

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd JULY 2015 AT 7.30PM AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairman – Councillor Evans (CE); Councillors Dando (JD), Greenhalgh (JG), Yeoman (RY) and Clifford (SC).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Opportunity for members of the public to address the Parish Council. Lee Wright from Point Cloud addressed the Council, speaking on behalf of the applicant gave an overview of the planning application for Yew Tree Farm which was on the agenda.

087/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence from Councillors Harrison (HH), Hutton (RH), Hughes (LH) and Clark (HC) were received and approved. PCSO Dury had also sent his apologies.

088/15 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS – nothing to report.

089/15 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. Seven incidents had been reported to the police since the previous meeting and included the following:

12/06/15 – Report of an incident in Ditchheat – police attended.

13/06/15 at 14:10 - Report of logs at the side of the highway along Wraxall Road – police attended - owner removing them.

18/06/15 at 20:54 – Report of careless driving along the A371 – observations passed over police radio, no trace of the vehicle was found.

24/06/15 at 19:26 – Report of a vehicle broken down along the A37 Wraxall – police attended and found vehicle in safe position awaiting recovery.

26/06/15 at 10:57 – Report of a van parked in a residential area of Ditchheat – police attended nothing suspicious found.

26/06/15 at 15:47 – Report of an accident along the A371 near Ditchheat – emergency services attended.

27/06/15 at 08:01 – Report of a vehicle found in a ditch near Alhampton – police attended; vehicle removed.

27/06/15 at 11:36 – Report of a non-injury accident along the A37 Wraxall – police attendance not required.

29/06/15 at 17:19 – Report of a male lying on the grass verge along Millford Lane, Ditchheat since midday, appears to be intoxicated – concern for his welfare – ambulance attended.

090/15 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

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

- JD declared a personal interest in agenda item 093/15 a) 2 as a Vice-President of CCRFC and also in item 094/15 b) 3 as recipient of the payment.
- JG declared a personal interest in agenda item 093/15 a) 2 as a Vice-President of CCRFC.
- SC declared a personal interest in agenda item 093/15 a) 2 as Chairman of CCRFC

b) Requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests – none.

091/15 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2015 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

092/15 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 21st May 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 read out the response from the Enforcement Officer at MDC which indicated that general opinion was that the work being undertaken did require planning permission and that the owner had been informed accordingly. The owner has also been informed that the works require compliance with building regulations. The Clerk also reported that the Highways department had responded again to state that the comments of the PC have been noted and the site will be monitored when staff are in the area. Currently, there is nothing that they can add to their earlier email but wait for the outcome of any planning permissions/issues. RY expressed his concern about the Highways Department response and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should contact County Councillor Woollcombe-Adams (NWA) to request his assistance in this matter. As a courtesy the Clerk will contact East Pennard PC. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Flooding/pooling of water at the eastern end of Jacobs Lane – no update available at the time of the meeting. The Clerk will speak to HH to follow up. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) Lintern Close – removal of fence and erection of sign – it was noted that the fence had been removed and that dogs were not being exercised in the area or at least not being left in the area without being supervised. The Clerk will follow up with regards to the erection of the sign. **Action: The Clerk.**
- d) Manhole cover by BT cabinet by the Coronation seat recess – whilst not a trip hazard it still rocks in the housing. JD will look out for the BT engineer and ask for the cover to be re-seated correctly. **Action: JD.**
- e) Off street parking by Champs Way, Alhampton – update from JG. A report has been sent to the Central Asset Management Group which will be discussed at the next meeting on the 15th July. JG will follow up and report at the next meeting. **Action: JG.**
- f) Update on HGVs using a route through the village of Ditcheat as a short cut - this will be picked up as part of the traffic survey later in the year.

093/15 PLANNING

- a) The following planning applications were considered:
 1. Full application - Conversion of existing outbuilding to a self-contained annexe/holiday let. Yew Tree Farm, Wraxall. Ref: 2015/1346/FUL. **Outcome:** 'Recommend approval'.
 2. Amendments to previously considered application. Full application – Proposed installation of 6 x 15 metre high floodlights for rugby pitch. Cabling to be installed to a Lucy anti-vandal proof cabinet. Castle Cary Rugby Football Club (CCFRC), Brookhouse Field Station Road to West Lane, Alhampton. Ref: 2015/0805/FUL. **Outcome:** 'Recommend approval' with the same comments as previously submitted. See MIN 054/15 a) 1.
- b) It was noted that planning permission has been granted for The Nook, Wraxall. Ref: 2015/0809/HSE.
- c) It was noted that the application for Maryland Farm change of use of farm machinery area to carpark has been withdrawn. Ref: 2015/0939/FUL. However the Clerk reported that a new application had been submitted and therefore a meeting would be required on 23rd July to consider it along with an application for Kite Lane Cottage.

