

MINUTES - DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th MARCH 2015 AT 7.30PM, in the CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairman: Councillor Evans (CE) and Councillors Clark (HC), Hutton (RH), Dando (JD), Yeoman (RY), Shirley (BS) and Hughes (LH).

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss P Griffiths – Clerk to the Council.

BY INVITATION: District Councillor John Crossley.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There were no members of the public present

026/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies from Councillors Greenhalgh (JG) and Harrison (HH) were received and approved. PCSO Dury sent his apologies.

027/15 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – JC reported that he would not be standing for re-election as a District Councillor at the forth coming election. JC gave an update on the legal challenge to the Local Plan by Gladman Homes who had made several challenges to local plans across the country.

028/15 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- CE read out PCSO Dury's report which included 9 incidents:
27/01/15 at 10:50 – Report of a lorry stuck on the A37 Wraxall; Police attend no trace of vehicle.
29/01/15 at 15:18 – Caller advising police of a funeral being held at Alhampton with a large number of mourners expected.
08/02/15 at 10:48 – Report of an accident on the A37 Wraxall; Police attend.
10/02/15 at 10:01 – Report of vehicles parking on a bend in Alhampton; Police attend and find works vehicles near a building site. Vehicle owners advised regarding their parking; Caller updated.
12/02/15 at 17:30 – Report of a burglary in Ditcheat.
14/02/15 at 15:24 – Report of a dog running loose on the A37 Wraxall; Police attend no trace of dog.
16/02/15 at 12:30 – Report of a diesel spillage on the A37 Wraxall; Vehicles unable to climb hill, emergency services and Highways attend. Police enforce traffic control including road closures until road is cleared.
17/02/15 at 11:13 – Report of an accident in Ditcheat; Police attend.
02/03/15 at 08:32 – Report of an accident on the A37 Wraxall; Police attend.

029/15 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.
a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda : –
• CE declared a personal interest in agenda Item 035/15 b) 3) as the recipient of the payment.
• JD declared personal interest in agenda Item 040/15 a) 3) as he is a Vice-Presidents of CCRFC.
b) There were no requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests.

030/15 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2015 were confirmed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

031/16 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 29th January 2015.
a) Update on possible breach of planning conditions at Snagg Lane and Long Batch – nothing to report. The Clerk will continue to follow the matter up with the Planning Enforcement team.

- The Clerk report that the Planning Enforcement team had however acknowledged receipt of the report of the new access formed by the former Fir Tree Café. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Parking in 'No Through Road' by Champs Way – no update available. The matter will be removed from the agenda until further information on the scheme is available.
 - c) Flooding/pooling of water at the eastern end of Jacobs Lane – The Clerk will follow the matter up with HH. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - d) Poor visibility by turning off the A371 at Snagg Lane – the Clerk reported that whilst the Highways department were unable to do anything further the Clerk had following advice contacted County Councillor Woolcombe-Adams (NWA) for support as part of the small improvement scheme initiative led by Somerset County Council (SCC). NWA had confirmed his support and a request had been sent to SCC.
 - e) Telephone kiosk in Ditcheat by the old Post Office – The Clerk reported that BT had advised that they would send an engineer to check that the kiosk was safe. JD agreed to check and advise the Clerk accordingly who will if necessary confirm with BT that the kiosk is indeed safe. **Action: JD & the Clerk.**
 - f) Dog exercising and fouling on former playground at Linterns Close – It was noted that the fence had not yet been removed. The Clerk will contact MDC again. **Action: The Clerk.**
 - g) BT cabinet by the Coronation seat recess – CE reported that he had attended a meeting with BT with the two Churchwardens. The Highways department have confirmed that the area on which the cabinet is situated does not belong to Highways. The representative from BT stated that he understood the concerns raised by the Church and the PC. It was confirmed at the meeting that an additional cabinet bigger than the current one would needed to be installed within 100 meters of the existing cabinet. BT have arranged for surveyors to survey the site to see if an alternative site to which the existing cabinet can be relocated and for the second cabinet. In the meantime nothing further will happen; no connections will be made.
 - h) Litter pick – HC confirmed that all the arrangements for the litter pick had been made.

032/15 MINUTES - The minutes of the planning meeting held on 19th February 2015 were confirmed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

033/15 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 19th January 2015. There were no matters arising.

034/15 PLANNING

- a) The grant of planning permission and listed building consent to The Trap House, Ditcheat. Application Ref: 2014/2432/FUL & 2433/LBC was noted.
- b) The grant of outline planning permission Green Tree Villa, Ditcheat. Application Ref: 2014/1792/OTS was noted.
- c) It was noted that the application for construction of an anaerobic digestion plant at Unit 22, Evercreech Junction has been granted conditional planning permission.
- d) Additional information – the Clerk reported that MDC had sent notification that the application for outline planning permission for 3 dwellings on the site at Back Lane Ref: 2014/2264/OTS had been refused.

