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| Date of Meeting: | 29 th April 2021 | Time: | 7:00 pm |
| Location of Meeting: | | | |
| Present: | Cllr. John Vassalli, Cllr. N. Myers, Cllr. R. Leighton, Cllr. M. Mead, Cllr. N. Smith, Cllr. J. Johnstone | | |
| In Attendance: | Tammy Weeks (Clerk), Cllr. A. Bown, Cllr. G. Slocombe, Cllr. M. Caswell, Cllr. R. Lilley | | |
| Apologies: | Cllr. B. Bolt | | |

| Ref: | Topic of Discussion |
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| 1 – 29/4/21 | Apologies |
| | As above |
| 2- 29/4/21 | Chairman’s Report 2020-21 |
| | <p>This statement refers to the 20/21 period. Covid restrictions have meant the Parish Council has met virtually rather than at Westfield Community Church. I would like to record our thanks to Westfield for their making no charge for unused date and time slots. We have instead paid an annual subscription for the use of Zoom. It is worth mentioning that we, along with many parish, district and county councils nationally are waiting on a court ruling whether virtual meetings can legally continue. NALC, the National Association of Local Councils applied to central government to overturn the ban on virtual meetings beyond May 6th. NALC reported that there was no consultation, just a refusal. Hertfordshire County Council and others, I believe, have taken this matter to the High Court for a ruling. Finding appropriate rooms with sufficient space for members and public to safely attend has been deemed problematic on a nationwide basis. I know some of us Durleigh PC members are anxious and reluctant to return to face-to-face meetings anytime soon. This, incidentally, is why the AGM and May meeting has been brought forward to April.</p> <p>Covid has impacted on everyone, including Durleigh PC. We’ve had to hold back on some actions we had intended to put in place. We are hoping the Defibrillator will be installed at the Wessex Water Treatment Plant in early 2022. Wessex Water understandably have had their programme of work put back by Covid. We are very much indebted to Wessex Water for their generous financial help with purchase cost and siting. I would like to mention Mr Simon Osborne, Wessex Water Projects Manager for his help. We have thanked him. Hopefully, Durleigh PC will just have to finance the annual maintenance of the defibrillator. More minor project outlays such as a replacement waste bin in Pyrland Walk will hopefully go ahead. Leafletting parishioners re desired small improvements like benches, waste and dog bins has been held back due to Covid. Placing or replacing missing Durleigh village signs on approach roads has been discussed. Purchasing yellow hi viz jackets for councillors or volunteers to plant bulbs or litter pick more safely are other DPC possible outlays being considered.</p> <p>One Durleigh PC action not held back has been the agreement to part fund interment costs for Durleigh residents in Bridgwater Town Council Cemeteries. We have come to an agreement with Bridgwater Town Council which has enabled Durleigh residents to be buried at their sites at the same financial cost as those residents within the town boundaries.</p> <p>Road signage to improve safety on Spaxton Road from Luxborough Road out past the Enmore Road, West Bower Lane and Skimmerton Lane turns, towards Spaxton, are actively being discussed with Somerset Highways with the likelihood of relevant signs being put in place to help reduce road traffic incidents. Somerset County Councillors Ann Bown and Mike Caswell are kindly involved with putting forward a request for highways work to improve pedestrian and traffic access through the narrow part of Spaxton Road devoid of a footway from Luxborough Road to the Enmore turn.</p> |

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| | <p>I would like to thank my colleagues on the Parish Council, including welcoming Margaret Mead back as a councillor and for her ideas for improving parishioner awareness of and access to Durleigh PC. I would like to specifically mention the work Robin Leighton has done to enable public rights of way in and through Durleigh to have had remedial maintenance. I would also like to mention the work, time and effort Nigel Smith has devoted to both financial subcommittee work and the Durleigh residents' interment scheme. I would like to thank our District and County Council members for their continued support and attendance when possible, at our currently virtual meetings.</p> <p>Last and by no means least I would like to record my thanks to Tammy Weeks, our Clerk. Covid has meant she has had to spend much more time and work in processing and passing on information sent to Durleigh Parish Council. This is no more evident than in the regular updating of the Durleigh PC website. Tammy has had to put much overtime beyond her normal weekly hours. We have reaped the benefits as we have a fit for purpose, and compliant, website. This has been especially important at a time when noticeboard access has had to be reduced due to Covid restrictions. She has, additionally, put newly in place, or updated existing, parish council policies, financial regulations and auditing procedures. This has been no little task and we are most grateful.</p> <p>We currently enjoy a full complement of councillors which isn't always the case nationwide these days.</p> <p>After twelve years as Chairman, I feel it is an appropriate time to step down from the role. I am happy to remain as a councillor for the present and offer support and time to colleagues when and where appropriate.</p> |
| 3- 29/4/21 | Attendance of Members |
| | As above. |
| 4 – 29/4/21 | Matters Arising |
| | There were none. |
| 5 – 29/4/21 | Parishioners' Questions , Issues and Concerns |
| | There were none. |

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| Meeting Closed at: | 7:25 pm |
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Minutes Signed by: **Date:**

(Chairman)