094/15 FINANCE

- a) Bank balances as at 2nd July 2015 – the Clerk reported that the balance of all accounts as at the date of the meeting was £19,372.78.
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
 - 1) Somerset Playing Fields' Association – Minimum £15.00.

- 2) Tony's Garden Services for grass cutting on 1st, 11th and 22nd May 2015 - £195.00.
- 3) Mr J Dando for materials for repair to Ditchat to Sutton footpath - £15.70.
- 4) Clerks' expenses from 1st April to 30th June 2015 - £81.98.
- 5) Clerk's salary from 1st April to 30th June 2015 - £656.91.
- 6) HMRC for PAYE/NICs for period from 1st April to 30th June 2015 - £164.20.

RESOLVED: that the above expenditure is approved and the cheques signed.

- c) The payments to the following were noted:
 - 1) Longhill Accounting for internal audit - £75.00.
 - 2) Broker Network Ltd (Came & Company Local Council Insurance) for PC annual insurance - £377.94.
- d) It was noted that the PC is now insured with Came & Company.
- e) The receipt of the VAT reclaim for 2014/15 - £132.12 was noted.

095/15 PARISH PLAN

Update on action plans – nothing to report except that there an article had been published in the recent parish magazine about the natural environment survey/diary.

096/15 PLAYGROUND

- a) CE reported that the cutting back of the overhanging tree branches and shrubs alongside the playground had been completed satisfactorily. It was agreed that the hedge should be cut back on an annual basis. The Clerk will include this on the maintenance schedule for the playground. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Any matters of report – CE confirmed that work was continuing on the work in line with the annual inspection report. RY query whether the birch trees need to be cut back. CE agreed to have a look and report at the next meeting. **Action: CE.**

097/15 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on repairs previously reported – it was noted that some work had been done on the Wraxall Road, surface dressing in Alhampton and some of the potholes in West Lane in Alhampton had been repaired.
- b) New matters for report to the Highways authority - nothing.
- c) It was noted that the date for the Speed Indicator Device (SID) at Wraxall has been postponed until the week commencing 2nd November.
- d) It was noted that the temporary road closure of New Road and Langport Road, Othery has been extended until 9th August 2015.

098/15 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) 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 will follow up on the above.
- b) Update on the replacement of stiles with gates – the Clerk reported that SCC Rights of Way (RofW) Department had confirmed that where possible the policy was to replace stiles with gates. The Clerk will advise the RofW of the owners of the fields concerned. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) Any matters for report: – CE update the council on the progress with the repairs to the Ditchat to Sutton footpath. The Clerk will prepare an update on costs to date for the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.** JG reported that MDC had been informed of the fly tipping by the field entrance near the old windmill.

- 099/15 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS'.
CE reported back on behalf of LH who had attended the June 'Rendezvous' – the parishioner who has asked about the development limits had been given the information requested.
- 100/15 PRÉCIS OF THE MINUTES – the issue of publishing the minutes in the FTN was discussed and it was resolved that as the minutes were published on the notice boards and on the PC website that a précis of the minutes would no longer be sent to the FTN. The Clerk will send a notice to this effect for publishing in the magazine. **Action: The Clerk.**
- 101/15 HEALTH & SAFETY.
Nothing to report.
- 102/15 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.
Correspondence:-
1. Letter from the Pensions Regulator – for information to note that the PC will be automatically enrolled on 1st May 2017 – the PC will be legally required to provide a pension for all employees depending on minimum salary. Nominated contact – The Clerk.
2. The letter from CPRE confirm receipt of membership fee with a Membership card attached, which will be retained by the Clerk was noted.
3. For information - copy of letter to Castle Cary Town Council from SSDC confirming that the Executive has agreed to designate the parishes of Castle Cary and Ansford as a Neighbourhood Area. Noted.
- 103/15 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.
a) Chairman - nothing.
b) Members: – RY requested that the matter of the recent fire at Dimmer Landfill Site be discussed at the next full meeting in August. **Action: The Clerk.** SC reported that the telephone cables along West Lane were hanging down and trailing on the ground. The Clerk will report the matter to BT. **Action: The Clerk.**

Signed: _____ Chairman of Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 13th August 2015.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 13th August 2015 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

A Planning meeting will be held on 23rd July 2015 the Church Room.

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