

## **MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM, AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Councillor Evans (CE); Councillors Clark (HC), Harrison (HH), Clifford (SC), Hughes (LH) and Hutton (RH).

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – The one member of the public present, Mr K Bird, addressed the council to explain that he was aware that the PC would be responding to the draft Local Plan Part II and he wished to clarify the situation regarding the name of his house which is The Manor House. In addition, Mr Bird confirmed that he would support the response of the PC if it in turn supported the designation of land at The Manor House as a 'local green space' (LGS) however as the land is in private ownership with no public access Mr Bird did not believe that the designation was necessary.

001/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence from Councillors Dando, Sage and Travis were received and approved. PCSO Dury had also sent his apologies. County Councillor Woolcombe-Adams had sent his apologies that he had been unable to attend the meeting but he would be happy to attend the next meeting if there was anything in particular the Parish Council would like help with.

002/17 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.  
a) HC declared a personal interest in agenda item 007/17 a) as one of the areas designated as suitable for development is at the bottom of her garden.  
b) There were no requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests.

003/17 COUNTY AND/OR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS - The Clerk read out an email from County Councillor Woolcombe-Adams in which he stated that whilst there was little to report good progress is being made with OFSTED with which central government is pleased. Finances at SCC are very tight indeed.

004/17 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- There were no incidents reported since the previous meeting.

005/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

006/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016.  
a) Land opposite The Lodge and access onto Class 4 road from land opposite The Lodge on the A37 – The Clerk reported that the Planning Enforcement department had visited the site and had confirmed in an email that the department was awaiting a planning application for the land opposite the The Lodge. The email stated that the owner of the land had lead the Planning Enforcement Officer to understand that the access off the side road will not be used in the longer term but that access would be via the existing access on the A37. The Clerk will check with MDC for an update prior to the next meeting.  
**Action: The Clerk.**  
b) Telephone kiosk in Alhampton – LH has established that there is a desire in the Alhampton community to adopt the phone box at the entrance to No Through Road which BT want to decommission. A team would be formed to renovate and take care of maintenance. The idea is to use this to house a defibrillator. The conservationist officer

at MDC has confirmed that the box is not listed. The Community Heartbeat Trust has wide experience of assisting with the adoption of phone boxes for such use and can organise adoption directly with BT, thereafter installing the defibrillator and cabinet, and insurance. If adoption is done through the CHT, BT will provide a free ongoing electricity supply for the defibrillator. There are several ways that the adoption can be done and LH is looking into the various legal agreements required and the question of which legal entity could enter into any necessary indemnities and effect the necessary liability insurance. She will then report back to the PC. **Action: LH.**

- c) 'Reduce speed now' signs – nothing to report. The Clerk will follow up for the next meeting.
- d) Mendip Community Transport scheme – the Clerk reported that 14 residents in Ditcheat Parish were registered to use the service of which 3 individuals, believed to be students, used the Slinky bus service to Strode College with a further five people using the Slinky service for other journeys. SC will raise the matter at a forum which he is attending and report at a future meeting. **Action: SC.**
- e) Grant for refurbishment of the Church Room - Graham Hendy had emailed the Clerk to thank the PC for their generosity which as a result has meant that the Somerset Community Fund has matched the funding with a grant of £750.00.

#### 007/17 PLANNING

- a) Local Plan Part II – working draft of emerging preferred options – Resolved to approve the draft response of the PC with the following amendments:
  - 1) In the section 'Local Green Spaces – Land at The Manor House' a note to be added that "this is private land and there is no public access".
- b) It was noted that MDC has approved, with conditions, the planning application for dwellings at the Queens Arms, Wraxall.
- c) It was noted that MDC have disposed of the application under the provisions of Article 40 meaning no further action will be taken in respect of the application 2014/2432/FUL, The Trap House, Ditcheat.

#### 008/17 FINANCE

- a) Account balance as at 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – The Clerk reported that the balance of all accounts is £11,778.78.
- b) Setting of the precept for 2017/18 – Resolved to increase the precept to £10,400.00 which is an increase of 4%. This percentage increase results from there being no Council Tax support which amounted to £248.10 in 2015/16, and an increase to match inflation.
- c) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques.
  - 1) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's expenses for period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 - £15.42.

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

- d) The payment to the Parochial Church Council for grant for contribution towards the refurbishment of the Church Room approved see MIN 166/16 d) - £750.00 was noted.

#### 009/17 PLAYGROUND

- a) CE reported that he had attempted to clean off the safety matting but that the weather had been poor and that he will do it again when the weather improves. **Action: CE.**

#### 010/17 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:
  - Flooding on the Wraxall Road – it was understood that some of the gullies had been cleared. CE will check and let the Clerk know. **Action: CE & The Clerk.**

b) New matters for report to the Highways authority – The Clerk will report that there are two potholes at the 'T' junction by Jonathans' Corner where the Alhampton Road meets the Wraxall Road. The Clerk will also report that the previous repair by Witsend in Ditcheat is breaking down. **Action: The Clerk.**

011/17 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

a) Update on matters previously reported: Nothing to report.

b) Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - CE reported that work will begin again when the weather improves on the Alhampton to Sutton section of the footpath. The plan is to replace as many of the stiles with kissing gates. The Clerk will contact the Rights of Way Officer and ask for a gate to replace the first stile on the path going from Alhampton to Sutton.

c) Any matters for report – It was noted that the bridleway SM6/26 was still closed – The Clerk will check when it is due to re-open. **Action: The Clerk.**

012/17 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER CARAVANS AND SITE COUNT - The Clerk will report that the PC is not aware of any sites or caravans in the Parish. **Action: The Clerk.**

013/17 PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN – Councillors will give further consideration as to the need for a formal emergency plan. HC commented that the Jubilee hall committee had been approached about developing a plan. SC will forward a template to both HC and the Clerk. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting. **Action: SC, HC and the Clerk.**

014/17 DRAFT EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY – It was resolved that the response of the PC would be that the document is poorly written, difficult to read and inconsistent - the first action on the action plan indicates 'Bring 10% of targetable properties back into use but the measurable outcome states 5% of properties. On the second page of the action Plan the measurable outcomes were missing. The PC believes the document should be properly edited, corrected and checked prior to being re-issued for comments. The clerk will respond accordingly. **Action: The Clerk.**

015/17 STREET TRADING POLICY – it was resolved that in the unlikely event that a license was applied for in Ditcheat Parish an emergency meeting would be called if the planned meeting dates would not satisfy the response time.

016/17 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' – Nothing to report from the January 'Rendezvous'.

017/17 HEALTH & SAFETY – nothing to report.

018/17 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

a) Correspondence – None.

b) Reports/items for information - the following were noted:

- As it had been necessary to postpone the attendance of John Lapwood from CCS at the meeting the Clerk will rearrange.

019/17 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

a) Chairman – nothing additional to report.

b) Members – nothing to report.

Signed: Chairman of Ditcheat Parish Council.

Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

A Planning meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017 in the Annexe of the Jubilee Hall at 6.45 pm – PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF VENUE AND TIME.

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