035/15 FINANCE

- a) Balance of accounts - the Clerk reported that the balance of all accounts as at 11th March 2015 was £12,757.45.
- b) It was resolved to approve the Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques for the following:
 - 1) P Griffiths salary for 1st January to 31st March 2015 – £716.44 includes one off payment of £100 as part of the pay award for 2014 – 2016.
 - 2) HMRC for PAYE/NICs 1st January to 31st March 2015 – £179.00.
 - 3) Mr C Evans for materials for the work on the footpath: – 28th January 2015 - £109.78.
 The cheques were duly signed.

c) The request from St John Ambulance for financial support for their work was considered and refused.

036/15 Transparency code for smaller authorities (for Parish Councils with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000.00 – it was resolved to adopt the code from 1st July 2015.

037/15 Somerset Emergency Community Contacts – the PC contacts who will be entered on to the SCC data base to be called as a community contact in the event of an emergency were agreed as CE, HC, JD LH and PG who all signed the consent form to allow the holding and use of their personal data for the use as emergency contacts by the Civil Contingencies Unit and shared as appropriate with other local authorities, emergency services and public utilities.

038/15 PARISH PLAN
Update on action plans – RY stated that the meeting which had been planned had been postponed and was now scheduled for 18th March.

039/15 PLAYGROUND
a) Purchase of rubbish bin - the estimate for the purchase of the bin was £25.00 - £30.00; the Clerk was authorised to purchase the bin.
b) Renewal for grounds maintenance contract - it was resolved that the Clerk would contact the existing contractor and check with him that if the contract was renewed what if any would the increase in cost be. **Action: The Clerk.**
c) Any matters of report - none.

040/15 HIGHWAYS
a) Update on repairs previously reported.
1) Potholes at the T junction on the Alhampton to Ditchat road – still outstanding.
2) Dotted line at junction from Ditchat to Valley View - completed.
3) Update from JG re parking on the road verge by CCRFC – no update available. However BS advised that when he had driven passed the club whilst a match was in progressed there had been no cars parked on the verge.
4) Pooling of water on Wraxall Road – as previously stated this work was planned for April. The Clerk will check that the work would include the pooling by Lindyson House and opposite Long Batch. **Action: The Clerk.**
b) Matters for report to the Highways authority:
1) RH reported that there were large potholes on West Lane in Alhampton before the bend in the road by the turning to Easton Trow.
The Clerk will report these matters. **Action: The Clerk.**

041/15 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.
a) Update on matters reported – It was noted that the stile at the top of the steps on Ditchat Hill had been repaired.
b) It was noted that the absence of the stile and boards to cross the ditch on path SM 6/33 (path that crosses Jacobs Lane) has been reported to the Rights of Way Department at SCC.

042/15 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLORS ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS'.
February (HC) – nothing to report.
March (RY) – nothing to report.

043/15 HEALTH & SAFETY- Nothing to report.

044/15 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

Report - the Clerk reported that the visibility when turning either left or right out of 'No Through Road' in Alhampton was poor due to the hedges on both sides. The owners had or will be contacted and asked to trim the hedge back further.

- a) Somerset Library Services Review – It was noted that the outcome of the review has been published and can be viewed at www.somerset.gov.uk/libraryconsultation and that the mobile service to Wraxall has been retained.
- b) Somerset Minerals Plan: Development Plan to 2030 – It was noted that SCC has resolved to adopt the plan which can be viewed at www.somerset.gov.uk/mineralsplan or in printed copy at MDC.
- c) The National Plant Monitoring Scheme – the email regarding this has been circulated via email. It was agreed that the Clerk can upload all the above on to the PC website and other items of interest as appropriate; the Clerk will check with the Chairman on any documents or articles which may be considered contentious prior to putting them on the website.
- d) The Clerk reminded Councillors that polling day for the local elections including parish councils would be on Thursday 7th May. Nomination papers would be available from the 24th March and must be returned no later than 4.00pm on Thursday 9th April. The Clerk will email each current councillor with their number on the electoral roll which will be required on the nomination form.

045/15 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman: – nothing to report.

b) Councillors:

- HC reported as the PC representative on and as secretary of the Village Hall Committee whether the PC would be willing to financially assist the Village Hall committee; also whether the PC could claim back the VAT on expenditure for repairs etc. The Clerk advised that in general this would not be allowed. The Clerk will check the rules and email HC. **Action: The Clerk.**
- RH reported that the PC should be aware of the potential problem in Alhampton where the road by the bus stop was becoming on occasions very congested due to vehicles parking on the road whilst building work is taking place. (See PSCO Dury's report).

CE on behalf of the PC thanked JC for all his support and work whilst a District Councillor.

Signed: _____ Chairman of Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 23rd April 2015.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 23rd April 2015 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

If necessary a Planning meeting will be held on 2nd April 2015 in the Church Room.

PLEASE CHECK THE NOTICEBOARDS FOR AGENDAS AND DATES.
MEMBERS OF THE PARISH AND PRESS WELCOME.