

MEETING of DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DITCHEAT PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 9th March 2017, COMMENCING AT 7.30PM, AT CHURCH ROOM, DITCHEAT.

PRESENT: Chairperson – Councillor Evans (CE); Councillors Clark (HC), Harrison (HH), Travis (RT), Sage (AS), Dando (JD), Hughes (LH) and Clifford (SC).

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

BY INVITATION: Mr John Lapwood, Village Agent, Community Council for Somerset.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – The one member of the public present, Mrs L Osborne, addressed the council to give support to the proposal to retain the telephone kiosk in Alhampton for use as a location for a defibrillator.

024/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies for absence from Councillor Hutton were received and approved. PCSO Dury had also sent his apologies. District Councillor Greenhalgh (JG) had sent his apologies that he had been unable to attend the meeting but he had sent a report to the Clerk.

025/17 CODE OF CONDUCT – Declarations of interest and dispensations.

- a) JD declared a personal interest in agenda item 030/17 d) as a close relative works for the organization. SC declared an in interest on item 026/17 about village agents as chair of the Somerset voluntary, community and social enterprise forum which includes the Community Council which operates village agents. CE declared a personal interest in 034/17 b) 1) as recipient of the payment.
- b) There were no requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests.

026/17 VILLAGE AGENTS - John Lapwood, from Community Council for Somerset, gave an overview of the service provided by Village Agents which is primarily a support and sign posting service. CE proposed and it was unanimously agreed to support the Village Agent initiative. Mr Lapwood confirmed that he had sent information to the Parish magazine for publication and that he would be attending the 'Rendezvous' when possible. The Clerk will put notices on the noticeboard. **Action: The Clerk.**

027/17 COUNTY AND/OR DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS - The Chairman read out the brief report from JG:

Since the start of the New Year much of the focus of the Council has been on the budget for 2016/17 and continuing to bed in the new 5 councils' partnership but not to the exclusion of other matters. Particular points of interest are as follows:

- A balanced budget for 2017/18 has been approved by the full council. Even with the gradual withdrawal of the Government Support Grant (ending in 2020) the Council is in a sound financial position with no cuts to services or jobs foreseen for the forthcoming year. The budget does include an increase of 1.99% in council tax.
- As part of the council's drive to raise money from other sources the Shape Mendip Lottery has now been launched. Details can be found on the MDC website
- The 5 councils' partnership continues to bed in well with service improvements already being seen. Land charges searches for example are now dealt with within 9 days.
- The planning application to extend the Council building for the Shepton Mallet library has been submitted. The move will happen towards the end of the year.

- The focus of the council is now turning to updating the Corporate Plan, transformation, boosting the local economy and assessing the impact of the proposed Parliamentary boundary review.

The Heart of the South-West devolution bid remains stalled; clarification of its future is being sought with the Local Government Minister.

028/17 REPORT FROM AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY- no report available.

029/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

030/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 26th January 2017.

- a) Land opposite The Lodge and access onto Class 4 road from land opposite The Lodge on the A37 – The Clerk reported the Planning Department had still not received the expected planning application for the site however it was understood that the owner intended to access the site from the A37 and not the unclassified road going towards Ditcheat. The Clerk will check with MDC for an update prior to the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**
- b) Telephone kiosk in Alhampton – There was considerable discussion about the matter. LH talked to the document previously circulated and explained that there was considerable interest in Alhampton for the installation of a defibrillator in the redundant telephone kiosk. LH confirmed that it would be necessary for the kiosk to be adopted by the PC but that there was significant commitment on the part of some residents in Alhampton to raise the money to cover the costs. LH stated that it appeared that the best option would be to enter into a contractual agreement with the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT). It was noted that in the future should there be a short fall in funding the contract could be terminated with the defibrillator equipment being returned to the CHT. CE proposed that the PC accepts the proposal as per Item 4 of LH's paper in order to start the process. RESOLVED, following a vote with seven in favour and one abstention, to proceed. **Action: LH.**
- c) 'Reduce speed now' signs – nothing to report as the traffic engineer dealing with this matter has just returned to work after a prolonged absence. The Clerk will follow up for the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk.**
- d) Mendip Community Transport scheme – nothing further to add. The matter will be removed from the agenda. **Action: The Clerk.**
- e) Parish Emergency Plan – SC tabled a draft template which it was agreed would be most useful as a record of contact details. The Clerk will complete the template and circulate for comment. **Action: The Clerk.**

031/17 MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

032/17 MATTERS ARISING - from the meeting held on 16th February 2017 - None.

