

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairman – Councillor Evans (CE); Councillors Clark (HC), Hutton (RH), Dando (JD), Greenhalgh (JG), Yeoman (RY) and Hughes (LH).

IN ATTENDANCE: Miss P Griffiths, clerk to the Parish Council.

BY INVITATION: County Councillor Nigel Woolcombe-Adams (NWA).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There were no members of the public present.

127/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were no apologies for absence from Councillors. PCSO Dury sent his apologies.

128/15 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – NWA gave an update on the work of Somerset County Council including:

- Rivers Board – which will be a precepting body is now launched but waiting for ministerial approval. Cost estimated to be 1% of the council tax.
- Hinckley Point – now looking more positive.
- Financial situation – very challenging tough year as deficit is large.
- Highways – NWA welcomes suggestions from the PC for bids against the Small Improvement Scheme fund e.g. traffic calming measures etc.
- Health & Wellbeing Fund – grants available.
- Devolution – SCC working with Devon and South West Economic Development Region to boost the local economy, improve infrastructure and health.
- Somerset Choices – now launched.
- Children's Social Services – the minister is encourage by progress to date but further improvement required over next 10 months.
- Outcomes based commissioning for Health and Wellbeing – Somerset is a pilot scheme for cooperative working between the CC and the Clinical Commissioning Group. Emphasis on prevention rather than cure.

JG reported as District Councillor that he had attended a presentation about closer collaboration between MDC and SSDC with a view to having a combined administration however the boundary between SSDC and MDC will remain the same. A full report will be presented at the meeting of MDC next month.

129/15 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- PCSO DURY/BEAT OFFICER.

CE read out the report received from PCSO Dury who was unable to attend the meeting. Two incidents had been reported to the police since the previous meeting and included the following:

11/08/15 at 23:33 - Report of a lorry stuck on Wraxall Hill – Police attended.

12/09/15 at 20:52 – Report of a vehicle spilling oil, while being recovered on Wraxall Hill – Highways Department informed.

130/15 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

a) Declarations of interest on items included on the agenda:

- JG declared a personal interest in Item 133/15 c).
 - CE declared a personal interest in Item 134/15 b) 2) and Item 134/15 c) 2) as recipient of the payments.
 - HH declared a personal interest in 135/15 as a member of the PPSG.
- b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests – none.

131/15 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 13th August 2015 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

132/15 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 13th August 2015.

- a) Update on possible breach of planning conditions at the Fir Tree Café site caused by creation of access at the junction with the A37 – The Clerk reported that a planning application has been submitted although the site is in East Pennard parish. NWA confirmed that there had been no involvement of the Highways Department yet though they would be a consultee. The Clerk will request the DPC is consulted on the application and will inform East Pennard PC. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) CE read out the response from the Traffic Commissioner regarding the parking of the road sweeper/s at the Fir Tree Café site which indicated that the sweeper/s were permitted to be parked there.
- c) Flooding/pooling of water at the eastern end of Jacobs Lane – HH reported that the contractor had confirmed that the work had now been completed. It was noted that the edge of the road surface falls away adding to the problem. It was agreed to take the matter off the agenda and to monitor the situation particularly after heavy rainfall.
- d) Lintern Close – erection of sign – As the sign has not been erected the Clerk will follow up. **Action: The Clerk.**
- e) Off street parking by Champs Way, Alhampton – JG reported that the Asset Management Group agreed to allow the easement however the cost may still prove prohibitive. It was suggested that perhaps an application for a Community Asset Transfer should be made. JG will approach Aster Property informally to suggest that they make an application. **Action: JG.**
- f) Dimmer Land fill site – recent fire – The Clerk read out the response from Viridor regarding the concerns of the PC. RH agreed to scan and circulate the letter and report to all councillors. **Action: RH.**
- g) Response from the Emergency Services regarding access along Kite Lane – The Clerk will follow up with the Fire Service and clarify the response received from the ambulance service. **Action: The Clerk.**

133/15 PLANNING

- a) Part II of the Local Plan - it was noted that Part II of the Local Plan had been published and the consultation period would run from 6th September to 16th December. The dates of the public drop-in sessions had been published on the notice boards however it was agreed that the PC would hold its own consultation session in the parish on the 10th November. A draft response of the PC would be considered and a final response agreed at the meeting of the PC on 26th November for submission to MDC before 16th December. The event on the 10th November would be advertise at the Rendezvous on the 13th October. RY commented that the response to the Local Plan Part II mirrors the recently circulated Parish Plan Toolkit Assessment which the PPSG were considering. A leaflet drop about the PC event would be made to each household the week commencing the 26th October. The Clerk will request that MDC hold a consultation session on the 10th November and/or allow the PC to use their materials. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for:
 - 1) Kite Lane Cottage. Ref 2015/1251/HSE.

