, SLL - £216.00,
BHIB Ltd [Insurance] £304.69, SALC membership £140.65
 - (c) Grants/Donations to be made to Village Organisations** – Agreed to pay £1,250 to Parochial Church Council but other two grants left to be further discussed at June meeting
 - (d) Annual Governance Statement for accounts 2017 – 2018** Had been forwarded to all Councillors and was unanimously approved ready for signature by Chairman and Clerk before accounts go to our Internal Auditor.
- 2815. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 19th June 2018**

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

Date