033/17 PLANNING

- a) The following planning application was considered:
 - 1) Erection of a single-storey, detached double garage and bike store, Green Tree Corner, Ditcheat. Ref: 2017/0350/FUL. **Outcome:** Unanimous 'Recommend approval'.
- b) It was noted that planning permission has been granted to the following:
 - 1) Amberwell, Alhampton for approval of condition 3.
 - 2) Middle House, Sutton for approval of conditions 3, 4 and 6.

- 3) Green Tree Corner, Ditcheat for approval of reserved matters following outline approval.

034/17 FINANCE

- a) Account balance as at 28th February 2017 is £11,763.11.
- b) Approval of Parish Council payments and authority to sign cheques: -
 - 1) Mr C Evans for materials for the repair of the Ditcheat to Sutton footpath – £5.53 for generator fuel plus £35.26 for cement = Total £40.79.
 - 2) Ditcheat Jubilee Hall for room hire - £6.50.
 - 3) Devon Association of Local Councils for attendance at South West Regional Conference - £72.00.
 - 4) Community Council for Somerset - £40.00.
 - 5) Miss P Griffiths for Clerk's salary for period 1st January to 31st March 2017 - £663.30.
 - 6) HMRC for PAYE/NICS for period 1st January to 31st March 2017 - £166.00.

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

035/17 PLAYGROUND

- a) Grant application to Tesco Bags for Life for funding for safety matting update – it was noted that DPC's application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme has been successful and the project along with two other successful projects in our region will go forward to a vote in Tesco stores where their customers will decide the outcome by voting for their favourite project each time they shop. Voting will take place from Wednesday 1st March to Saturday 29th April. The project with the highest number of votes across your region will receive up to £5,000, the second placed project up to £2,000 and the third placed project £1,000. It was agreed that publicity of the vote should be encouraged. The Clerk will put notices on the notice board, put a notice in the FTN and send information to the school. SC will publicise the vote on Twitter. **Action: The Clerk and SC.**
- b) Cleaning of safety matting – CE confirmed that the matting under the junior play equipment had been cleaned.
- c) Any matters of report - none.

036/17 HIGHWAYS

- a) Update on items/matters for repair previously reported:
 - Potholes as reported at previous meeting – work completed.
 - Flooding at Folly Corner – Highways Department have accepted that there is a problem with the culvert and has been placed on the work programme.
 - Blocked culverts/drains on Snagg Lane and Moor Lane – awaiting update.
- b) New matters for report to the Highways authority –The road edges and surface on the Ditcheat to Alhampton road. There are two signs on the A371 which had been damaged. **Action: The Clerk.**
- c) The Clerk confirmed that the poor state of the surface of Moor Lane and West Lane in Alhampton has been reported.

037/17 FOOTPATHS, BRIDLEWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY.

- a) Update on matters previously reported: The Clerk reported that it appeared from the SCC website that the bridleway SM6/26 had been re-opened.
- b) Ditcheat to Sutton footpath - CE wished it to be put on record the thanks from the PC to RH for the donation of a large amount of sand and to Tom Yeoman for moving it to the work site which had saved the PC a considerable amount of money. CE reported that work on the Alhampton to Sutton section of the footpath has begun and is going well.
- c) Any matters for report – None.

038/17 FEEDBACK FROM COUNCILLOR ATTENDING 'THE RENDEZVOUS' – JD reported that he had received a comment about the problem of items falling out of the open sided recycling vehicles and would the PC make representation to the company responsible for the recycling service. The Clerk will write/email the company. **Action: The Clerk.**
Volunteers for attendance at the Rendezvous for 11th April; 13th May (Sat) and 13th June – please contact CE. **Action: All Councillors.**

039/17 HEALTH & SAFETY – nothing to report.

040/17 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Correspondence – None.
- b) Reports/items for information - the following were noted:
 - Dates of the meetings for 2017/2018.

041/17 ITEMS OF REPORT AND INCLUSION ON AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

- a) Chairman – nothing to report.
- b) Members – HC reported that all the arrangements for the Litter Pick including a risk assessment were in place.

Signed: Chairman of Ditchheat Parish Council.

Dated: 20th April 2017.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – 20th April 2017 AT 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

A Planning meeting will be held on 30th MARCH 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Church Room.

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