- 2) Maryland Farm. Ref 2015/1401/FUL.
- 3) Yew Tree Farm. Ref 2015/1346/FUL.
- c) It was noted that the planning appeal for Land at Back Lane ref 2014/2264/OTS was dismissed.

134/15 FINANCE

- a) The clerk reported that the balance of all accounts as at 10th September is £17,259.99.
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
 - 1) Tony's Garden Services for grass cutting on 3rd, 14th and 24th August 2015 - £195.00.
 - 2) Mr C Evans for materials for repair to Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - £29.09 plus £67.56 plus £12.59 = Total £109.24.
- RESOLVED: that the above expenditure is approved and the cheques signed.
- c) The payments to the following were noted:
 - 1) CPRE for membership fee - £36.00.
 - 2) Mr C Evans for materials for repair to Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - £136.26.

135/15 PARISH PLAN

The recommendations of the PPSG on the 'Village Parish Character Assessment Toolkit' document were not available - the group was meeting on 2nd October to discuss it.
 Update on action plans – RY/HH reported on the action plans:
 Action Plan 1 – Traffic survey – this was held on the 23rd September the results of would be discussed at the PPSG meeting on 2nd October. RY on behalf of the PPSG thanked councillors for their help with the survey.
 Action Plan 2 - Fly tipping and dog fouling – RY was still getting reports of dog fouling but no recent reports of fly tipping.
 Action Plan 3 - Youth activities – this had been concluded due to a poor response and support.
 Action Plan 4 - Planning - see Min133/15 a).
 Action Plan 5 – Conservation – It was noted that Jan Robson had joined forces with Bridget Wadey to continue the wildlife and flora survey.

136/15 PLAYGROUND

- a) Matters of report - CE reported that the work to the playground equipment continues as was nearly complete as per the report from Wicksteed. HH will provide CE with details of a product which may assist in preventing the equipment becoming /remaining slippy. **Action: HH.**

137/15 HIGHWAYS

- a) New matters for report to the Highways authority - The Clerk will report the following to the Highways department for action:
 1. Pothole outside Witsend in Ditcheat.
 2. Blocked drains on Ditcheat Hill – one half way up on the right and the other just over the brow of the hill on the left.
 3. The road surface between Prior Leigh and Alhampton on the west side of the road.
 4. The 'Give Way' signs on the road surface have been eroded at the eastern end of Smiths Lane.
 5. The road surface on the north side of West Lane in Alhampton has been eroded and the ditch is now non-existent causing water to collect on the corner. A new ditch is required.

138/15 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Strimmer project - The Clerk will follow up with the PC insurers regarding the use of the strimmer and the mower. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Update on matters previously reported:

1. The absence of the stile and boards to cross the ditch on path SM 6/33 (path that crosses Jacobs Lane).
2. The board across the road side ditch on SM13/7A.
The Clerk reported that the above work had not yet been completed. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) The clerk reported that the replacement of the stile on footpath SM 6/32 at Kite Lane with a Bristol gate has been requested.
- d) Any matters for report:-
 1. CE reported that the 4 man working party on the Ditcheat to Sutton footpath were working on the stone bridge going over the stream. It had been noted that a gas pipe is resting on some of the stones and the Gas Board have been asked to look at it to see if further support is required.
 2. The PC would like to acknowledge the work that a parishioner/volunteer has been doing in keeping the steps on Ditcheat Hill clear. The PC is grateful for their support which is much appreciated.
 3. The Clerk will put some Adopt a Path leaflets in the Farm shop. **Action: The Clerk.**

139/15 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS'.
HC reported that there was no feedback from the September 'Rendezvous'.

140/15 HEALTH & SAFETY.
Nothing to report.

141/15 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.
Correspondence:-

1. The letter and notice from CPRE regarding the AGM on 6th October 2015 were noted.
2. The email from SALC on behalf of a parish council regarding tractors driving through village centres was discussed. RESOLVED that the Clerk should respond confirming that whilst the PC does have issues the matter is resolved with negotiation with the local farmer.

Report: - The Clerk reminded the council about the AGM of SALC on 26th September.

142/15 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) Chairman – Nothing to report.
- b) Members: LH raised the matter that whilst a precis of DPC minutes are not published in the FTN it appears that the full minutes of the East Pennard PC meetings are published – this appears to be inequitable treatment of the PCs. It was also noted that the paragraph in the FTN advising that the agenda for the DPC meetings are published on the notice boards and the website this should also include the minutes. The Clerk will request that this is amended.
Action: The Clerk.

Signed: _____ Chairman of Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 5th November 2015.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 5th November 2015 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

A planning meeting will be held on 15th October 2015 in the Church Room.

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